

**A History of**

**Businesses**

**And**

**Social Life**

**In**

**Underhill Flats**

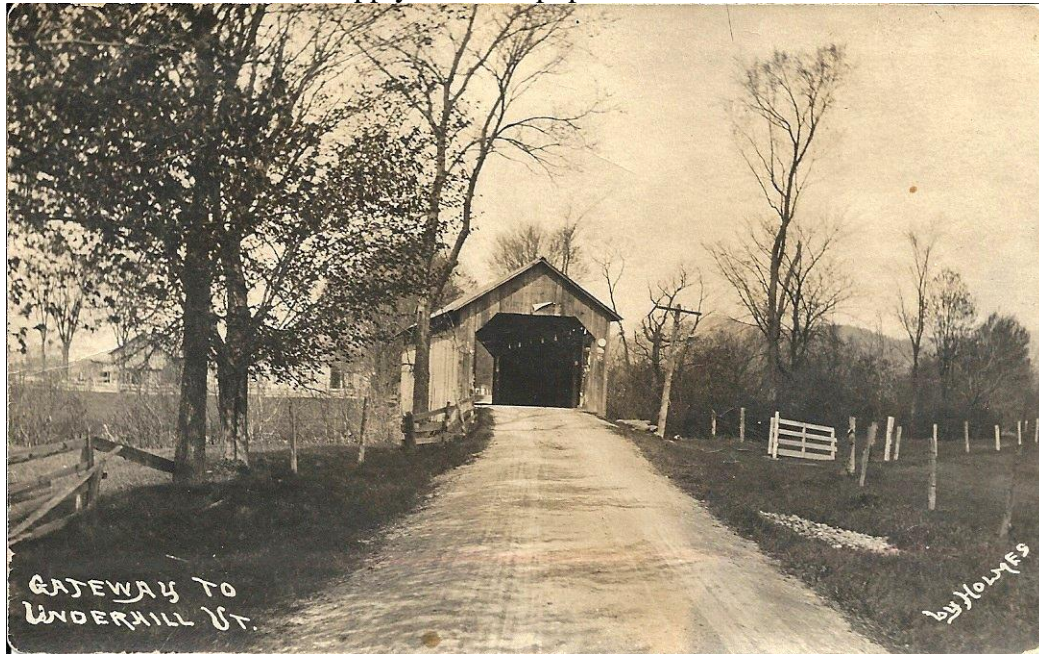
**And**

**Riverside**

**Gary Irish**  
**2013**

## Businesses in Underhill Flats

The village of Underhill Flats is divided by the Underhill/Jericho town line, which runs about parallel to, and just west of, Park Street. The Underhill side is known as the Flats, or “Flatts” in earlier times, while the Jericho side is known as Riverside. This area has little in the way of water power, and thus there was never much industry located here, the main focus of businesses being of a commercial nature to supply the local population.

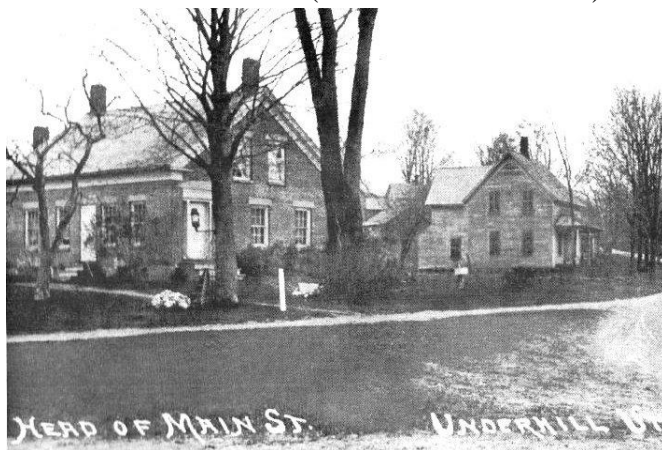


**“Gateway to Underhill Vt.”**

**Covered bridge on Route 15 entering Riverside, about 1915**

### Early businesses

About 1802 Jonas Humphrey moved to Underhill from Genesee County, N.Y., settling at the foot of Poker Hill Road (now 3 Poker Hill Rd.) on what has ever since been known as the



**Humphrey Homestead (left)**

Humphrey Homestead. His son, Daniel Clark Humphrey, established a shoemaking business here on the north side of Roaring Brook, and a tannery on the south side, using the water power from Roaring Brook. He was still listed as a shoemaker as late as 1876. Daniel's son, Amos Humphrey, also engaged in the shoemaking business from at least 1876 to 1900. He lived on Route 15 just north of his father. Simeon Mead, who was born on the Mead farm between the Flats and the Center in 1817, began working for

John Warner in Cambridge as a tanner of leather at the age of 17, and in 1841 came back to Underhill and ran the tannery for the next 16 years, drawing products to Boston by team and doing a thriving business. By the 1840s there were also a sawmill and a starch factory located on Roaring Brook just upstream from the tannery, owned and operated by Leonard Dixon. The sawmill operated at least through the late 1850s, but was gone by the mid-1860s. In the late 1800s, William Wells had a boot & shoe shop in the Brick Store.

About 1825, John H. Tower and Henry Oakes established a starch factory in the Flats, approximately on the Underhill-Jericho town line (this would have been located behind what is today the Underhill Automotive Center garage). This was powered by a 10 h.p. steam engine, with water being supplied to the factory by a ditch from the Creek. This operated until about 1852, making a large amount of starch from local potatoes.

### **The White Store**

Tower & Oakes also ran a store, the first in the Flats, located near the starch factory, at what is today 397 Vt. Rt. 15. This first store burned, and they built a new one on the back side of the park, beside the Congregational Church (now the United Church of Underhill). On December 31, 1838, they leased land beside their store to the Congregational Church on which the church erected their meeting house.

In addition to their business interests, Messrs. Tower and Oakes were active in community affairs. John Tower, described as a "notable character", was over six feet in height, quite portly, and often dressed in shiny black broadcloth and a high hat. He was Underhill town clerk from at least 1828 to 1835 and again in 1843 and 1844, as well as serving as town representative and side judge. The Temperance Movement was at its zenith in 1841, and in connection with it a celebration was held in Jericho Center that summer. Judge Tower, as he was known, played a large part in the celebration, presiding over the activities held in the Congregational church there. Judge Tower had several barrels of liquor and cider in the cellar of his store in the Flats, and as a result of this movement, he decided he would never sell another drop, nor sleep until he had emptied it all on the cellar bottom. From 1830 to 1833, Henry Oakes was postmaster, and then that job was taken over by John Tower from 1834 to about 1852. In the late 1840s, it appears that Henry Oakes sold out his interest in the store to Thomas W. Tower, it then being known as the J.H. & T.W. Tower store.



**Lewis Carlton's store**

In February, 1854, they sold the business to Luther Brown and for the next three years, it was run as a union store, with C.M. Bates and later J.C. Bradley as agent. This was part of the New England Protective Union, a co-operative organization of farmers and others, formed for co-operative mercantile business. This store was known as Division 137, N.E.P.U., while a store in Jericho Corners was Division 648 and Division 116 was located in Jericho Center. In January, 1857, the store, including the shed and hay scales opposite the store and the shed in Jericho (see L.C. Fowler's warehouse below), was sold to Lewis Carlton, who operated it for



the next eleven years. Around this time, the store became known as the White Store. The property was sold to Darwin French in 1868, but it appears that Carlton continued to operate it for a time as a partnership known as Naramore & Carlton. By 1871, L.P. Carleton was running a store at Jericho Corners, but H.A. Naramore continued to be listed as a proprietor as late as 1876.

Darwin Gallatin French, who was born in Underhill in 1845, returned to town after two years experience in New York, and in August, 1868 bought this so called "White Store". By 1880, French operated it in partnership with Waite Hurlburt until the latter's death in 1885, when the business was discontinued. He was also a dealer in Yorkshire hogs (in September, 1885, he received \$6.45 for three small shoats sold to the town poor farm). Mr. French was married to Emma Mead in 1869, and built a house across from the store at 10 Park Street. This house was later the telephone office, and is pictured in that section. He then removed to New York City, where he worked for Lord & Taylor, and in 1897, he became a director, and later president of the Arnold Print Works in North Adams, MA, one of the largest cloth printing corporations in the country.

The store was next purchased by L.F. Terrill and his son George in December, 1885, and operated as the Underhill Clothing and Shoe Store, selling dry goods and general merchandise.

PERFUMED WITH  
**HOYT'S GERMAN COLOGNE**  
FRAGRANT & LASTING

TRIAL SIZE 25 CTS.  
MEDIUM SIZE 50 CTS.  
LARGE BOTTLES \$1.00

THIS CARD IS PERFUMED WITH  
**Hoyt's German Cologne.**  
FRAGRANT AND LASTING.  
This is the most delightful perfume known.

HOYT'S GERMAN COLOGNE is the best Handkerchief odor made. It possesses qualities that place it beyond competition, and is reliable.  
HOYT'S GERMAN COLOGNE is indispensable when attending the Theatre, Ball-room or Opera. It is delicious.  
HOYT'S GERMAN COLOGNE overcomes any disagreeable odor about the clothes. It is so pure.  
HOYT'S GERMAN COLOGNE imparts to the toilet and bath a fragrance and freshness that render it a true cosmetic. It beautifies the skin.  
HOYT'S GERMAN COLOGNE used in the sick-room is very refreshing. Invalids find in it an invigorating and restoring influence.

To avoid imitations when buying, observe that the name is blown in the bottle; that our signature is printed in red ink across the label and that our monogram cap over the cork is not broken. All others are worthless.

Trial Size, Price 25 Cents; Medium Size, 50 Cents;  
Large Bottles, \$1.00.

The genuine is never sold in bulk or by the ounce.  
Sold by Druggists and Dealers everywhere.

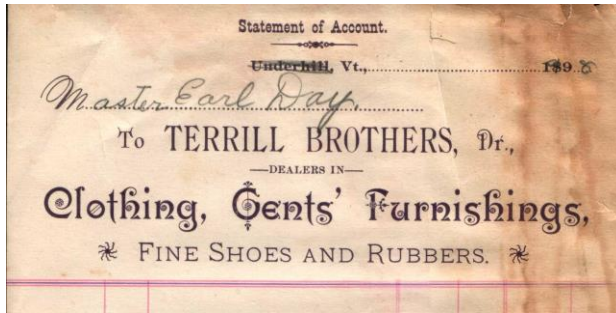
**E. W. HOYT & CO., PROPRIETORS,**  
LOWELL, MASS., U. S. A.

SOLD BY  
**L. F. TERRILL & SON, Underhill, Vt.,**  
DEALERS IN  
Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes,  
and Fancy Goods.

E.W. HOYT & CO., PROPRIETORS, LOWELL, MASS.

They were also agents for Studebaker farm wagons and Franklin Co. churns and butter workers, as well as dairy apparatus, and in 1891, Mr. Terrill put in a new and expensive machine for attaching shoe buttons. Also in the summer of 1891, Mr. Terrill had the store building raised up and new doors with large transoms over them and windows 6 by 8 feet put in the front. The store was in one room, 75 feet long by 24 1/2 feet wide and 10 feet high, now heated by a newly installed furnace. By 1893, they were agents for the Montpelier Steam Laundry. Items sent out on Tuesday evening were returned on Saturday morning. Among other items, they advertised





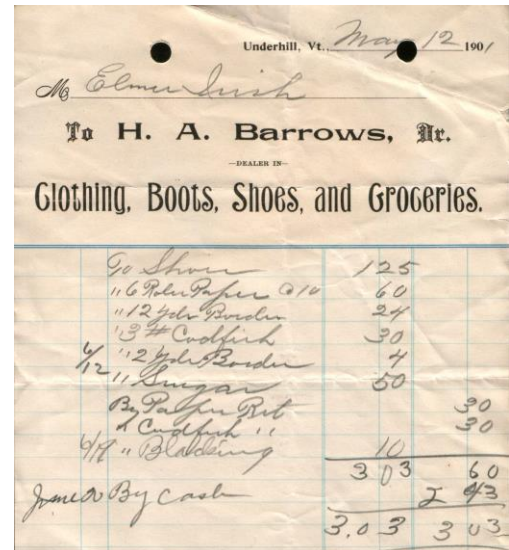
wool pants from the Johnson Woolen Mills for \$2.50 per pair. In the spring of 1895, the store went to the cash system, and for a few weeks, their ads had the store name changed to the Underhill Low Price Cash Store. Mr. Terrill also operated a branch store in North Wolcott. In April, 1897, the business was purchased, and the building rented, by the Terrill Bros., operating as the Underhill Clothing and Shoe

Store.

From September, 1898 to 1907, the building was owned by William and Allen Martin, and operated by H.A. Barrows & Co.

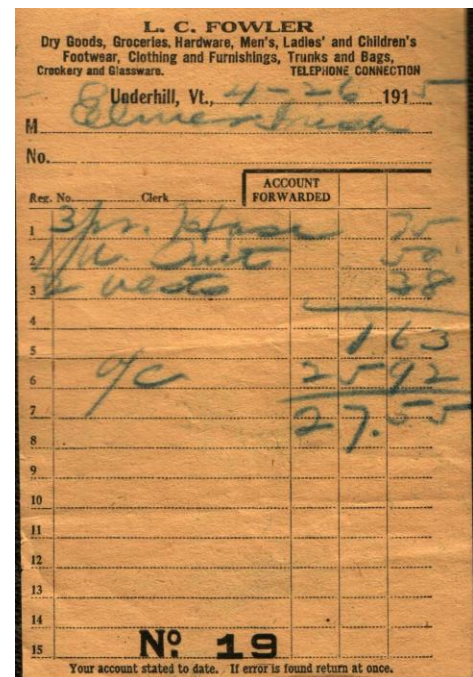


**H.A. Barrows store**

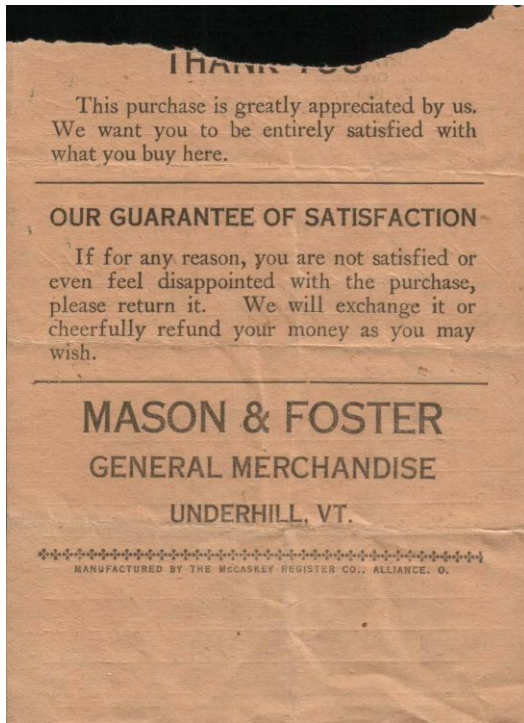


**L.C. Fowler store**

In April, 1907, L.C. Fowler bought the store. By the 1920s, he was also the local agent for the Eastern States Farmers Exchange, handling animal feed. Grace Foster came to Underhill from Johnson about 1913 and worked as a clerk for L.C. Fowler until April, 1927, when she



purchased the store in partnership with Charles Mason, it being known as the Mason & Foster store.



**Frank Simpson and Grace Foster**

In March, 1929, Mr. Mason sold his share to Frank Simpson, and the store became known as Foster & Simpson; then in April, 1934, Miss Foster retired and sold her share of the business to Mr. Simpson, who ran it until it finally closed in the late 1950s.





At various times, the post office was also located in the store. The photo below shows it in April, 1959. The building was converted to apartments by Walter Blanchard in 1965, and is still used for that purpose.





## The Brick Store

About 1856, the nice brick house and barn located on the corner of Route 15 and Park Street, which had been the home of Col. Frederick Fletcher, a Colonel of one of the Vermont uniformed militia regiments, was replaced by the second store in the Flats, being erected by George Simonds. This is what has ever since been known as the Brick Store. The early history of this store is somewhat unclear, both as to owner and proprietor, but from what information is available, it seems to have been operated by a number of different proprietors who changed in quick succession. In 1865-66, it was operated by A.B. Simonds & Co., then in 1867 by Simonds & Terrill, and the next year by Simonds & French. In 1870, the proprietors were the French Bros., thought to be Darwin and George French. From at least 1872 to 1876, D.G. French was the sole proprietor. By 1883, it was operated by L.F. Terrill; in 1885, his son George had joined

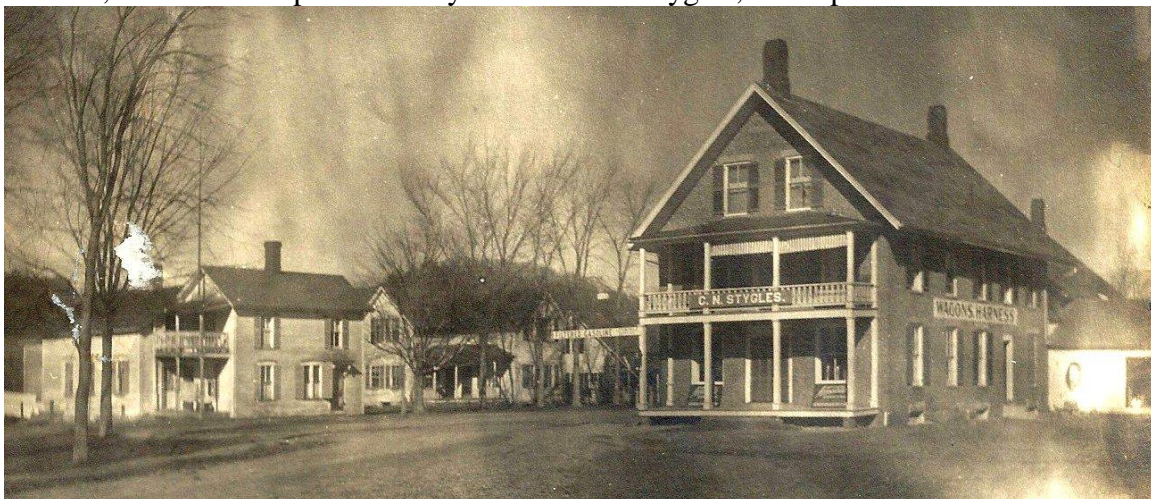


the business, and in 1889 the proprietors are listed as Terrill & Nichols, who at that time were also selling meal, feed, bran and middlings, in addition to dry goods, with Ernest Goodwin clerking for them. They also advertised that H.G. Hathorn of Shelburne would be buying butter at their store during the coming season, thus offering a wider market for area farmers, and on one Friday in May he purchased 65 tubs of butter there. By 1892, George Terrill had taken over sole operation of the store, and continued in business at least through 1898. Besides groceries and dry goods, Mr. Terrill was an agent for all leading newspapers and magazines, and for the New American sewing machine. He also sold silverware and jewelry, and was selling Howe's flour, meal, provender, and graham flour from Chittenden Mills in Jericho Corners at mill prices. At the end of June, 1897 the post office moved into the store. After George Terrill left the business, the building went through a series of owners until 1911, including William Martin, who had also owned the White Store, Mark Sargent, and D.L. & Grace Burnett. Some only owned the building, but did not run the business. It was operated by L.C. Fowler from about 1900 to at least 1909.





In 1911, the store was purchased by C.N. & Julia Stygles, who operated it until 1916.



**WHY NOT**  
 Get a new BUGGY and HARNESS?  
 We have them in great values  
 at LOW PRICES

**Heavy Farm Truck Wagons**  
**Light and Heavy Farm Wagons**  
**Light and Heavy Buggies**  
 With and without tops

**Light and Heavy Work Harnesses**  
**Fresh and Salt Meats**  
**Cement and Roofing**  
**Agent for Metz 22 Automobile**

As usual it pays to go a good ways to  
 trade with

**C. N. STYGLES**  
 UNDERHILL, VT.

Underhill, Vermont, *Dec. 1st* 191*6*

*Mr. Elmer Lusk*

**To C. N. STYGLES, Dr.**

DEALER IN  
 Ayrshire Cattle, Gasoline Engines, Ensilage Cutters, Feed  
 Grinders, Wagons, Buggies, Sleds, Sleighs, Harness &c.

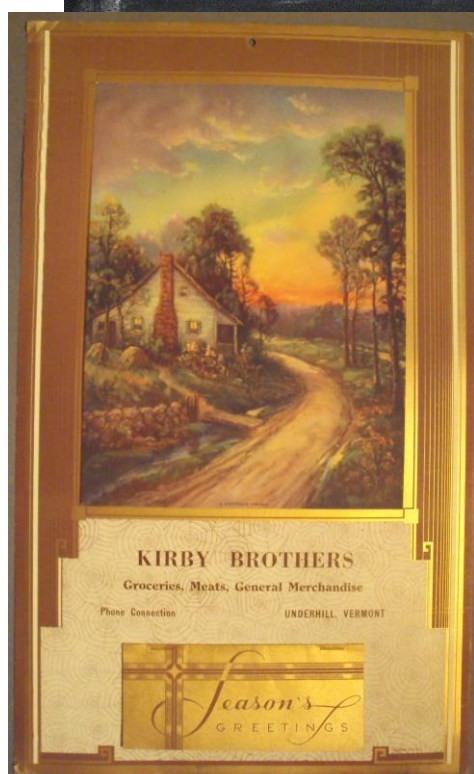
200 feet cable	25 feet	50.00
5 Pumps complete	at 3.00	15.00
		<u>\$65.00</u>
	less 20 off	13.00
		<u>\$ 52.00</u>

*Paid 3 4 months note*

*the note got this money paid in the spring*



The above ad, from the October, 1913 telephone directory, even shows him being an agent for Metz automobiles, and the sign in the above photograph extending out over the road advertises filtered gasoline. In 1916, the store was sold to Charles & Bessie Henderson, who operated it until 1920, when they sold the store and stock to the Kirby Bros., Clifton and Archie. The store opened under the new management on November 15, and was operated by them until Clifton's death in 1941.



STATEMENT

Underhill, Vt. *Dec 4* 19*40*

*Mr. Hugh Irish*

TO KIRBY BROTHERS DR.  
GENERAL MERCHANDISE  
MEATS AND GROCERIES

PHONE 324

<i>a/c</i>	<i>34.80</i>
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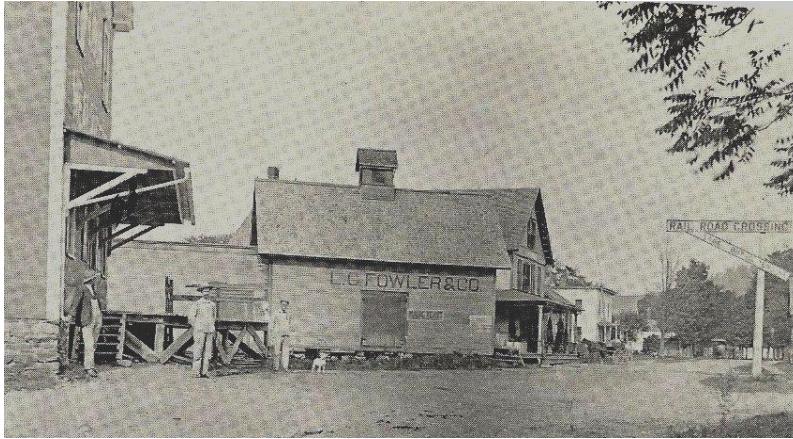
*Please help us  
some by Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. We  
have bills that must  
be paid.*

*A. T. Kirby*



It was later run by Parker Rice and then as the Underhill Market by Mrs. Claude (Irene) Potvin. In the 1960s, it was converted into apartments by Archie Kirby, who still owned the building, and since that time has been used as both apartments and office space. The office of the Mountain Gazette was located here from about 2002 to 2008, and since 2003 it has also housed a hair salon, Underhill Hair Styles, operated by Melissa Tobin.

### L.C. Fowler's warehouse



In connection with the above two stores, a building was erected on Park Street between the railroad tracks and the Homer Thompson store for use as a warehouse. This is thought to be the “shed in Jericho” sold to Lewis Carleton in 1857, and was used by L.F. Terrill and then by L.C. Fowler. Besides needing space for incoming merchandise, L.F. and George Terrill did a large business in

buying and shipping locally produced items such as maple sugar and potatoes.



In 1886, 15,000 bushels of potatoes were shipped out by George Terrill on the B&L, in the 1890-91 season, he shipped out 100 carloads of potatoes, and in 1894, he shipped 2200 bushels in less than two weeks. Also in 1891, he was advertising wanting to buy 10 tons of maple sugar, paying 5 cents per pound cash or 5 1/2 cents for trade. The building on the left in the above photo is believed to be Andrew Tatro's harness shop, later Will Gaines' blacksmith shop. In later years,

as the need for the storage space declined, the building was moved up Route 15, and is today part of the house located at 424 VT Rt. 15, just south of Village Service & Auto Repair.



**On left, the former L.C. Fowler warehouse, now part of the home at 424 VT Rt. 15**

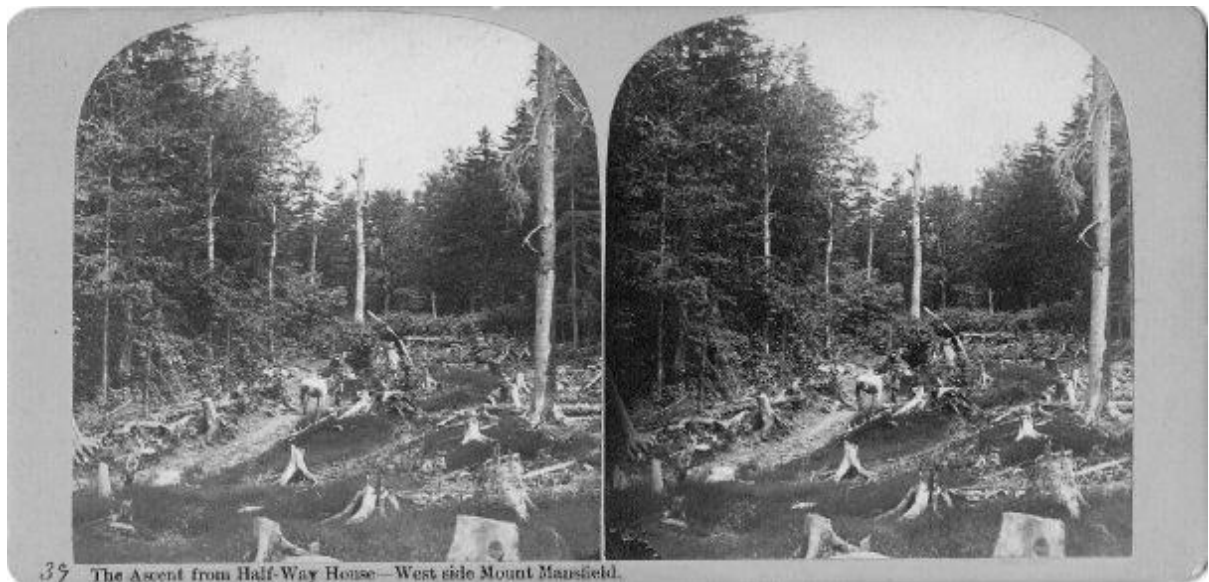
As can be inferred from items mentioned above, potatoes were an important crop in Underhill for many years. In early years, they were often converted to starch in one of the local starch factories, either the Tower & Oakes or Dixon factories in the Flats or others in Underhill Center and Jericho Corners. In 1840, 30,375 bushels were grown in Underhill. The

story is told of one farm on Poker Hill where the potatoes were stored in the cellar of the farmhouse until being taken to market, and to make maximum use of the space, the floor boards in the kitchen were taken up and the potatoes poured in until the cellar was filled to the top of the floor joists. In 1886, Mr. Harrison Packard raised on his farm and shipped from the B&L station at the Flats about 3000 bushels of potatoes. September 13, 1893 was another big potato day in Underhill, with nearly 2000 bushels being loaded that day, and 1140 bushels being loaded the day before. At one time, there were 23 loaded teams waiting at the station to be unloaded.

### **The Whitcomb & Day store**

Another early store, in the Riverside section, was what is usually known as the Whitcomb & Day store, located at 4 River Road. This building was reportedly built for a tin shop, but about 1845 it was fitted up as a Union Store (possibly part of the N.E.P.U. chain, but this is not known for certain), with Edward S. Whitcomb, Sr. as agent. Later, Mr. Whitcomb had a stock of merchandise of his own. For 20 years he carried on a very successful business in general merchandise and groceries, including all kinds of farm implements (he was an agent for the Walter A. Wood Reaping & Harvesting Machine Co.) and sewing machines, with customers coming regularly from all the surrounding towns to trade. He also owned the farm beside the store, at 340 VT Route 15. Mr. Whitcomb was a very public spirited man. Among other things, he stated in town meeting that anyone who wished might come to his farm and get all the maple trees from his woods that they wished to plant along the roads in town. He also rallied as many people as possible to go with him to Mt. Mansfield to work on the road up the mountain, which he was instrumental in having laid out, and for many years a good bridle path was maintained to the Summit House.





**“The Ascent from Half-Way House – West side Mount Mansfield”**

**CHILDREN'S**  
**Shoes Through at the Toe**  
 MAY LOOK PRETTY,  
 But it is a luxury the times do not  
 admit of

---

**Try Tipped Shoes**  
 (WHICH NEVER WEAR THROUGH AT THE TOE.)  
**AND OUR PRICES, AND**  
**REDUCE YOUR SHOE BILLS ONE-HALF.**

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OUR STOCK IS COMPLETE.  
 WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD BY ANY ONE

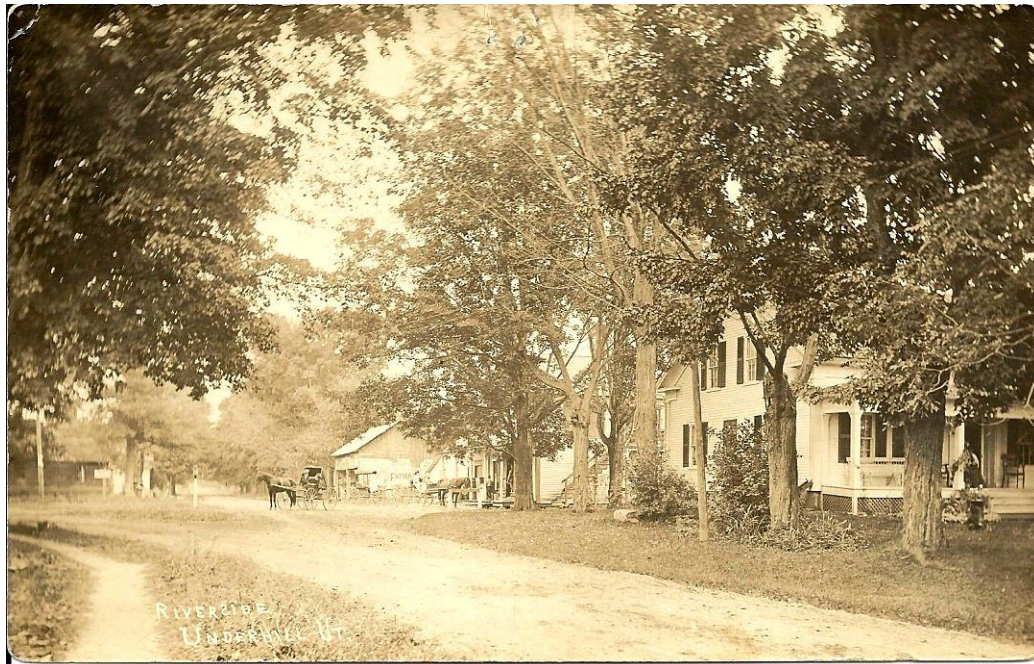
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*Please examine Goods and Prices.*  
**WHITCOMB & DAY,**  
 DEALERS IN  
**BOOTS, SHOES AND RUBBERS**  
 DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, &C.  
 Woods Mowing Machines, Prize Churns, Horse Rakes,  
 Randall Harrow, &c., &c.  
**UNDERHILL, VT.**

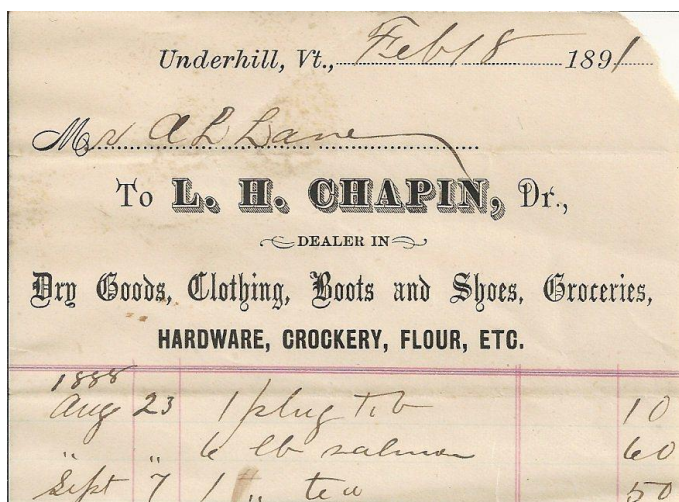
On May 1, 1865, his son Edward S. Whitcomb, Jr. and son-in-law Buel H. Day formed a partnership and purchased the store, carrying on a flourishing business for another 20 years as Whitcomb & Day.







**Whitcomb & Day store behind tree in center of photo.  
Route 15 in foreground, bearing left, with River Road in distance behind horse.**



About 1885, they sold the business, although not the building, to L.H. Chapin, who operated it about six years. In the spring of 1889, Mr. Chapin was advertising basswood sugar tubs, the "Record" sap spout, best heart pine sap buckets, along with butter tubs and butter color.

In June, 1891, the business was sold to Barney Ell Mead. In addition to the existing stock of groceries, Mr. Mead added a line of shoes, hosiery, gloves, wallpaper, whips and other small wares.

By August, the Mead and Frenyear

custom boot and shoe shop was in business, with the workshop located in the store, operated by Mr. Mead and C.P. Frenyear. Mr. Mead also advertised his stock of medicines, shoes, clothes, lamps, window shades and Vermont Mills spices in the local paper. In August, 1892, a new post office was established in the store, with Mr. Mead as postmaster. This was discontinued in August, 1894, although by the next spring a move was being made to have it re-opened, and by 1900, E.S. Whitcomb, Jr. was postmaster.

B. Ell Mead, as early as 1886, had been a "practical painter", doing inside work in white, graining and party colors to order, with fine paper hanging a specialty, along with carriage and sleigh painting ("on patron's premises, thereby saving high prices"). His business was then located on North Main Street in the Flats. In May, 1893, he left the store and went back to his carriage painting business, and also was repairing



and upholstering furniture, and in addition he had opened a barber shop, giving a "genteel haircut or shave every time". These businesses were located at his residence at Riverside, although the exact location is not known. He next opened the firm of B.E. Mead & Co., a general mercantile business in late June of that year. It is thought this was also at his residence. By early 1896, he had changed occupations again, becoming a travelling salesman for the Emerson Granite Co. of Rutland, and moving his residence to Cambridge.

### The Sloan/Morom Tin Shop

In addition to their store, Whitcomb & Day built a tin shop across from their store, at what is now 345 VT Rt. 15. This shop they sold to Edgar Sloan in June, 1879. He continued the business until July, 1895, when it appears that he sold the business to Herbert Morom, who had worked as a tinsmith for the Thompson estate, and at the same time selling the building to Chauncey Hayden. Mr. Morom was known as an honest man, always upright in his dealings with everyone, and by that fall he had built up his business to where he had all he could do. He also carried a stock of plumbing supplies, and sold washing machines and furnaces, including one which he installed in the Academy building when it was renovated in the fall of 1896. In addition, Mr. Morom was the Jericho and Underhill agent for the Worcester Buckeye mowing machines and horse rakes. Mr. Hayden built a new store on this lot in 1911, and it is likely that Mr. Morom carried on his business here until that time.

**Worth \$1,000**

**The Good Derived from Hood's Sarsaparilla.**

"Six months ago I was badly run down and unable to attend to business. The principal trouble seemed to be due to indigestion and aggravated dyspepsia. I had no appetite, nothing tasted good, and what I did eat distressed me. Added to this was a nervous disturbance. Physicians that I employed failed to reach my case. I grew worse, lost flesh and almost hope. Was told that if I wished to live I must go away for change and rest.

**I Felt Too Weak to Get Away.**

One day, while reading my paper, I ran across a testimonial for Hood's Sarsaparilla stating what it had done in what seemed to be a case similar to mine. I got a bottle and in three or four days saw that I felt better. Before I had finished the first bottle, was greatly improved and began to make preparation to get away. I went and came home feeling about as badly as ever. I began on the Sarsaparilla again. Have taken two bottles and now feel better than at any time for the past five years. Feel as hearty as when a boy. Have regained my flesh, have good appetite, can sleep well, and my nerves are in excellent condition. I would not value a thousand dollars for what it did for me." T. A. WHEELOCK, Burlington, Vermont.

COMPLIMENTS OF

**BARNEY ELL MEAD,**

Dealer in First Class

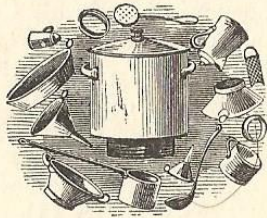
Merchandise, Groceries, Medicines,  
Boots and Shoes,

**Underhill, Vt.**

**From Burlington, Vt.**



⇒\*E. A. SLOAN,\*  
 Manufacturer and Dealer in all kinds of  
**TINWARE,**  
 HOLLOW AND WOODENWARE.



Also a general assortment of  
**STOVES,**  
 Of the Latest Styles kept on hand.  
**UNDERHILL, - VERMONT.**

**BELL INSTITUTE,**  
**UNDERHILL, VT.**

PRINCIPAL, CHAUNCEY H. HAYDEN, A. B.  
 FIRST ASSISTANT, MISS ADDIE D. HALE.  
 (Of Smith College)  
 INSTRUCTOR IN MUSIC, A. W. TERRILL.

*School Year 35 Weeks.*

Fall Term commences Sept. 4th, 1883; closes Nov. 23d, 1883. Winter Term commences Dec. 11th, 1883; closes March 21st, 1884. Spring Term begins April 8th, 1884; ends May 30th, 1884.

**TUITION:**

Primary Department, (Fall Term)	- - -	\$ 3.00.
Common English, per year,	- - -	12.00.
Higher English,	- - -	15.00.
Languages,	- - -	18.00.

Tuitions Due the Middle of Each Term.

THE Trustees, in reopening a School in Bell Institute, wish to announce to the public that they are this year offering special advantages to all students desiring to pursue a thorough English course, or to fit themselves for College. As regards the situation of this Academy, few have as delightful scenery, as healthful and central location, and as strong public sentiment to sustain educational interests. French will be made a specialty. The buildings are to be refitted soon, and the patronage of the people of Underhill, Jericho and towns of the vicinity is respectfully solicited.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

D. G. FRENCH, President. B. H. DAY, Secretary.

Further information can be obtained by addressing the Principal or Board of Trustees.

Half-fare Certificates will be given to students travelling over the B. & L. Railroad.

As seen in the above flyer from 1884, Chauncey Hayden also was a school teacher, for a time at the school in the Flats, and by 1892, at the Essex Classical Institute in Essex Center. In addition to his duties as headmaster of the Essex Classical Institute, he was operating a store there as well, and had become an agent for Homer Thompson, selling Walter A. Wood mowing machines.





**Chauncey Hayden (in dark suit) in front of his first store in Riverside**

SHORT ACCOUNTS MAKE LONG ACQUAINTANCES.

Riverside, Vt., 1901

To the Account of *E. G. Lusk's*

**Chauncey H. Hayden.**

HARDWARE, TIN AND EARTHENWARE, STOVES, RANGES,  
... FARMING TOOLS, ETC. ...

TERMS CASH. See that this Statement is properly receipted

Jan 21	file	20	over	18.00
Feb 12	Salmon	16		47
" 14	2" Nails	3		28
" 17	Dr. Horse			28
" 18	1 D. Leggin			1.00
" 26	1" Horse			28
" 28	Can. Beach	1 1/2	10	38
Mar 11	Bay Coach		\$18.00	
" 23	Rope			40
" 26	Rope			38
April 1	Starch	10		19
				18.53
	Less Cr			10.00
				8.53
May 6	4 yds Paint	2 1/2	36	68
June 13	2 D. Horse			20
" 16	4" Staph			14
" 23	By Cash			46
				8.00
				1.46

In May, 1893, he vacated this store and moved his stock of merchandise from Essex to the Whitcomb & Day store, taking over from B.E. Mead. After repainting, he opened for business at the end of the month. In addition to general merchandise, he put in a stock of drugs, but discontinued that by the end of the year, his stock being purchased by W.S. Nay. During this time, Mr. Hayden continued as headmaster of the ECI, with George H. Brown of Essex managing the store until October, 1897, when he moved to Iowa.

### **Chauncey Hayden store**

The store erected by C.H. Hayden mentioned above was operated by him until his death in 1933, and was continued for several years after by his daughters.





**Chauncey Hayden (on left) & Will Cross in front of Hayden's second store in Riverside**

In addition to general merchandise, the Riverside post office was located here until it was discontinued in June, 1934, Mr. Hayden being the postmaster during most of this time. Mail was carried on the B&L Railroad, with incoming mail being dropped off the moving train, and outgoing mail was attached to a pole, where it was plucked off by a hook on the train car as the

train went past, so the train did not have to stop.

In the 1870s, Truman Whitcomb, nephew of E.S. Whitcomb, Sr., operated an undertaking business at Riverside, selling to James Hayden in 1882. Upon his death in October, 1891, his wife carried on the business as Mrs. Jas. Hayden & Co., represented by Edmund L. Martin, until 1895, when it was



purchased by her son Chauncey Hayden, who continued it until about 1930, assisted at times by



Wesley Church and Frank Pease. After the Hayden store ceased operation, the building sat vacant for many years.



In the late 1950s, Thomas Rotunda, Jr. operated Riverside TV & Appliance Center in the first floor, and from then until about 2008, the upstairs apartment housed various tenants. With expansion of the Jolly's store next door, the Hayden store building was purchased by Jolly's and torn down to create an employee parking lot.

### W.C. Stevens store

After leaving the Whitcomb & Day building in 1891, L.H. Chapin continued his store in a building thought to have been on the south side of Dickenson Street. The location however is not certain. A nearby home at 352 VT Rt. 15 had large store type windows on each side of a center entrance door, until recently being damaged by fire. Further research is needed to

determine if this could have been the store building, and if so, was it originally located here, or moved here from Dickenson Street. The store building was sold to W.C. Stevens in 1894, and in May, 1896, Mr. Stevens took over the business as well. Advertisements for the Stevens store show a transition from the wares of earlier times to many items one would expect to find in a store today. From the new breakfast food – shredded whole wheat biscuits – to Cottolene (one of the first commercial substitutes for lard, being a mixture of beef tallow and cottonseed oil, used like Crisco is today) to the array of canned foods being promoted by national companies to replace the work of home canning, a much wider selection of goods were becoming available to local families. One ad featured “pork and beans with tomato sauce, just the thing for picnics, campers [and] cold lunches”, along with Alaska salmon, pickled cod and candlefish, macaroni, dried beef, sage cheese, olives and boned turkey and chicken. In a portion of the same building (or possibly a building near the Chapin store), Reuben Dickenson, for whom Dickenson Street is named, was doing a big business selling stoves in the mid-1890s.



Underhill, Vt., .....189

No. ....

To W. C. STEVENS, Jr.

DEALER IN

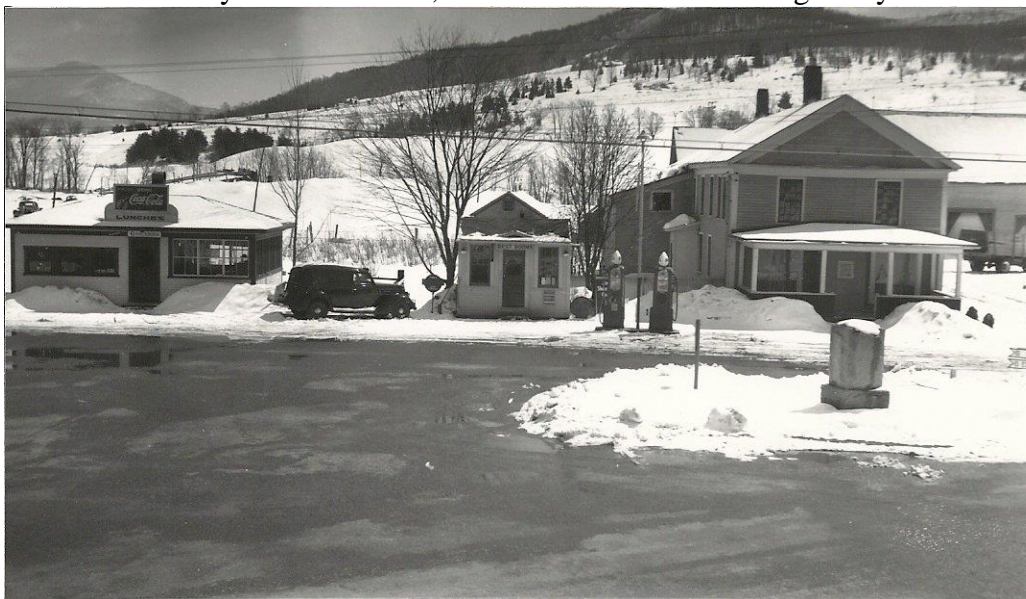
**Groceries and Hardware.**

1898

aug 4	amt best feed	23 66
	50 # 10 Nails	1 13
	6 # Oat Flake	25
	Sugar	50
8	7 cobs brook	25
	5 gal best oil	65
aug 15	Sugar	25
		26 69

### Whitcomb & Day building after 1911

After Chauncey Hayden moved from the Whitcomb & Day store in Riverside in 1911, it was taken over by John McKeefe, who carried on a meat and grocery business into the 1920s.



Frank Machia operated a store in the 1930s, both in this building, and in a small building just to the east; part of this time he also operated a lunch room and sold Shell gasoline and oil. This was carried on by his wife



Blanche until the early 1950s. The building was later converted to apartments, and is now a private residence.

About 1960, Richard Irish opened a small store in the end of his parent's (Harold and Ilda Irish) home on the southwest corner of Route 15 and the Raceway, now 361 VT Rt. 15. This only operated for a short time.

### **Mert & Grace Mills**

In the mid-1950s, Mert Mills purchased the former Howard Clark house at 337 VT Rt. 15, just west of the Hayden store. Over the next few years he held the ash and trash contract at the Ethan Allen Air Force Base (formerly Fort Ethan Allen) in Colchester. At that time, most buildings at the base were still heated by coal, and Mr. Mills brought home load after load of the coal ashes, filling and raising the meadow between his house and the Hayden store. In 1958, he built a small building there, at what is now 341 VT Rt. 15, where he and his wife Grace operated the right half



**Gert's beauty shop and Double M Market, early 1960's**



of the building as a mom & pop type grocery store, the Double M Market, and rented the left part to Gertrude Hunt for her beauty shop. They also sold the Flying A brand of gasoline. As the business grew, they took over the entire building for the grocery business, and later put an addition on the back for even more room. In the early 1960s, Mr. Mills leveled a spot beside the store which for several years he flooded in the winter for a skating rink. After Mert's death, Grace continued the business for several years until selling to John and Sue Kordish in February, 1985. They operated the store as Big John's Riverside Store until it was purchased by Jolley's about 2006. They operated it a short time before demolishing the old store building and replacing it with a

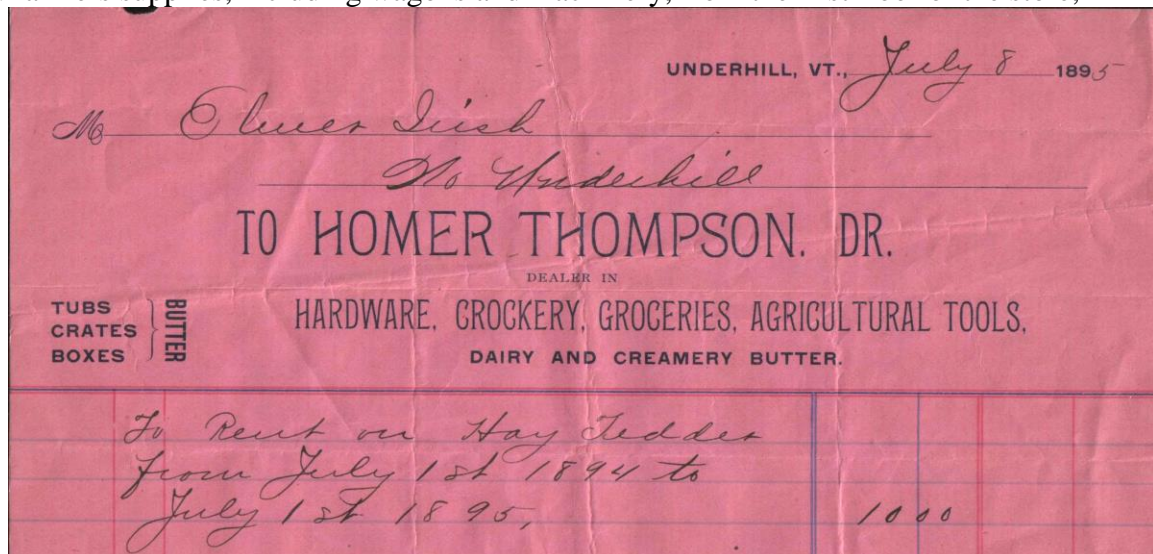


completely new store.

In the mid-1960s, the Mills purchased the former Dan Wright farm across from their store (340 VT Rt. 15) and converted the meadows along the Brown's River into the South Hill Riverside Campground, with areas for tents and portions with full hookups for campers. There was also a bathhouse with laundry facilities. To provide access, Mr. Mills built a bridge across the river resembling an old covered bridge. After selling the store, Grace Mills closed the campground, and in July, 1999 sold the land to the Underhill Jericho Land Trust. In September, 1999 the Jericho Underhill Park District was created, and in February, 2000 the land was transferred to the Park District, who established the Mills Riverside Park. In 2005 the Jericho-Underhill Lions Club raised funds to build a pavilion in the park which is used by musicians and others for protection from the elements. Today the park is used for sports events, a farmers market, summertime concerts, hiking and many other community activities.

### Homer Thompson's store

Another store in the Flats with a long history was erected about 1887 by Homer Thompson on the south side of Park Street near the railroad tracks (now 16 Park Street). He sold both groceries and farmers supplies, including wagons and machinery, from the first floor of the store,



while the second floor was used as a hall for all kinds of shows and other public assemblies. For the comfort of his patrons, both the store and hall were heated by steam. Early in 1889, Mr. Thompson acquired the franchise for Walter A. Wood mowing machines and Tiger horse rakes from B.H. Day, covering Williston, Essex, Jericho, Underhill, Cambridge, Westford and northern Bolton, thus assuring himself a large territory from which to draw customers. He continued this line until selling the Wood mowing machine franchise to Ira Thorp in June, 1894.

About this time, he bought a piece of land behind the store, along the line of the B&L railroad, where he could build shops and storehouses for the agricultural implements, etc. By 1891, he was advertising that it required 15,800 square feet of floor room to successfully conduct his business. In March, 1892, Mr. Thompson converted the second floor hall into living quarters, presumably because the G.A.R. Hall was filling the need for assembly space that his hall had previously filled. He next fitted up a building to the west of his store (at what is now 10 Park Street) for tinware and hardware, and carried on an extensive business. Each spring, he made up a large supply of sap buckets and syrup cans (for example, planning to have 2500 of each ready



for sale in the spring of 1889), and installed a special machine for manufacturing tin syrup cans. It is interesting to note that Thompson's sap buckets were made of tin, while those mentioned



above being sold by L.H. Chapin that same spring were still wooden ones. In the spring of 1894, Mr. Thompson expanded his tin business by operating a "great big" one-horse tin cart, to peddle his wares through the area.

### **Homer Thompson's grist mill**



In addition to these businesses, Homer Thompson also built a large grist mill across the railroad tracks from his store in the fall of 1893. The foundation was laid in early September, and by early November the 28 hp gasoline engine had arrived. This was installed by H.N. Gray of Cambridge, and meanwhile Mr. Thompson was purchasing gearing for the mill in Burlington. By early January, 1894, Mr. Gray was back in town starting up the machinery, and by the end of February, the new mill started operation. It appears that grinding was done by the

new roller process, with grain being shipped in on the railroad, where it could be unloaded directly from the rail cars into the mill. Mr. Thompson also installed an electric light plant in his mill, and by the end of May, that was operational. It is interesting to note that some 20 years later, Mr. Gray ran a very similar business in Cambridge, including a hardware store, farm machinery business, grocery store, and a grist mill powered by a gasoline engine, which also operated an electric light plant.

At this time, A.W. Waters sold and installed separators over a wide area of northern Vermont. At least part of the time, he was an agent for Mr. Thompson, although he may have been self employed for part of the time as well. In August, 1893, he installed a water system for Dr. Burdick, which drew water from the Creek to his residence with a hot air engine, although by the next summer, Dr. Burdick had replaced it with a windmill like the one Ed Sinclair had placed on the ell part of his new hotel for the same purpose. Apparently, Dr. Burdick's system included a fountain, as in 1896 it was reported that he was having his fountain repainted. In September, 1893, he represented the DeLaval Separator Co. at the Vermont State Fair at Howard Park in Burlington. In January, 1895, "Gus" finished work for Mr. Thompson and went to Jericho, where he tended store with B.C. Hawley in the new Home Market Co. store which opened in the Pierce Block in mid-April. In early April he made a trip to Boston to buy goods for the new store, and in July, he acquired the Wood mowing machine franchise for Jericho from Ira Thorp. It was said that he was a good business man, and would be missed in the Flats.

Upon Mr. Thompson's untimely death from pneumonia in April, 1895, his businesses were advertised for sale, including the grist mill, store with dwelling, tin shop and tools, two blacksmith and wheelwright shops, one at Underhill and the other at Underhill Center, two tenement houses, several fine building lots at the Flats, and all the stock in trade, including tinware, hardware, crockery, farming tools, wagons, sleighs, and three good horses. Even though they could be bought cheap for cash, apparently there were no takers, as they were carried on by the administrator of his estate, Thomas Thorp, until his death in 1899, after which Ira Thorp, administrator for both estates, closed out the businesses.

As well, for a time in the summer of 1896, Glenn Wilkins operated a fruit store in the

Thompson store.

The grocery store was next occupied by Hulett & Grace, who carried groceries and general merchandise until 1902. The note at left from August 13, 1902 urges a customer to settle his account as they expect to dissolve their partnership in a very few days.

Underhill VT  
Aug 13 - 1902  
Mr. Elmer Smith  
We are about to  
dissolve Partnership now  
in a very few days  
and  
would like to close  
all Book accounts -  
Hulett & Grace



The building was then purchased by C.N. Stygles, who sold general merchandise until moving his business to the brick store in 1911. About that time, he sold this store to Brown & Nay. The second floor porch was added to the store by Mr. Stygles.





M. *John O. H. 6-1916* BILL TO DATE  
 Address *Underhill, Vermont* 191  
**BROWN & NAY,**  
**General Merchandise**  
 Am't For'd  
 12  
 ALL BILLS MUST BE SETTLED WEEKLY.  
 Printed by Tuttle Stationery Co., Rutland, Vt. 16A719

They in turn sold the business to Clayton Rice. In 1924 his son Parker went into partnership in the business, and continued it after Clayton's death in 1937.



M. *Elmer Dink* BILL TO DATE  
 Address *Underhill, Vt.* July 7 193  
**C. W. RICE & SON**  
**GENERAL MERCHANDISE**  
 Account Forwarded  

<i>12 lb Flour</i>	<i>65</i>
<i>musters</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>3 musters</i>	<i>105</i>
<i>151 Pills</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>10 musters</i>	<i>368</i>
<i>to musters</i>	<i>50</i>
	<i>438</i>
<i>4.5 lb. Flour</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>1/2 lb. Flour</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>15.00</i>	<i>593</i>
<i>15.00</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>cash</i>	<i>743</i>
	<i>2.43</i>

 THE FOTTER PRESS BOSTON

M. *Hugh Irish* BILL TO DATE  
 Address *Underhill, Vt.* May 18 1944  
**P. H. RICE**  
**GENERAL MERCHANDISE**  
 Account Forwarded  

<i>2nd hand</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>spost</i>	<i>03</i>
<i>flour</i>	<i>12</i>
	<i>139</i>
	<i>66.00</i>

 Tuttle Stationery Co., Rutland, Vt. 16A719

In 1944 Parker Rice sold the store to Isadore Myers from South Burlington, who sold it a year later to Hector Marcoux of Bennington. He and his family ran the business until selling it to Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Jacobs, known to everyone as Tippy and Minnie, in 1948. For many years the store was affiliated with I.G.A., the Independent Grocers Association store chain.



The Jacobs enclosed the front porch in the 1960s to create additional space for their business. Their son Phil Jacobs started working in the store in 1974, and purchased the business from his parents in 1984. Phil, his wife Cindy and their daughter Heather continue to operate the store today.

**Jacob's I.G.A., 1968**



**c. 1890 – Large white building behind steam is thought to be the tin shop**



**c. 1895 – Note different building from that in the 1890 photo above**







front of the old building, on the lot where Herbert Goodwin's house had stood (now 14 Park Street). The new Gallup block housed both an enlarged hardware store and an apartment, while the old store continued to be used as the tin shop. They also carried on a plumbing business.



**The new Gallup Block**



**(Left) David Gallup with gasoline pump**

In addition to their other business, about 1910 the Gallups started the first filling station in the area behind their store. This consisted of 5 gallon cans filled from horse-drawn tank trucks. Autos were fueled from these cans using a large funnel lined with chamois to remove the water. A few years later, a pump was installed. After E.J.'s death in 1938, his son David carried on the business until the mid-1960s. In the 1960s, as the hardware business was taken over by larger stores in neighboring towns, Mr. Gallup put his



talents as a tinsmith to work making various copper items, particularly copper kerosene lamps and also copper dippers, all of which found a ready market.



**Gallup Block, 2011**



**David Gallup, with  
a dipper and lamp**

**D. A. GALLUP**  
HARDWARE  
PAINTS - OILS AND VARNISHES  
Underhill, Vt. 9-17 1945

M. Hough Diner

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Rep. No.	Clerk	Account Forwarded
1	1/2 qt Bottle	135
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		

Your account stated to date. If error is found, return at once.  
RECAPIT. ALLOWED. ONE

Another tin shop was operated in the 1860s at what is now 395 Route 15, opposite the park, by T.M. Quinn, who advertised being a manufacturer of tin, sheet iron and copper ware, and also a

dealer in stoves, glass and hardware.

About 1990, J. Kennedy and Daughters, a thrift store also selling used furniture, was opened in the Gallup Block by Jeff and Kate Kennedy. When their business moved to Bridge Street in Richmond in 1992, Green Thumb Gardening (see below) moved into that space, and Kathy McMains opened a natural foods store in the upstairs space. When Green Thumb moved to the former Methodist church in 1997, the natural foods store moved downstairs. The original tin shop building was torn down about 2005 to make a parking lot.

In 1989, Green Thumb Gardening, a business dealing with education and equipment for emerging agriculture and gardening sciences, was opened by Rick Middlebrook in the former Gallup Block at 14 Park Street. The business started upstairs there, and moved to the first floor in 1992. As the business, which sells equipment for growing plants hydroponically, grew, it had the opportunity to move into the former Methodist Church at 394 Rt. 15 in June, 1997. After the Methodist and Congregational Churches joined to form the United Church of Underhill in 1973, most activities moved to the former Congregational building, and the Methodist building was sold to the United Christian Assembly in May, 1982. In 1997, the United Christian Assembly built a new church building on the Raceway in Jericho, and it was at that time that

their former building was sold to Green Thumb Gardening. As part of the move, the former Methodist parish house became the Green Thumb office.

As with his store, the Homer Thompson grist mill business was continued for several years by the administrators of Homer Thompson's estate upon his death, until being sold to L.H. Pendleton, who improved the property and built up an extensive business. Around this time, the mill was reported to be powered by two 20 hp gas engines, so these may have been some of the improvements made. The gas was made by a "producing plant" which made gas from soft coal. He in turn sold the business in March, 1911 to Jasper Foster from Johnson.

Underhill, Vt., Nov 1 1895

*Mr Elmer Link*

**Bought of IRA THORP,**

AGENT FOR

**The Bradley Fertilizer Company.**

Feb	14	15 bag. P. Fert @ 1.60	\$ 24 00
May	8	6 " " " " "	9 60
"	8	3 " " " " "	4 80
"	10	2 " " " " "	3 20
			<u>41 60</u>

*Rec Payment  
L.H. W. Thorp*

Electricity came to the Flats in 1920, in part due to the efforts of Mr. Foster, who served on several committees who negotiated with the power companies to bring the power to Underhill, and the mill was then converted to electric power. Mr. Foster ran the mill until March, 1938 when he sold it to the E.W. Bailey Company from Montpelier. He continued to operate the mill for Bailey until about 1946. Ken Buxton took over the operation until the mill was closed in 1950 as Bailey consolidated several of the small rural mills they ran, such as Chittenden Mills in Jericho and the Waterbury Feed Co. in Waterbury, along with the Underhill Mill, in a feed store in Essex Jct. It was torn down in 1952, and the site has

since been used for parking for Jacobs' store.



IRA W. THORP, Adm'r. IRA W. THORP.

## UNDERHILL MILLS,

T. W. THORP & SON, Proprietors.

◇ Wholesale and Retail Grain, Meal and Feed ◇

OUR MOTTO:  
Honest Grain.  
Honest Work.  
Honest Dealing.

*Underhill, Vt., Sept. 21 1899*

*Sold to Elmer Lush*

<i>Leash Bul Books acct,</i>	<i>6 18</i>
<i>Due Payment</i>	
<i>Lea W Thorp</i>	

### Beauty Shops

As mentioned above, Gertrude Hunt operated a beauty shop in part of the Mills store in Riverside for a time. In 1965, when the Mills expanded their grocery business, Miss Hunt had a building built on Park Street for her beauty shop, and continues her business there up to the present. At times she has had others work in the shop with her, including Levi Murray in the early 1990s and Randy Fleisher in the early 2000s. From 1947 to 1952 Helen Kinsley operated a beauty salon in her home at 6 River Road, the first beauty salon in Jericho.



## Hotels and Taverns

In the early days of Vermont, travel was by foot, horse or stage coach, all of which limited the range that one could travel in a day's time. Thus, an early fixture in most towns was the local



**The former Bass House, 2011**

tavern, and Underhill boasted several. One of the earliest was the Bass House, located at 365 VT Rt. 15, on the right corner of the intersection with the Raceway in Riverside. Little is known about this tavern, other than for a time Nathaniel Bostwick was the owner. He died February 10, 1807 at the age of 50, and as it was already known as the Bass House, he was likely not the original owner. The old tavern is now used as apartments.

## The Bostwick House/The Dixon House



**356. Bostwick House, Underhill, Vt.**

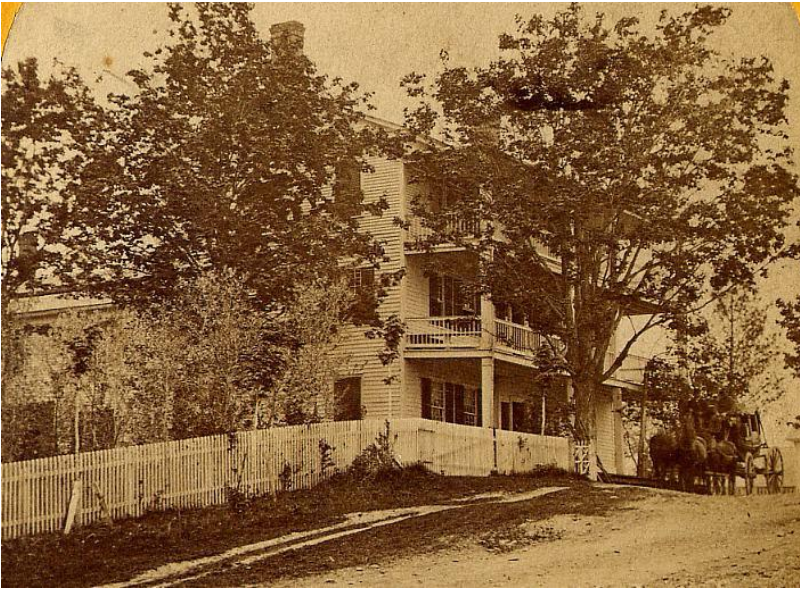
**From a stereoview, 1860s**

By 1802, his son Arthur Bostwick kept the Bostwick House that stood a short distance below the Bass House, at 351 VT Rt. 15. Arthur's son Julius Bostwick also kept the Bostwick House for a short time. Arthur's daughter Sally married Rufus Brown in the Bostwick House February 2, 1843, and Rufus took over operation of the tavern from his father-in-law, purchasing it from him in March, 1849 for \$4000. The tavern had started out as a two story building, and Bostwick and Brown enlarged it from time to time, including adding an ell.

The tavern was on the direct route from Canada to Burlington and Lake Champlain, and south to Troy, N.Y. and points beyond, and in the early days was much frequented by teamsters. They traveled up and down with their big covered wagons, drawn by four, six or more horses, coming



in at dark and out again as early as three or four o'clock in the morning, loaded with such things as grain, pork, lumber, furs and dry goods. During the 1840s and 1850s, there was a strong temperance movement in this area, and it is interesting to note that as a result, in at least 1851, Mr. Brown was licensed by the town to sell small beer and cider in the hotel, but not wines, strong beer or spirituous liquors. In February, 1866 the tavern was purchased by Leonard Dixon, and was soon renamed the Dixon House. Mr. Dixon expanded the building even more, adding a large three story addition and a dance hall. From its large three story porch on the east side, patrons had a spectacular view of Mt. Mansfield, and the Adirondacks could be viewed from the porches on the west side. There were also croquet grounds adjacent to the hotel. An



advertisement appeared in 1896 for a photographer temporarily setting up shop in "the old Dixon House bowling alley", so apparently at one time bowling was also offered at the hotel. By the early 1870s they were advertising that stages connected with both morning and evening trains at Essex Junction. With the coming of the B&L railroad in 1877, which passed just south of the hotel, special trains brought patrons from Burlington to dances, etc. held there. Dixon's was a flag stop on the B&L, and a platform was built so passengers could debark right at the hotel.

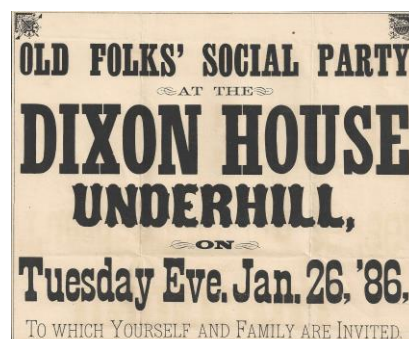
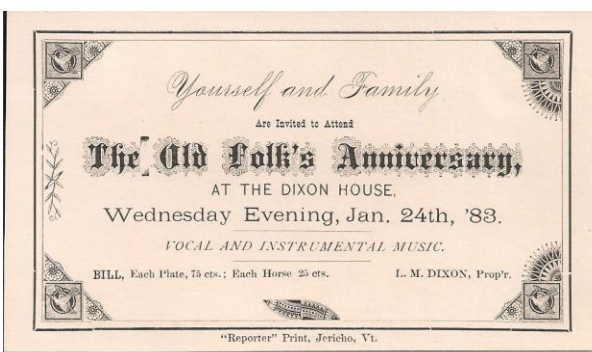


**Dixon House, after expansion by L.M. Dixon**

**DIXON HOUSE,**  
UNDERHILL, VT.  
West Side of Mt. Mansfield, on Burlington  
and Lamotte R. R.  
L. M. DIXON, Proprietor.  
A SUMMER RESORT OPEN THE YEAR AROUND.

Mr. & Mrs. Dixon were genial hosts and their hospitality was well known, as was the good cooking. One banquet held there by the G.A.R. included various kinds of meats, oysters served in different styles,

a nice variety of pastry and all fruits of the season. Several hundred visitors came



to the hotel each summer, attracted by the popularity of the management and the scenic surroundings, with many hiking on Mt. Mansfield, taking carriage rides or fishing.

Mr. Dixon died in the hotel December 23, 1886 at the age of 77 (the B&L ran a special train to bring mourners from Burlington to his funeral), and the hotel was carried on by C.W. Thurber and S.M. Barney. Apparently business had been declining, as in November, 1885, Mr. Dixon had mortgaged the hotel, Dr. Arthur Burdick holding the mortgage. This mortgage included the right to have the train stop at the hotel platform, although by 1889, trains no longer stopped at the hotel. In January, 1889, Dr. Burdick purchased the hotel from the Dixon estate, and that spring made considerable improvements to the property, including painting the outside, and installing a new floor and a new marble top counter in the office. By July 1st, the hotel was thoroughly repaired and refurnished, and ready to open, with Dr. Burdick as the proprietor and Capt. P.T. Hollenbeck as manager. However, by early September, Capt. Hollenbeck had left town, and the hotel closed for about a month. At about 2 o'clock on the morning of January 11, 1891 fire was discovered in the attic of the rear of the old inn. The entire building was burned to the ground, but due to the efforts of those who responded to the alarm, especially M.L. Washburn, the piano and much of the furniture was saved. The fire was believed to have started from a stove being used while work was being done in that part of the building. The loss was estimated to be \$14,000. The furniture which was saved was stored at Thompson's Hall, and Dr. Burdick soon advertised that "\$2000 worth of Dixon House goods will be sold at...private sale" starting on January 26. In the fall of 1896, Dr. Burdick had a new tenement house built on the Dixon House lot and the next fall, he had another house built there.



**The Barney Tavern, 2011**

### **The Barney Tavern**

Another early tavern in the Flats was the Barney Tavern, located across Route 15 from the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department at 417 VT Rt. 15. This may be the tavern kept by Elijah Benedict starting in 1786, where Lorenzo Dow preached for two years due to there being no church in town. It was later operated as a tavern by William Barney and Edward Hutchings, and by Martin Barney from about 1830 until 1852, when it became the home of Dr. Hiram Benedict, a graduate of Castleton Medical College. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Benedict kept an inn here as well. Underhill town meetings were held here from 1832 to 1843.

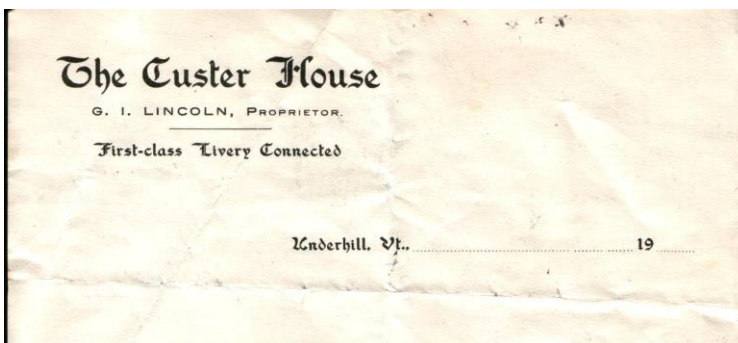
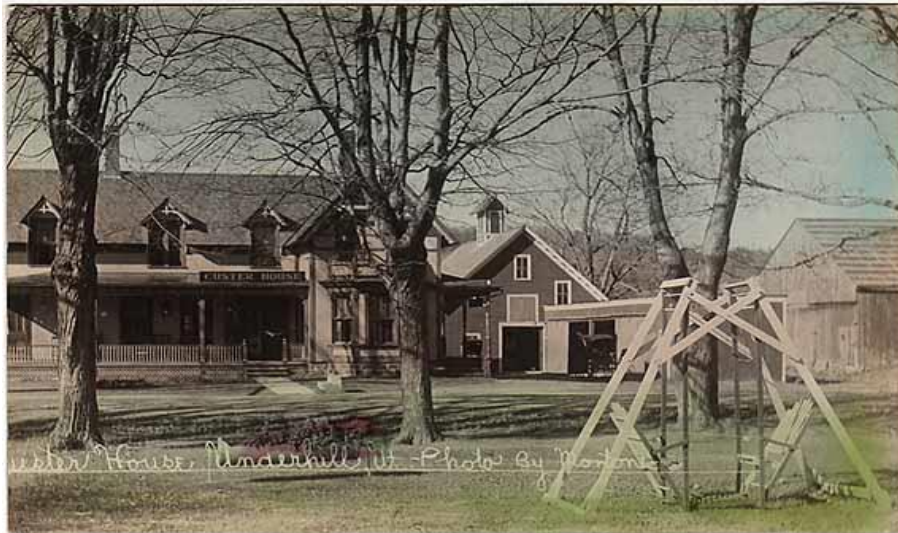
Dr. Benedict was the last to operate the inn, although his son, George Benedict, lived here until his death in 1938.

### **The Custer House**

Just a little further north, at what is now 419 VT Route 15, until recently the site of the Flour Shop, the Custer House was established about 1887. Another popular hotel, it was operated by Thaddeus Whipple, who had previously kept the American House in Cambridge. The hotel did a thriving business, and by 1889, Mr. Whipple had an addition built onto the stables, James Breen



doing the work. There was even running water in the barns. In 1891, the dining room was enlarged and that fall he built a new wagon house as well. In 1893, the stock barn was moved back, with a cellar being put under it, and a room for cold storage was also constructed.



In October, 1895, Mr. Whipple had the roof raised on the hotel office to make more sleeping rooms. George Ira Lincoln, who had worked at the hotel, rented it from Mr. Whipple in April of 1897, and by 1898 had purchased the business. Mr. Lincoln sold the livery business associated with the hotel in 1912 and leased the hotel itself in March of that year. About 2:30 am on the morning of May 18, 1914, a fire started in the barn behind the hotel, and although the contents were saved, the hotel building was a total loss.

### The Hotel Sinclair

As mentioned above, the Hotel Sinclair was located in the Riverside area of the Flats, at 389 VT Route 15. This was built in 1893 by Edward Sinclair, an architect and building contractor. Reportedly the various features of the building, including decorative porches and turrets were included by Mr. Sinclair as examples of what he could provide to people interested in

his services as a building contractor. The hotel was operated by Ed and his wife Ruth until his death in 1933, although by the 1920s it was only in operation from May 1st to November 15th. Mrs. Sinclair maintained it as her residence until she sold it to Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Fuller in 1952. This operated until about 1964, then became a private residence until the 1980s when it was converted to the Sinclair Inn bed & breakfast by Jane and Scott Smith. In 1989, it was



operated as Sinclair Towers Bed and Breakfast by Alfred and Blanche Royce. The bed & breakfast was operated by Andrew and Jeanne Buchanan from 1993 until 2002, and about that time the name changed to Sinclair Inn, and then operated by Don and Nimmie Huber until August, 2013, when it was sold to Thomas Matteoli and Daniel Klopstein, who are continuing the bed and breakfast.



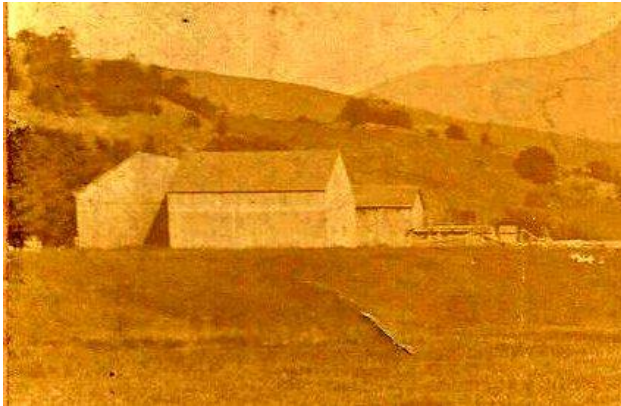
### **Other area lodging establishments**

Another establishment maintained as a guest house was the Fairview Lodge, located in the brick house at 37 River Road, just west of Park Street, and operated by Frank S. Jackson in the early 1900s. In the 1890s, Mr. Jackson was also an agent for the Buckeye mowing machine.



**Fairview Lodge**





**Home of Robert Jackson, River Road near the end of Park Street**

His father, Robert Jackson, lived across the road, near what is today 40 River Road, and was a successful farmer who was much interested in thoroughbred stock. In 1885, Jackson & Brown were advertising the services of their Holstein sire "Fido" in the local newspaper.

Thomas and Carrie Bruce, who moved to Jericho in 1905, also ran this business, first as Fair View House, and later as Riverside Inn. They also ran an auto livery in connection with this business.

By the 1920s, several other places in the Flats area were offering meals, lodging or



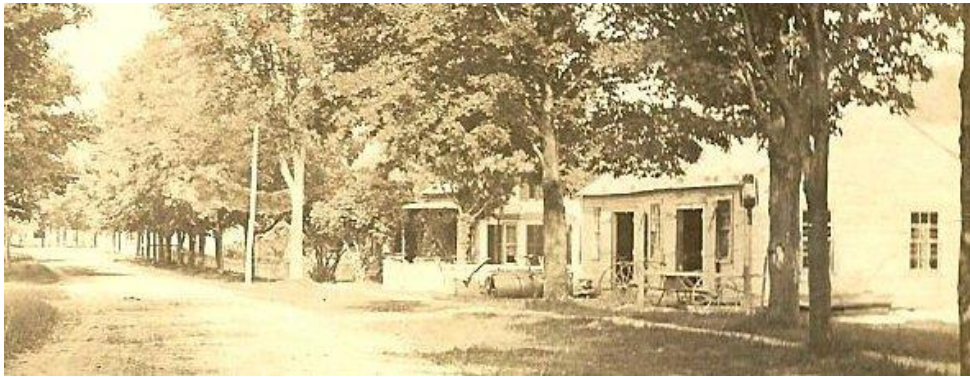
both to travelers. One was the Central House at 6 Park Street, operated by Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Santamore. Mrs. Santamore also operated the telephone switchboard, located in their home. In those days, if you wanted to make a phone call, you picked up the receiver and

"rang central" on your crank phone; this gave rise to the name. They also advertised it as being "Telephone Central". They offered meals, lodgings and lunches (the latter probably for people hiking on Mt. Mansfield, or perhaps going on a picnic), along with ice cream, soft drinks, candies and cigars. Another business was the Way Side Inn, operated by F.P. Tillison, which offered among other things pure maple products, fresh eggs, cigarettes, with chicken dinners a specialty. At the upper end of the Flats was the Humphrey Homestead, by this time being operated by Eunice Hackett, daughter of Amos Humphrey. If you wanted to "leave the jazz of the busy life", she offered comfortable beds and airy rooms, along with afternoon tea served on a spacious lawn or on open porches attended by attractive country maids, and of course food - chicken dinners, waffles with pure maple syrup, pies, cakes, doughnuts, garden vegetables and country milk. A somewhat different stop was the Fern Crest Camp, operated by Mrs. L.C. Fowler, who offered a comfortable furnished cottage in a desirable location for parties wanting quiet and seclusion, but with easy access to stores, R.R. Station, post office and bus lines and only five miles from the base of Mt. Mansfield and three miles from the U.S. Artillery Range. However, if meals were desired, they had to be obtained "nearby". At 3 River Road in Riverside was located the Deerhead tea room and gift shop, operated in connection with the Riverside

Filling Station by Mrs. Lillian Cross. She offered overnight accommodations for a limited number of guests, along with a first class dining room offering home cooking.

### Blacksmith shops

Over the years, several blacksmith shops were located in the Flats. One was started at 382 VT Rt. 15, the site of the former Waters Library building, about 1847 by Samuel Bliss. In connection with this business, he also was a carriage maker. Mr. Bliss was a Justice of the Peace for many years, and having a naturally judicial mind, he served as a Trial Justice for a long period. He also sold insurance in the 1880s as an agent for the Windsor Co. Mutual Fire Ins. Co., and was known as a worthy citizen and an honest man. He was a member of the Episcopal Church near his home. In the summer of 1893, at the age of 77, he sold his blacksmith tools at auction, and after his death in the spring of 1895, Willis Marsh rented the shop from Mrs. Bliss for his house, carriage and furniture painting business, moving here from Jericho Corners. In July, he moved again, to the residence of his brother-in-law, B. Ell Mead, in Riverside. By 1897,



**Route 15 looking north, with Bliss blacksmith shop on right**

Street south of the grist mill. It appears that this was in the same location that Andrew Tatro's harness shop had been, near where First Step print shop is presently located, now 22 Park Street. He operated this blacksmith shop at least until 1922. As noted below, Mr. Gaines owned the Bliss blacksmith shop on Route 15 for a time in the mid-'20s. The next record of the Bliss shop

Will Gaines, originally from Addison, had moved from a blacksmith shop in Pleasant Valley to this shop, and then moved again, to another blacksmith and wheelwright shop he

established on Park

is when it was sold to Howard Ayer in July, 1909; likely it was rented to someone in the intervening years, but it is unknown to whom. Mr. Ayer ("practical horse shoeing, general blacksmithing & wheelwrighting") operated this shop until selling it in 1916 to L.P. Sulham. Nothing is known about him, or the next owner, George Pope, who purchased the shop in July, 1922. The shop was next owned by Will Gaines, who bought it in June, 1924,

UNDERHILL VERMONT, .....		191
<i>Mr. Elmer Lusk</i>		
<b>To</b>	<b>H. R. Ayer,</b>	<b>Blacksmith, Wheelwright</b>
		<b>and Horse Shoer.</b>
<i>Apr 10</i>	<i>bal due</i>	<i>3.40</i>
<i>Apr 26</i>	<i>shoing</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>May 3</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>1.20</i>
<i>June 9</i>	<i>shafts</i>	<i>1.50</i>
	<i>shoe</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>chains</i>	<i>.15</i>
		<i>6.85</i>



and then by Fred Cayo, who owned it from October, 1925 to July, 1928. The property had other owners until being purchased for the library in December, 1930, but it is not clear just when it ceased to be used for a blacksmith shop. When it was purchased from Ed & Ruth Sinclair for the library, it was stipulated that Mr. Sinclair was to remove all buildings on the lot.

Yet another blacksmith shop was located at 441 VT Rt. 15, opposite the present day Meadow Lane. This was possibly operated in the 1850s by E. Hannon, then operated in the late 1860s by E. Sears, and by Hazen Colegrove at least from 1882 until 1920. Mr. Colegrove did a large business, expanding in 1889 by installing a 4 hp. engine to run a lath machine, as well as other machinery, and in 1897 he installed another new engine and boiler. By 1893, he had also added a band saw, and advertised that he was able to do just about everything in the line of wood or iron work. From contemporary descriptions the business would today be called a machine shop. That fall, he was also making cider, which apparently proved popular, as the next year he was obliged to run his cider mill overtime to keep up with demand. By 1896, he had one of the best cider mills in the state, noted for its cleanliness and quick work. Also in 1893, he leased his wheelwright shop to Irving White for use as a paint shop. At this same time, Mr. Colegrove moved the shop building formerly owned by the late W.H. Mead (near the present Niles residence at 137 River Road) to his complex, it taking 8 yoke of oxen to do the moving.

A fourth blacksmith shop was operated by Perley King behind his home at 10 Park Street until shortly before his death in 1956. He had learned his trade by apprenticing with Will Gaines in his shop in 1914 and 1915.

Mr. Perley King		Oct 9 1936	
To Ed Irish & Son		Dr.	
Terms			
June 16	bal on shoeing		1.37
July 6	work on wagon		65
Aug 14	shoeing		1.00
Aug 28	shoeing		10
Oct 8	shoeing		1.25
			44.37
	Cash Oct 10		3.00
			1.37

Another blacksmith and wheelwright in the 1870s was E. Darwin Butler, with a shop on Main Street and in the 1890s H.R. Curry had a blacksmith shop on Park Street near the road to the depot, as well as taking on the Wood mowing machine franchise for Underhill from Ira Thorp in 1895, along with a large stock of repair parts. For a time, J.H. Clark rented a part of Mr. Curry's shop for his wheelwright business. At the time of his death in 1895, it was reported that Homer Thompson owned a blacksmith shop in the Flats, and in 1889, he had hired Hollis Smith to work in the shop, but it is unknown if it was one of the above shops, or if another one existed at that time. In the 1890s and early 1900s, Hubert Hebert ran a blacksmith shop in the Flats, although it

is not clear where it was located. He had previously run the brick blacksmith shop in the middle of Jericho Corners.

From the receipt below, there was also a blacksmith shop operated by C.M. Perry in 1907 and 1908, but nothing is known of it other than this receipt. There was also a wheelwright shop located on Route 15 across from the park in the 1850s, likely located at 395 VT Rt. 15, where T.M. Quinn's tin shop was in the 1860s.

*Underhill, Vt. 1908*

*M. & E. Limer Irish.*

To *C. M. Perry Blacksmith Dr.*

DATE		DR.	CR.
1907,			
Dec 19	To. Rep. chain	25	
Jan 9	" 1 new shoe.	25	
" 10	" 1 shoe set, 2 bolts.	35	
" 14	" 2 chain links.	20	
" 15	" 1 shoe set.	13	
" 18	" 2 chain links.	20	
" 21	" 5 shoes set.	88	
" 28	" 1 chain link.	10	
Oct. 14	" 2 " links.	10	
" 21	" 1 ring in chain	10	
" 22	" 2 shoes set.	25	
" 26	" Rep. 5 teeps.	20	
" 29	" 2 shoes set.	25	
Mar 4	" 1 Clerice.	25	
" 5	" 1 chain hook.	25	
" 28	" 2 shoes set.	25	
" 28	" 4 " "	55	
Apr. 10	" 2 new shoes.	50	
		7 86	
Jan. 25	To. Cash.	5 00	
May 25	" 5 new shoes.	2 00	
June 15	" 1 " shoe, 1 link.	30	
		\$ 12.16	

### Harness shops

A harness shop was located across Route 15 from the Academy building in the 1860s and 1870s, operated by Richard Washburn (probably in the building used in the late 1960s by Dr. Raymond Towne as an office, and later moved to Riverside). Another harness shop was operated by Andrew Tatro at what is now 22 Park Street in the 1860s and 1870s. A harness and trunk shop was located at 91 River Road, where Dave Sullivan now lives, from the 1870s to at least 1900, operated by Hubbard Rogers, and for part of this time assisted by Marshall Rogers. In September, 1893, it was noted that the watering trough at H.A. Rogers was re-opened to the public, an important consideration in the pre-automobile era. Also near here on River Road, Patrick Garland ran a cooper shop in the 1880s.

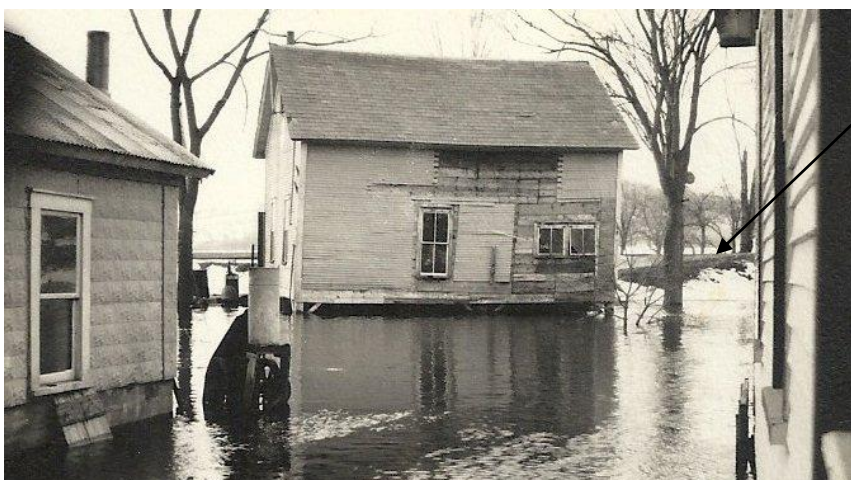
### Garages

As automobiles began to replace horses, the local blacksmith shops were gradually replaced by garages to service the new vehicles. As mentioned above, the first filling station was that of E.J. Gallup.

The Riverside Garage was opened in 1915 by Earl Cross in an old barn on Route 15 just north of the intersection of River

Road, although often he would travel to customers' homes to make repairs. In 1917, he had a 1 gallon, hand operated gas pump installed, and this was replaced a few years later by a 5 gallon pump. (Early gas pumps had a glass container marked in gallons on their top. Gasoline was pumped by hand into this container until it contained the desired amount, which was then drained by gravity into the car's gas tank.) In this era, cars were usually put up for the winter and until after mud season in the spring, and Mr. Cross would close the garage for the winter. This building was torn down in 1929.





Railroad tracks  
crossing Route 15

Rear view of Earl Cross's garage on Route 15 1915-1929

TELEPHONE 30620

Underhill, Vermont, June 1 192

Mr. Elmer Fish

To Riverside Garage, Dr.  
E. C. CROSS, Proprietor  
Authorized Ford Service

OILS AND GREASES  
ACCESSORIES  
GOODYEAR TIRES

INTEREST AFTER 30 DAYS

9	30 Lat oil @ 56¢	16 80
Bick		
E.C.C.		

1680  
20  
1700

In 1921, Earl's father, Will Cross, built the Riverside Filling Station at 1 River Road, in the fork of Route 15 and River Road, and in 1930 enlarged the building. A canopy covered the gas pumps.



**Will Cross garage, early 1920s**

After Will Cross's sudden death in 1938, Earl carried on the business until the mid-1950s. For many years, the garage sold Esso gasoline, although at times they sold Texaco and Sunoco as well. The building sat idle for many years, until being purchased by Barnard Coffey in 1980. For a time he operated the Riverside Feed Store, selling Beacon Feeds. About 1988, the building was converted into office space, including removing all except five feet of the canopy which had covered the gas pumps. After sitting idle for a time, it was used for the New Release Video Store and tanning center for about two years in the early 1990s. In 1995, it was operated as The Tack Shack & Feed Store, featuring Nutrena Feeds, new and used tack and clothing, with a large assortment of horse supplies. In 1997 Farrell Chiropractic had their office in the building, and



**Cross garage, with Deerhead Tea Room on right**

from 2006 until 2009, Kelly Ward opened A Stitch In Time yarn shop there.

In 1918 the Underhill Garage was built at 401 VT Rt. 15, opposite the green in the middle of Underhill Flats, by Edwin Irish and Max Bogue. They operated it in partnership until 1922, when Mr. Bogue became the sole owner. In 1923, George Willard purchased a half interest in the business, and his son Max Willard worked with Max Bogue for one year. Then Mr. Bogue



became sole owner again for one more year. In 1925, Albert and Madeline Williams purchased the garage and operated it as a general garage and a Chevrolet agency until July, 1927, when it was bought by Max Bogue and Elwood Clark. They ran the garage in partnership until 1929, when Mr. Clark became the sole owner. The next year, he added on to the building, doubling the floor space, and subsequently the building was expanded further.

For a time the garage sold Socony gasoline, but later switched to Esso. In 1938, Mr. Clark became a dealer for International trucks, and after Effie Reynolds' death in 1954, he purchased the house beside the garage that had housed Effie's Lunch and had it torn down so the space could be used for a parking area to accommodate the vehicles he had for sale. People long associated with the garage include mechanics Walter Godfrey, Maitland Root and Herb Ellsworth, Harold Irish, who was the stock clerk, and Anna Russin, who worked in the office. After Mr. Clark's death in 1974, his son Randall carried on the business until moving it to Jericho in 1986. Since that time, the Clark family has rented the garage. For a time, it was operated by Ray French as Ranch Tire, and since at least 1992, it has been operated as the Underhill Automotive Center by Roger Morin, carrying on a general auto repair business, along with servicing automotive air conditioning systems and trailers.



THE UNDERHILL GARAGE			
INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS, SALES AND SERVICE			
AUTOMOBILE ACCESSORIES, REPAIRING			
TIRES, GAS AND OILS			
Phone 335	Underhill, Vt.	2-10	1943
Clerk <i>Am't Rec'd</i> Account Forwarded			
Gasoline			
Oil			
Grease			
Lubrication	WHEELS		
	CHASSIS		
Labor			
<i>Credit</i>			5-
<i>As</i>			
<i>So</i>			
Keep this slip. It is the only itemized bill you will receive.			

**Underhill Garage, about 1940**

Seymour's Service Station was established at 426 VT Rt. 15 at the north end of the village in 1949 by Fred Seymour, doing automotive repairs and selling Texaco gasoline. Ed Ward worked as a mechanic for Mr. Seymour for many years. As business grew, Mr. Seymour expanded the building in the 1960s. Upon his retirement in the late 1960s, the garage was sold to Paul Ward, Ed Ward's son. By 1976 it was operated by Allen Bolio, and from 1978 to 1982, Paul Ward operated it again for a time. Since May, 1982 it has been operated as Village Service and Auto Repair by Ted and Jeff Alexander, selling the Citgo brand of gasoline.



**Paul Ward's garage, about 1970**

### **Doctors, Medical Services and the Underhill Drug Store**

Arthur Burdick was born in Underhill in 1828. As a young man, he spent about three years as an apprentice to Luther Macomber, a carpenter in Riverside, and in September, 1849 left for the gold fields in California. He put his carpentry skills to use there, building the first frame buildings in Sonora, along with gold washers, sluices and pumps for the miners. He also built the first steam mill in that part of the state. After three years there, during which time he was joined by Mr. Macomber as a partner, he returned to Underhill. With the savings he brought back from his businesses, he returned to school, and in June, 1858 graduated from the medical



**Home of Dr. Arthur Burdick, 393 VT Rt. 15**

the house at 393 VT Route 15, opposite the Methodist church, and in addition to his medical practice, opened a drug store in a part of his home. Around 1870, Dr. Burdick moved the drug

department of the University of Vermont. He began the practice of medicine in the Flats, but that fall returned to medical school in New York City. The following year he returned to Underhill and resumed his practice. He soon purchased



store to a building across the street beside the church, at 392 VT Route 15.

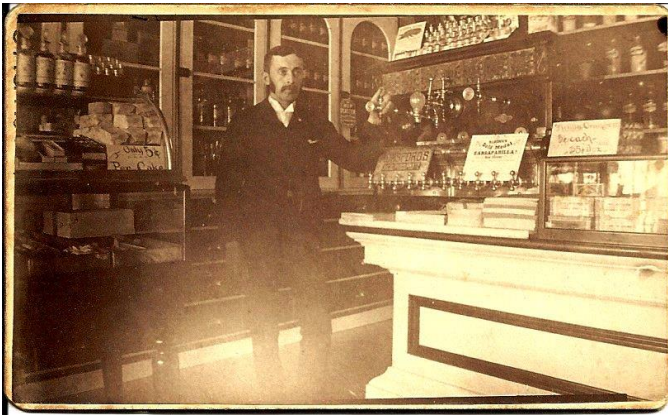


**Underhill Methodist church and Underhill drug store**

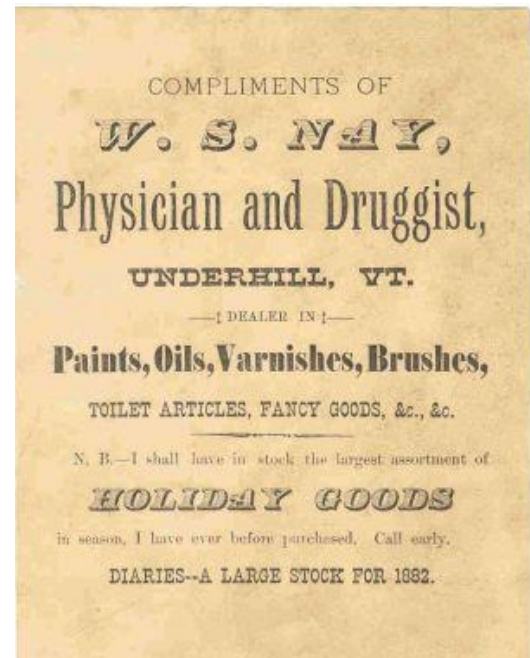


In March, 1871, W. Scott Nay began the study of medicine with Dr. Burdick, and after graduating from the UVM College of Medicine in July, 1873, returned to practice with him, also

taking over the operation of the drug store. For a time in the 1870s he had Leonidas Hanaford as a partner in the store, and later Homer W. Rockwood, a druggist for over 35 years, worked with Dr. Nay for several years.



**Interior of Underhill Drug Store**



In June, 1887, Dr. Nay purchased the drug store from Dr. Burdick, and also took over the medical practice as Dr. Burdick eased into retirement.



By the early 1890s, Dr. Burdick advertised that as he was not able to ride, he would give his whole attention to his office practice, especially eye, ear, heart and lung conditions, including testing for glasses, and consulting business. By this time he was also dealing in real estate, furniture, farm machinery and other things, and also was loaning money with first class real estate as security. Besides medicines, the drug store also sold a wide variety of other items, including paint, oranges and lemons, bird seed, baseballs (5 cents and up) and bats, croquet sets for young ladies, fresh butter color, and razors, strops and brushes. There was also an elegant Tufts soda fountain, from which was served ice cold soda water and several other light summer drinks. In 1897, Dr. Nay advertised that he carried “a line of spectacles in steel, nickled, gold, rubber and silver frames,” with prices “within the compass of your pocketbook. Cases given with \$1.00 glasses. We are enabled to fit most eyes by means of the optometer.”



### Underhill Fire

About 11:00 am on the morning of August 11, 1906, an oil stove in the home of Walter Grace exploded. Mr. Grace was asleep at the time, and Mrs. Grace was in a hammock in the front yard. By the time it was discovered by Mrs. Hattie Palmer, a neighbor, it was too far advanced for the structure to be saved, Mr. Grace escaping without time to even save his hat. The house of Dr. Nay, separated by only a driveway, was soon in flames, although the furniture was able to be saved, and it quickly spread next door to the drug store, where only some office furniture was saved. It was thought at first that the Methodist church next to the drug store could be saved, being protected somewhat by its slate roof, and citizens formed a bucket brigade. However, they were hampered by a lack of water, and the church was soon engulfed as well. The fire spread next to the grange hall on the other side of the church. As the seriousness of the fire was realized, word was sent to Burlington, where a special train was made up in 20 minutes by conductor J.L. Berry, with engine 328 under the control of engineer H.H. Knox and fireman George Fortier hauling a flat car on which had been loaded a fire engine. The train left Burlington at 12:55 with nine firefighters and arrived in Underhill in only 35 minutes. The fire engine was located beside the Creek behind Dr. Burdick's house, and a hose soon run to the scene of the fire. Volunteers were able to pull down the horse sheds behind the church, which prevented the fire from spreading to other nearby homes, some of which had their roofs covered with wet blankets to protect them from the sparks. Several times both the Barrows store and the Congregational church did catch fire, but were quickly extinguished before serious damage



**Remains of the Underhill fire August, 1906**

**Note wet blankets on roof of house in center background**

resulted. Soon after the arrival of the fire engine rain began to fall, and the firemen were able to return with their engine to Burlington about 5 pm. Total loss from the fire was put at \$15,000.

(When the Pierce Block was built in Jericho Corners in 1881, W.N. Pierce had part of the upper floor finished as a Masonic Hall, and in June, 1882 the McDonough Lodge #26 moved to Jericho from Essex. On January 11, 1901 the building was completely destroyed by fire. This resulted in the Lodge moving to the upper floor of Dr. Nay's drug store in Riverside. Now just over five years later, they were burned out once again.)

Rebuilding soon began, both on a new structure for the Methodist Church and a new home and drug store by Dr. Nay. The upper floor of the new drug store included a new Masonic Hall for the McDonough Lodge, which they occupied until purchasing and renovating the former Baptist church in Jericho Corners for their lodge in 1929.



**The new drug store and  
Dr. Nay's new house**



**The new Methodist church and drug store**

Dr. Nay continued to run his drug store in the new enlarged building until selling it about a month prior to his death in 1949 at the age of 98 years. Starting in August, 1915, Alice Ayer, sister of blacksmith Howard Ayer, began working in the drug store with Dr. Nay, and after being trained by him, Miss Ayer was the first woman to become a licensed pharmacist in the state of Vermont. (The story is told that when she went to Montpelier to take her exam, she failed the



test - because Dr. Nay had neglected to teach her how to make pills! Even though by that time, most pills were coming ready made, the skill was still a requirement, and after he taught her the art of "rolling pills", she passed the exam with flying colors.)

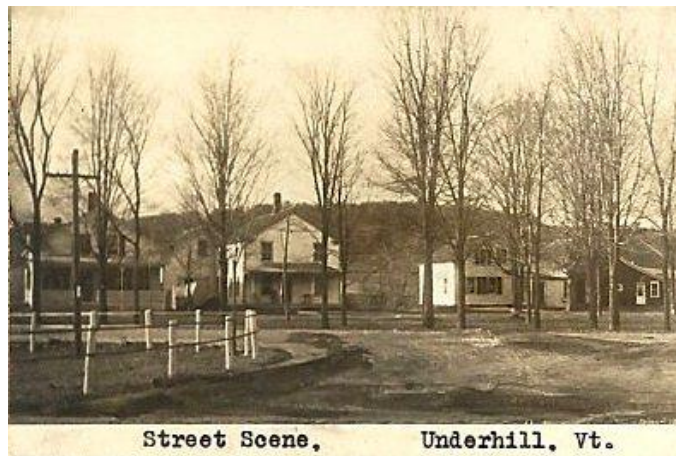
Hector Marcoux, who had just sold his grocery store on Park Street to the Jacobs family, was the next owner of the drug store. He remodeled it, including adding a soda fountain, also selling books and stationary, and at this time remodeled the former Masonic rooms on the upper floor into living quarters for his family. At this time, prescriptions were no longer filled in the drug store, but were sent to the Terminal Pharmacy in Burlington (operated by Melville Maurice of Underhill Center) to be filled. In 1953, the drug store was sold to Mr. Agius of South Burlington, who remodeled the drug store area into the Underhill Restaurant, a lunch and newsstand, which he operated for a short time. He then sold to the Snow family, who lived there about a year and a half before selling the building to Bruce Ward. He operated it as Ward's Luncheonette in the early 1960's. It has been used as apartments since then.

Another doctor that practiced in the Flats for a time around 1909-1912 was D.L. Burnett, MD, whose office and residence was in the Brick Store. In addition to a general practice, he advertised the fitting of glasses and lenses to be a specialty.

Raymond Towne came to Underhill Flats in 1940, soon after his graduation from the UVM Medical College, and established a medical practice in what had formerly been the post office and town clerk's office of J.J. Monahan at 414 VT Rt. 15. "Doc" Towne, as he was known to everyone, carried on his practice here for the next 34 years. He was the stereotype of the old country doctor, making house calls with his little black bag. In addition, he served as the Underhill health officer, as well as serving as a school director and being on the zoning board. He was also school doctor for Underhill and Jericho for many years. In appreciation of his many years of service to local residents, a surprise "night of appreciation, a special tribute for a country doctor" was held for him in May, 1973, attended by over 1000 people.

In January, 2004, Mary Kintner, DC opened the Kintner Chiropractic Center in her home at 397 VT Route 15, the site of the Towers & Oakes store in the 1830s. Dr. Kintner provides chiropractic care "from the head to the toes", with an emphasis on promoting a healthy lifestyle.

### Barber Shops



On December 10, 1915, fire struck again in the Flats, when the home of Levi Metcalf at 399 VT Rt. 15, just south of the present Underhill Automotive Center, was destroyed, along with the barber shop of Fred King, which was in a part of the house (the buildings on the right in the above photo). The light of the fire on his window awakened Ira Thorp, and the alarm was soon

spread to those attending the dance at the G.A.R. Hall. With their aid, and protection from an asbestos roof, the fire was kept from spreading to the home of Homer Rockwood next door. Word was sent to the Burlington fire department and their auto truck made as fast a trip as possible in a heavy snowstorm, but arrived too late to be of help. While the Metcalf's furniture was saved, the contents of Mr. King's barber shop were completely destroyed.

Another barber in the Flats for many years was Lewis (or Louis) Tatro, who opened his shop about 1874 and was still in business in 1900. In 1889, it was reported that he had moved his shop into Thompson's Hall, and in May, 1891, he moved again, into the Batchelder Printing Office. This is the only reference found regarding any printing business in Underhill in this era, and it is unknown where it was located. In June, 1897, Milo Sallies opened "the barber shop formerly conducted by Louis Tatro", as Mr. Tatro was ill for about four months and unable to carry on his business. By July, Mr. Sallies had moved his shop into the Terrill Bros. store, and by August, Mr. Tatro was back in his shop. By the spring of 1898, Mr. Sallies was the clerk at the Custer House, but it is not known if he also continued his barber shop.



**Frank Ladue and Mike McMahon**

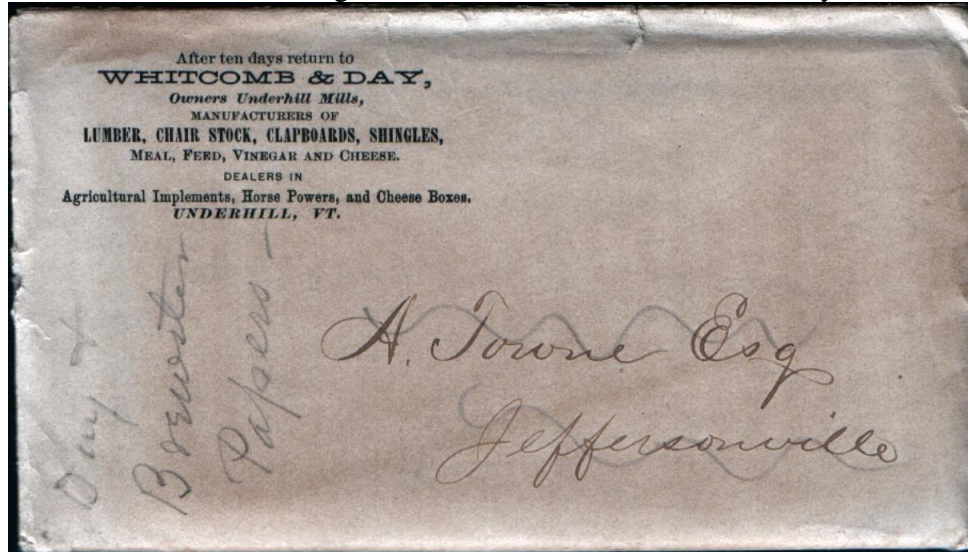
From about 1908 to 1934 Frank Ladeau operated a barber shop just north of Elbridge Nealy's jewelry shop on Park Street. This was a separate building until 1915, when Mr. Nealy remodeled his store and incorporated the barber shop. It was also reported in December, 1891 that a new barber had moved into town at the place lately vacated by Henry Hale, and in 1893, a barber shop opened in the post office building at Riverside, but nothing more is known as to who these barbers were.

### **The Steam Mill**

In 1876, Gilbert and Robinson built a steam powered sawmill in Riverside, near the intersection of River Road and Dickinson Street, and on the line of the new B&L railroad being built through town at the time. They operated it only a short time before it was taken over by a group of citizens who formed an organization to continue the business. The mill was then taken



over by Whitcomb and Day in the early 1880s, who operated it along with their other business interests in Riverside until selling out to ex-Governor Urban Woodbury in 1888.



He operated it as an accessory to the E.J. Booth Lumber Co. of Burlington. At this time, it was managed by Theron Porter and Darius Knight. In addition to doing a good business in the lumber trade, Mr. Porter installed machinery for grinding grain, and it was reported that his men were well pleased with both their boss and their pay. In October, 1889, the B&L put in a side track at the mill.

About 6 o'clock on the evening of August 5, 1893, the smokestack on the mill burned out, the sparks setting a fire in the slab pit and on the roof. This was discovered and extinguished, and a close watch was kept until about 9 o'clock, when manager Knight, supposing all to be well, left the premises. In about 20 minutes, fire broke out again. S.A. Hale and Edmund Martin, both of whom lived on Route 15 near the mill, reached the scene first. A few pails of water at this time would have saved the mill, but it was not at hand and in a few minutes the building was in flames. Some lumber on cars was pushed along and saved, but about 15 thousand feet of lumber and 100 cords of slab wood were burned with the mill. The local newspaper noted that more strangers were in town Sunday than had been seen for a long time, viewing the ruins of the mill. This was a serious loss to the village, as the monthly payroll at times reached nearly \$3600. By the end of the month, a portable mill was being installed on the site of the burned mill. It was purchased by Mr. Knight, in partnership with George Terrill, and by October they were at work rebuilding. By early in 1894, logs were coming into the mill yard at the rate of 40 loads per day, and soon the mill yard held the largest number of logs that it had had in many years. Finally, the newly rebuilt mill started back in operation at the end of February, 1894, operating as Terrill & Knight.



**The Steam Mill**

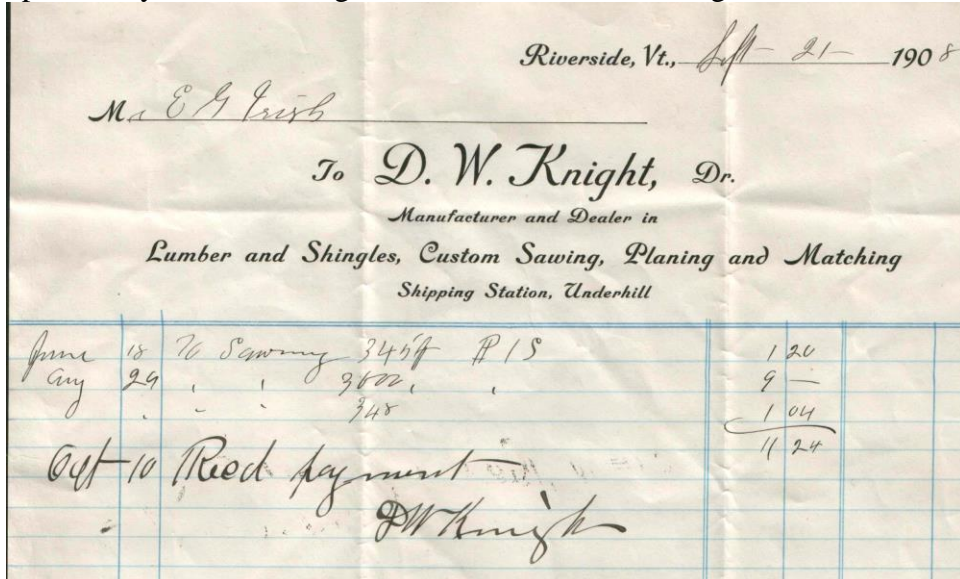


**Dickenson Street, looking east. Steam mill on left, railroad crossing in center, and what could be the corner of the Stevens store on the extreme right**

On the evening of September 1, 1894, tragedy struck again, when for the second time in just over a year, the mill was burned. Fire was discovered in the boiler room, but nothing could be done to stop the flames except to prevent it from spreading to nearby wood piles, and the mill was soon burned to the ground. However, like the year before, rebuilding was soon under way; by early October, the new mill building was completed, ready for the machinery, and it was running again by the end of the month. This time, the owners took no chances, and hired A. Rockwood as night watchman at the mill. The mill did shut down for the winter, but by March

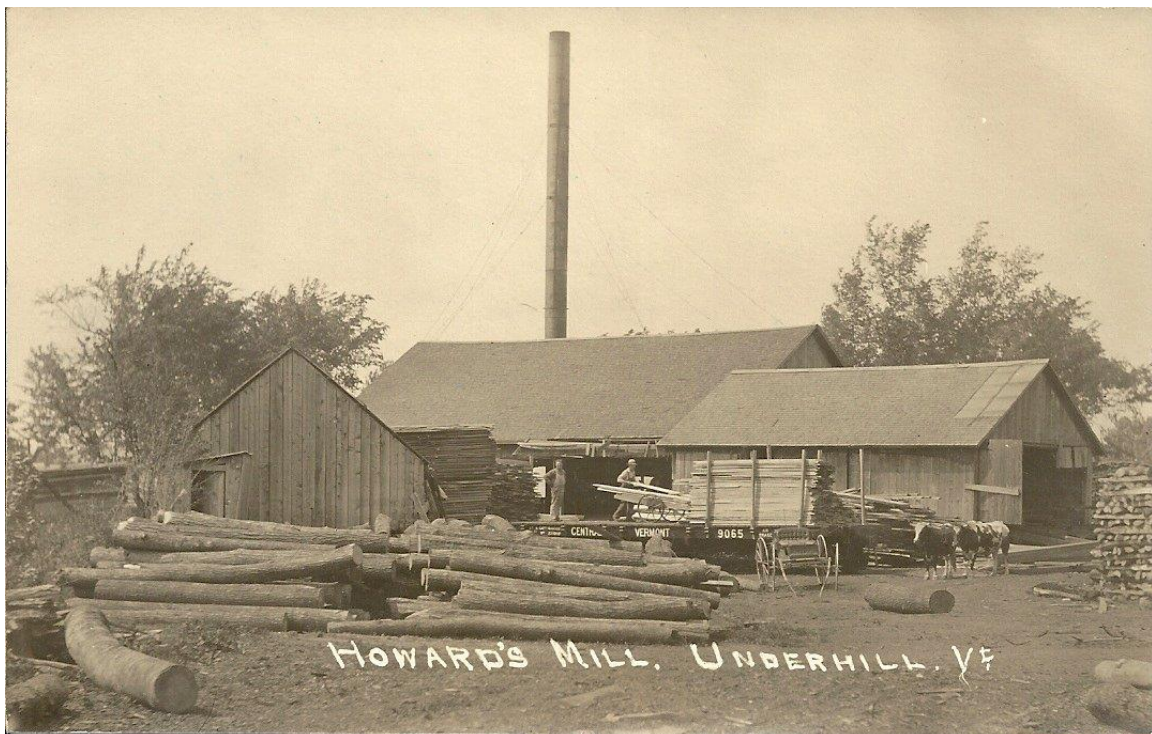


when the mill started up again, nearly 2,000,000 feet of logs were in the millyard. The mill was operated by Terrill & Knight until 1897, when Mr. Knight became the sole owner.



**Darius Knight**

In 1910, it was sold to Harmon Howard. On April 4, 1912, Mr. Howard's foot was crushed between a log and the saw carriage and had to be amputated, and then early on the morning of May 20 that same year, the mill burned a third time, but was again rebuilt.





Underhill, Vermont, *Oct 6* 191*7*

*Mr. E. S. Irish*

**To H. B. HOWARD, Jr.**

Manufacturer of and Dealer in

**Hard and Soft-wood Lumber, Coal and Wood.**

<i>Mar</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>To 915<sup>lbs</sup> Nut Coal @ 8<sup>40</sup></i>	<i>3 84</i>	
<i>July</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>By 1 log 149<sup>ft</sup> @ 11<sup>00</sup></i>		<i>1 64-</i>
<i>Oct</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>To 3616<sup>lbs</sup> Stove Coal @ 8<sup>75</sup></i>	<i>14 10</i>	
<i>Nov</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>" 2710 " " @ 8<sup>85</sup></i>	<i>17 54</i>	
		<i>Recd Payment H B Howard</i>	<i>10 70</i>	
			<i>28 64</i>	
			<i>29 64</i>	



**Drawing logs in Underhill with horses**



**George White (right) with his log truck in Front of the Brick Store – 1920s**

By the early 1920s, the mill had been sold to Buel Irish and Lynn Moulton, and later to Alson



**"Three acres of logs Knight's Mill Underhill Vt."**

Swinyer and his son-in-law Howard Stufflebeam, who ran the mill until it closed in the late 1930s.

In its heyday, this was one of the largest mills in northern Vermont. Logs were drawn in from the surrounding area, mostly Underhill Center and Mount Mansfield, with teams even coming from Burlington and Winooski to help when sleighing was good. At such times, up to 50,000 feet of logs would arrive at the mill each day. In the winter of 1893, it was reported that



1,500,000 feet of logs were in the mill yard. With the B&L tracks passing beside the mill, there was a ready means to ship the finished lumber to market. Besides doing custom sawing, the mill was equipped to produce steam bent chair wood, fork handles, novelty turning, shingles and clapboards, and made butter tubs and cheese boxes, employing at times from 50 to 100 men. In 1886, 5,000,000 feet of lumber was shipped on the B&L, about 2,000,000 feet of it from this mill, and for years the noon whistle was heard throughout the community.

In 1960, Richard Villeneuve purchased the site where the old steam mill had been located and moved his sawmill operation formerly located on Krug Road in Underhill Center into a new mill building here, operating as the Green Mont Lumber Co.



**Villeneuve sawmill**

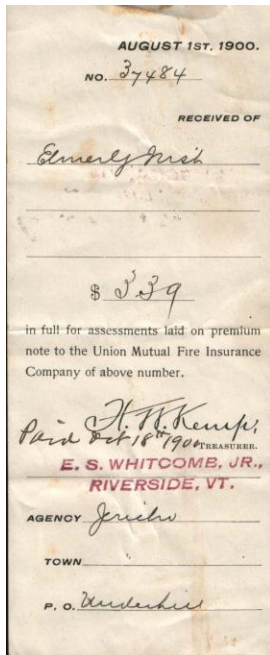
In 1967 he built a second mill on the site which sawed the logs with a band saw instead of the traditional circular saw. The mill was later sold to Green Crow, who operated it for a time before closing the business. The property is now owned by Richard Villeneuve's son David, although the mill is no longer in operation.

### **Creameries and the cheese factory**

In addition to their other business interests in Riverside, the firm of Whitcomb and Day established the Underhill and Jericho Cheese factory at 16 River Road, near the present location



**Underhill and Jericho Cheese Factory**



of the Underhill ID school. This was started by them about 1873, and in 1876 they purchased a mill on Cilley Hill Road in Jericho where they made up to 15,000 cheese boxes annually to supply their cheese business, which used the milk from 600 to 1000 cows. One week in June, 1885 saw them selling 40 cheeses. About 1888, when Mr. Day moved to New York City, the business was sold to the Cheese Factory Association, with Mr. Whitcomb going into the insurance business for several years. This appears to have been the sale of the business only, as the co-op did not purchase the property until 1916. The business was formed as a co-operative creamery, which operated for about 30 years, with S.M. Mead as president, E.S. Whitcomb, Jr. secretary and treasurer, and directors T.B. Barney, T.H. Porter and Ira Hawley. W.H. Howes was their cheese maker, and Thomas Bruce, Roy Montgomery and Bert Metcalf were employed there making butter. In 1886, 60,000 pounds of butter were shipped on the B&L from Underhill, although likely not all from this factory, and on one day in October, they shipped 50 boxes of cheese to Babcock, Hurd & Co. of Cleveland, Ohio. In 1889, the factory was making 16 to 18 cheeses per day, and by 1891, they were making 10

cheeses per day. In April, 1893, a separator was put in, marking a shift from cheese to more butter making. By early May of that year, 2000 pounds of milk were being taken to the separator each day.

By the early 1900s, cheese making had entirely ceased in town; in 1914, the creamery received 546,414 lbs. of cream and 202,785 lbs. of milk, making 167,058 lbs. of butter, and paying out to the co-operative members \$48,885.85. In February, 1920, the creamery was purchased by Chauncey Hayden and operated as the Riverside Co-operative Creamery, where his son Wendell Hayden continued the butter making operation until the creamery was destroyed by fire on September 5, 1923. The next month, the property was purchased and the creamery soon rebuilt by the Richmond Co-operative Creamery, and for a time Frank Simpson, and later Judson Santamore were employed there making casein, a by-product of skimmed milk which was shipped elsewhere for refining and used to make buttons, combs and other articles. Starting in 1932, Ernest Gomo worked at the creamery, becoming the manager for several years before his retirement in 1952. Leighton Keith was employed there for 17 years before his retirement in 1959, and the creamery closed in 1960. After setting idle for several years, the building was destroyed by fire about 1967.

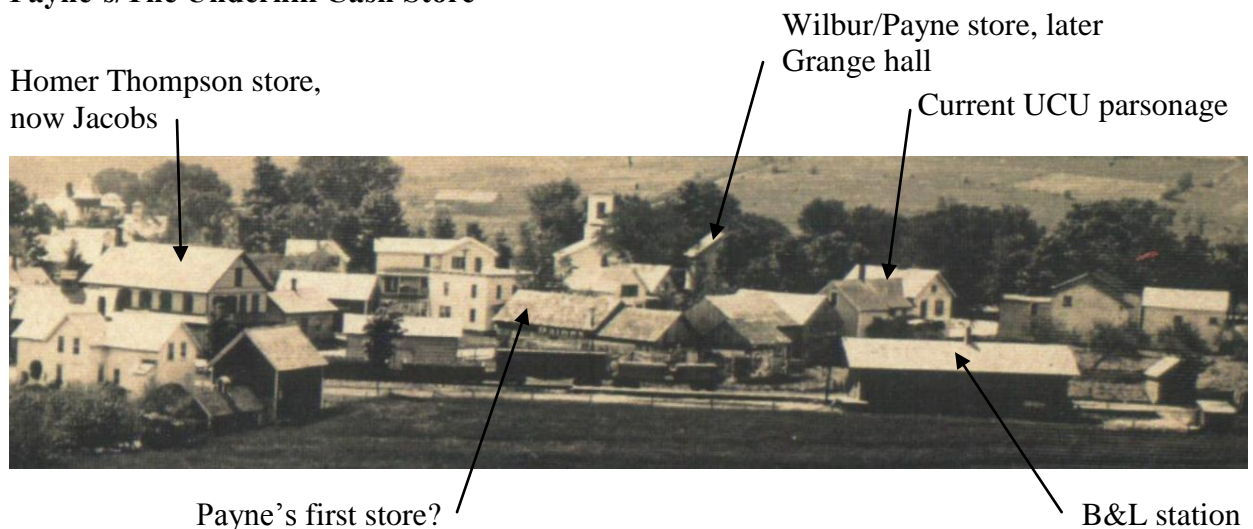
Another creamery was located in back of the Underhill Feed mill, near the G.A.R. Hall. This was a "skimming station", where the cream was separated from the milk and sent out for butter making. Records are murky, but it is thought that this was a receiving station for the Richmond Farmers Co-op, and operated from about 1905 to 1928. Reference has been found that in 1937 the property was owned by the Borden Condensed Milk Co., but it was likely inactive by that time.

Another creamery was located across Park Street from the mill, at what is now 4 Depot Street. This was built about 1911 by the Vermont Condensed Milk Company, represented by F.H. Shepardson, on land leased from R. Lee Howe, who lived in what is now the United Church parsonage. It was leased to Borden's Condensed Milk Co. in 1916, and sold to them in 1920. In 1923, it was sold to Lionel and Hugh Mulholland, and operated as the Underhill Creamery. They in turn sold to H.P. Hood & Sons in 1926. In 1928, the building was sold to Fred and Elton

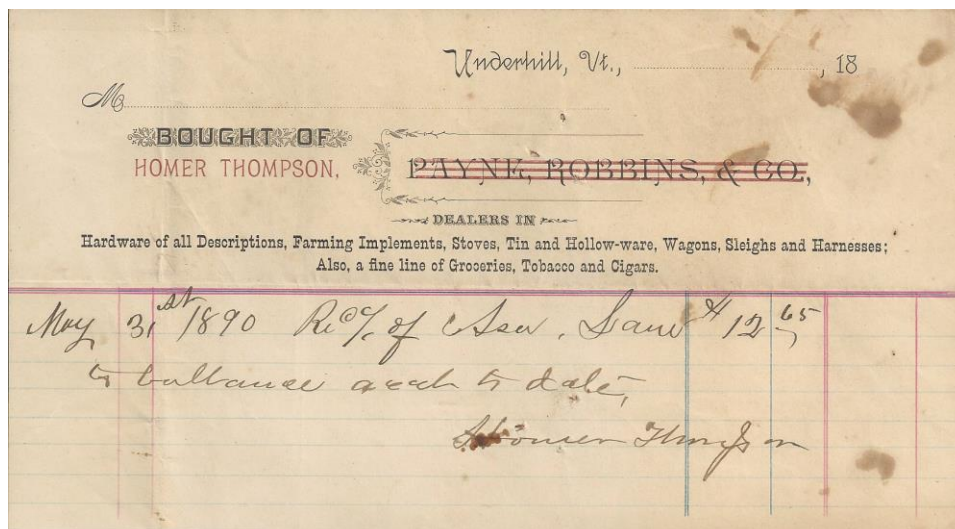


Park, with the stipulation that it not be used for the business of buying, selling, and dealing in milk, cream or dairy products. Soon after, it was purchased by Parker and Emma Rice, who converted it to Rice's Gym. Local youth played basketball here, and in 1930, the local newspaper noted that a Columbia Victrola had been purchased for use there. This likely was used for dancing, as dances were held there with live bands, such as Doc Kenyon's Moonlight Ramblers five piece orchestra and Woods Orchestra. It is interesting that in later years both of these band leaders became merchants in their own right. Fletcher Kenyon ran a clothing store in Burlington and Merle Wood founded the Country Store in Essex Center. He later moved it to the Forest Hills Factory Outlet complex in Winooski and became well known for his advertisements on local television. By 1891, the B&L was running a milk and cream car daily, presumably to service creameries along the line, but the time period does not fit with creamery operations at the Flats.

### Payne's/The Underhill Cash Store



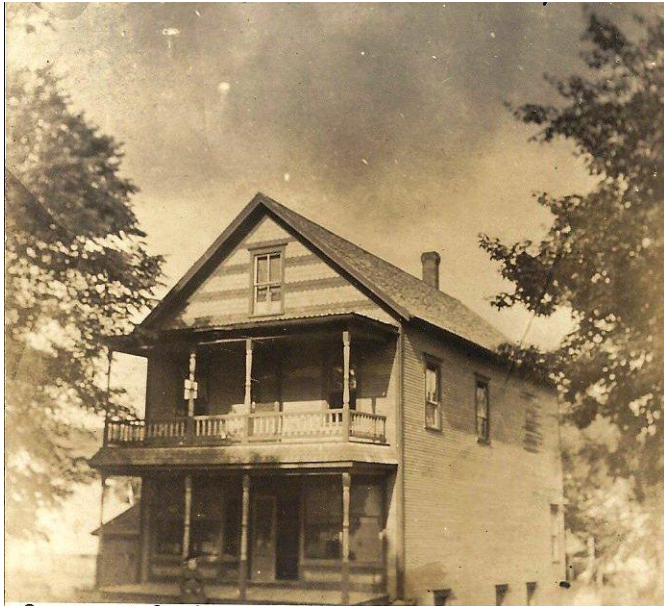
As can be seen in the above photo taken about 1893, there were an odd assortment of buildings in the triangle bounded by Park Street from the Thompson store to what is now the United Church parsonage and the railroad station. Little definite information can be found about



these buildings, but it is believed that the one in the center of the photo, above the boxcar, was where, from at least 1889 to 1894, a store variously known as Payne, Robbins & Co. or Payne Bros. was operating in Underhill Flats. The first mention is

on November 12, 1889, when a list of stores which had agreed to close their businesses at 8 P.M. includes W.S. Payne. Then on November 26, Payne & Robbins purchased the hardware, tinware, wagons, sleighs, groceries, etc. from Homer Thompson.

Yet in the spring of 1891, Mr. Thompson had Oliver Garrow from Burlington, plus another tinsmith working for him making sugaring utensils, and he was still making sap buckets in 1894. Did he sell only the stock to Payne & Robbins, and not the business? And why, on the above receipt, is the Payne, Robbins, & Co. name overprinted, and replaced by Homer Thompson's name? In February, 1894, the Payne Bros. of Cambridge leased the Ira Thorp store to put in a line of furniture and undertaker's goods (they advertised that embalming and care of the dead



**Grange Hall**

was a specialty, and that chairs could be furnished and all matters attended to). In connection with this line of business, they were also agents for flowers and artistic floral designs, which they could furnish on short notice. They also advertised a line of oil paintings and pastels. No definite record has been found of where this store was located, but on October 18, 1892, the local newspaper announced that Jim Wilbur had broken ground for a new store on the corner lot near the Methodist church, and by November 1<sup>st</sup>, the foundation for the new store was nearly completed, and the carpenters were to begin framing the building the next week. By the end of January, 1893, the building was ready for the shelves, and by the end of March it was nearly completed. Nothing further is

known of this store, so it is likely that if Mr. Wilbur actually ran it, it only stayed in business a short time. On the side of the building in the photo on page 56 marked "Payne's first store?", it appears that the word "Paines" is on the building behind the boxcar, so the likely scenario is that the Paynes first opened their store in the building on Park Street, then expanded into or moved to the building beside the Methodist church. Will Payne was also advertising the U.S. Cream Separator, and anything in the line of dairy utensils, and the firm also offered a cattle de-horning service. Besides all their other businesses, in January, 1895, they advertised that Prof. C.E. Mudgett, the oculist, would be at their store, and that all in need of spectacles should call and see him for a free examination, as he had done much work in town and guaranteed satisfaction. In late June, they had an experienced upholsterer at their store for a week, for those having chairs or lounges that needed new covers or springs. In September, 1895, Will Payne opened a barber shop in the Payne Bros. store. In November, 1896, J.B. Wilbur moved into the Thomas Thorp store recently vacated by Paine Bros., so it would appear that the store built by Wilbur in 1892 was owned by the Thorps and rented to the Paynes until that time. For the next year, regular advertisements appeared for the Underhill Cash Store, with J.B. Wilbur as manager, featuring boots, shoes, rubbers, overshoes, and leggings, in addition to a good line of hosiery, corsets and underwear, with more lines to be added. (This is the same location as the Grange hall that burned in the fire of August, 1906, so at some time in the intervening years the Grange took over



the building for their use, possibly in 1898.) In October, 1897, Messrs. Whipple and Burroughs opened a new meat market under Wilbur's store, but no further mention has been found of their business.

### **Jewelry businesses**

Joseph Fremau had a jewelry business in the Flats at one time. He was the son of Louis Fremau, who had moved from New York to Burlington in 1846 and opened a jewelry business. Joseph had trained with his father as a silversmith, watchmaker and clockmaker, and by 1882, at the age of 22, was an agent for his brother, Louis Xavier Fremau, who also carried on a watchmaking and jewelry business at 76 Church Street in Burlington. In June, 1887, Joseph was advertising his own jewelry and practical watchmaking business in Underhill, but apparently this did not last long, as by March of 1889 he was clerking for Homer Thompson. It seems that the family then moved to Rhode Island for a brief time in 1891, but had returned to the Flats in the spring of 1892. He resumed work for Homer Thompson, buying potatoes for him, and also was the engineer in his grist mill in the spring of 1894. By that fall, he was the engineer at the steam mill, and it appears that he left Underhill for good in 1895, first working again for his brother in Burlington, then opening his own jewelry shop in Winooski. In June, 1897, Henry Thorp advertised that he was now doing watch and clock repairs, as well as dealing in watches. Work could either be left at the Brick Store or at his residence one mile north of the Flats on the hill road. Pictures of the Brick Store at this time show a large watch shaped sign hanging on the building to advertise his business.

### **The Nealy Block**

In 1892, Elbridge Nealy had established a jewelry business within B.W. York's store in



Jericho Center, and in 1908, after further training in the business with Mr. Lowery of Burlington, he built a store on Park Street in Underhill Flats opposite the C.N. Stygles store, now 1 Depot Street. The 1893 picture above shows a building in this same

**Park Street looking west – Nealy Block on right**

location parallel to the railroad tracks, perhaps a freight house for the railroad, which Mr. Nealy's building replaced. At first, the complex consisted of what is today the south end,

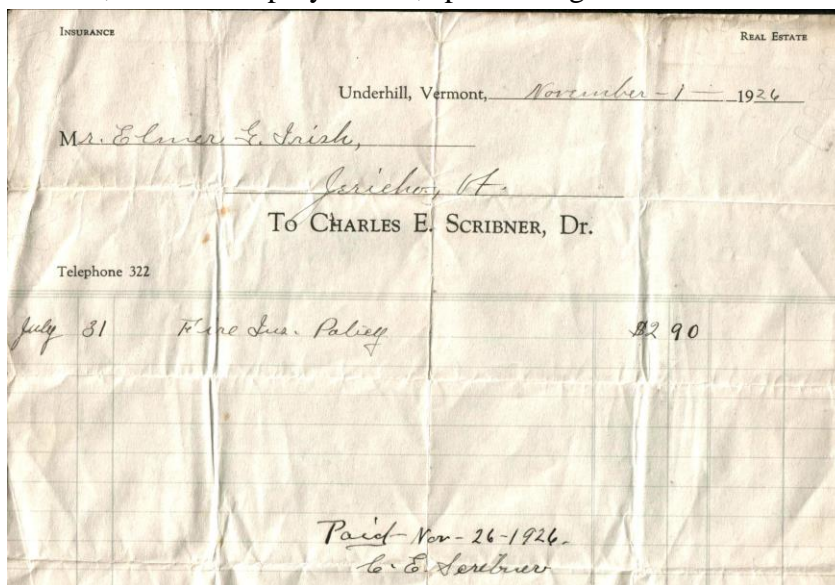


**E. G. NEALY, Underhill**  
**An Everyday Line of Furniture found**  
**at Nealy's**

Rogers Bros. Silverware, Waltham and  
 Elgin Watches. Prices right.

with the gable end facing the street, and just to the north of it was a small building separated from it by only a few feet, which was the barber shop of Frank Ladeau. In 1915, Mr. Nealy purchased additional land from Lee Howe, and about this time, the building was remodeled to the shape it has today, except the north end was only one story. It was later remodeled again to add the second story to this part. After the expansion, this end of the building also housed a cobbler shop. He carried on a business in jewelry, watches, clocks and silverware, and also carried sporting goods and antiques, plus for a time carrying on a new and used furniture business. He discontinued the furniture portion of the business in 1930. By the early 1920's Charles Scribner was carrying on his businesses in the store, dealing in electrical supplies, fixtures, and

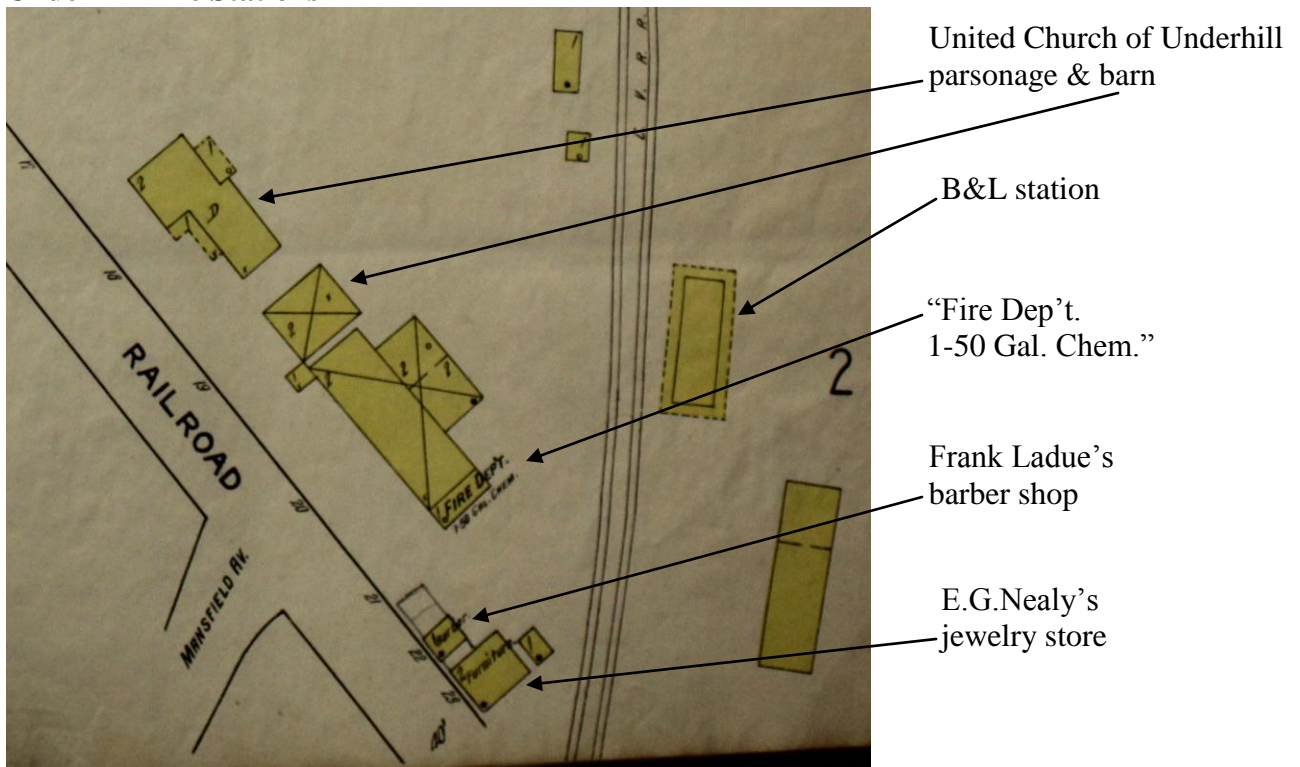
appliances, insurance of all kinds and real estate, the latter in conjunction with Mr. Nealy. In addition, he was a deputy sheriff, specializing in collections.



After Mr. Nealy's business closed in the mid-1930s, a variety store occupied the building for a time, and then Wiley Danforth used the store for several years in the late 1950s and early 1960s for his antiques and real estate businesses. It was then converted to apartments.

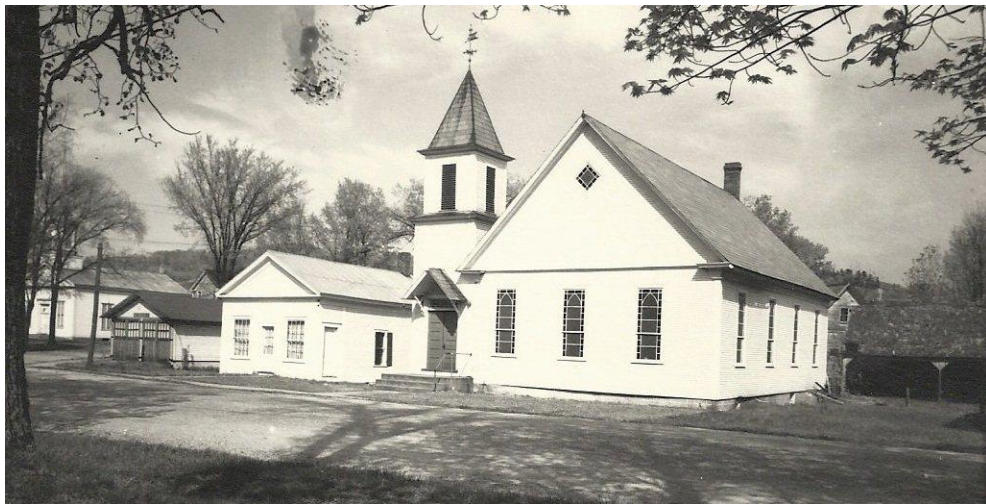


## Underhill Fire Stations



**1915 Sanborn Insurance Map**

As shown on the above map, Underhill's first piece of firefighting equipment, listed on the map as a 50 gallon chemical tank, mounted on an axle and two wagon wheels, was housed in the end of the building northwest of the barber shop. (At that time, Park Street was known as Railroad Street, and G.A.R. Place was called Mansfield Ave.) After remodeling, the center part of Mr. Nealy's building, by now known as the Nealy Block, housed the fire equipment, which



was used to fight fires only in the Flats-Riverside area. In 1918, money was raised by donations, celebrations, Field Days, ball games and dances, enabling the purchase of a Model T Ford one ton truck chassis, which was equipped with

**Second Underhill Fire Station, on left beside Methodist parish house**

chemical tanks, ladders and hose. This was also housed in the Nealy block until 1936, when Mr. Nealy's business had expanded to the point where this space was needed. A piece of land between the Santamore house and the Methodist parish house was leased from Mr. Santamore, and, with money and labor donated by villagers, a fire station was erected large enough to hold two vehicles. A 1928 Packard coupe was purchased, greatly improving the response time. The firefighting equipment was transferred from the Ford to the Packard, and the Ford was sold the next year. In 1947, a pump was mounted on a four wheel drive Chevrolet truck, both war surplus items, once again filling the fire station.



**Third Underhill Fire Station, under construction, 1952**

By 1952 a new fire station had been constructed north of the village at 420 VT Rt. 15, and the old station building was purchased by Claude Potvin and moved across Route 15 to his residence, where it remains in use as a garage.

### **The Mansfield Theatre**

As mentioned above, in the 1920s Judson Santamore, who had moved here from Stowe, was working in the creamery in Riverside. In 1924, he married Mrs. Julia Farrell, and moved into her home at 6 Park Street, opposite the Mason & Foster store. Soon after, he had a building constructed between their home and that of Perley King at 10 Park Street for use as a public dance hall. This being in the Prohibition era, the enterprise found little favor among area residents, and was soon discontinued.



**Mansfield Theatre**

Some time later, Mr. Santamore converted the building into a movie theatre known as the Mansfield Theatre, with a seating capacity of 200. Silent movies were shown, with a player



piano for accompaniment, and with admission at 35 cents, this proved to be a very successful business. When talkies were introduced, the Santamores upgraded their equipment to accommodate the new technology. Later, Mr. Santamore purchased portable projectors to operate in theatres in neighboring towns that were not equipped for sound, and had a circuit of four theatres, in Richmond, South Hero, Montgomery and Milton, in addition to the Saturday night shows in the Flats. For several years, Robert King, the Santamore's neighbor, operated the projectors, and accompanied Mr. Santamore on his circuit. The theater closed in 1937, and the building has been used as a private garage since that time.

### **The Underhill Telephone System**

It appears that the first telephone system in the Flats was a local system only. In September, 1891, phones were installed in the Custer House, the Brick Store, and the post office, all of which connected with the depot. In the fall of 1892, it was proposed to build a telephone line to connect the area with the main line in Burlington, and a subscription was circulated to raise money to do so. It was also hoped that the line would be extended through Underhill to connect with the eastern part of the state. By October 25<sup>th</sup>, it was reported in the local newspaper that the line had been completed between Underhill and Jericho Center, and was being extended to Essex Junction. It was a big success, and by the fall of 1893, it was reported that the prospect of running another wire over the route was being considered, as several people wanted private lines, but could not be accommodated, as the line was taxed to its utmost. At least by 1897, the switchboard was located in the Brick Store. It was later moved to Dr. Nay's drug store, and about 1920 it moved to the home of Mrs. Julia Farrell Santamore at 6 Park Street. Until her death in 1934, Mrs. Santamore was the chief operator. In 1914, Alice King started working as an operator in the Nay drug store, continuing in the Farrell-Santamore home until January, 1938, when the switchboard moved once more, next door into the King home at 10 Park Street. Mrs. King was the chief operator until 1955, when the new dial system was installed.



**Telephone Office, 10 Park Street**



**Alice King at the switchboard**

### **The Burlington and Lamoille Railroad**

One other business that, while not strictly an Underhill business, had a tremendous influence on most other area businesses, was the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad. After previous unsuccessful attempts to build a railroad, an effort was started in 1874 to build a railroad from the lake shore in Burlington to a point in Cambridge where it would connect with the Lamoille Valley Railroad, later known as the St. Johnsbury & Lake Champlain Railroad. Towns along the route of the new road bonded to support the construction, which began in Jericho May 24, 1875 and proceeded in both directions from there. Several local businessmen, seeing the potential for

increased business, were instrumental in seeing the idea of a railway become a reality, including L.B. Howe, owner of the Chittenden Mills grist & flouring mill in Jericho Corners, and Buel Day, who owned several businesses in the Riverside area. The railroad was completed west from Jericho in 1876, and finished through Underhill to Cambridge Junction in 1877.



Suddenly products which had required dozens of teamsters to carry to market could be moved easily and economically. Some examples, such as lumber and potatoes, have already been mentioned; other items included maple sugar (in one 3 week period in May, 1899, over 30 tons of maple sugar were shipped from Underhill), dairy products (60,000 lbs. of butter in 1886), and livestock (in addition to cattle, one week in November, 1896, five tons of poultry was shipped). A stockyard, with scales for weighing animals, was located near the station, behind the present United Church parsonage. Michael Murphy had a farm on Poker Hill north of the intersection of English Settlement Road, and in addition to dealing in produce and being the manager for the stallion "Tommy Lambert", he regularly shipped carloads of livestock in the 1880's, and for a time was a partner of M.J. Gleason, dealing in livestock and potatoes. In 1896, the stockyard was re-built, with Mike Murphy superintending the location. The building on the left in the above photo was used to store the railroad's hand car. As shown below, today it is used as a storage shed on a local farm.







**The Underhill Station, about 1913**

In 1929, the property now the United Church parsonage, including the land where the scales were located was sold to David Gallup by R. Lee and Nina Howe, and the deed noted that M.J. Gleason held a lease on a small parcel of land where a weigh house and yard used in buying and selling cattle were located. At the railroad station, the road made a horseshoe turn, and farmers could weigh their livestock at the weigh station, secure them in the adjacent stockyard, then swing around to deposit their milk at the creamery beside the station. In the early 1920s, Mr. Howe was listed as being a milk dealer, so he likely operated one of the creameries at that time. Often the weigh station served as a gathering place where the farmers would collect to discuss local news of the day. In the month of February, 1889 alone, over 1100 tons of freight was shipped from the Underhill station. Also, a wide variety of goods could be shipped to Underhill as well, and residents could plan shopping trips to Burlington, taking the train down in the morning and back home in the afternoon. (Prior to the coming of the railroad, the only options were for people to go by horse and wagon, which if taking a load of merchandise to sell would be a very long day's trip, or taking a stagecoach.)

### **Maple Sugar**

Truman B. Barney, who lived for 67 years at what is now 287 Vermont Route 15, at the corner of Brown's Trace, opened up two large maple sugar orchards, installing modern equipment for the manufacture of maple syrup and sugar. As general agent for the Vermont Farm Machine Company of Bellows Falls, he installed similar equipment through many of the counties of the state. In 1891 and 1897, he exhibited the Bellows Falls evaporator at the Vermont State Fair at Howard Park in Burlington, and in 1893, he exhibited maple sugar utensils at the World's Fair in Chicago. For 17 years, he also dealt in maple syrup and sugar, and was known as the "old and reliable maple syrup dealer". In February of 1889, he had already contracted for 10,000 gallons of syrup. In early April he shipped a carload of syrup from the Underhill station and by the end of that month had shipped 4 more carloads, having purchased a

total of 210 barrels. In the spring of 1893, he and George Terrill shipped 4 carloads of syrup from the Underhill station. By these efforts, Mr. Barney helped to increase both production and quality in the maple industry. Some years later, Underhill was home to the first maple products co-operative in Vermont, the Mansfield Association being the forerunner of the state Exchange, and by the mid-1920s was a flourishing co-operative, helping to market one of Underhill's choicest products.



**Box for shipping Maple Sugar - Levi P. Metcalf, Underhill, VT**

### **Stagecoach/bus service**

Prior to 1827, a Mr. Burroughs drove the first stage from Essex through Underhill to Johnson, and in December, 1829, Roswell Butler of Essex was driving "nice yellow Concord coaches" drawn by four horses from Burlington through Underhill to Stanstead, Quebec. In



**Stagecoach at the Bostwick House about 1870**

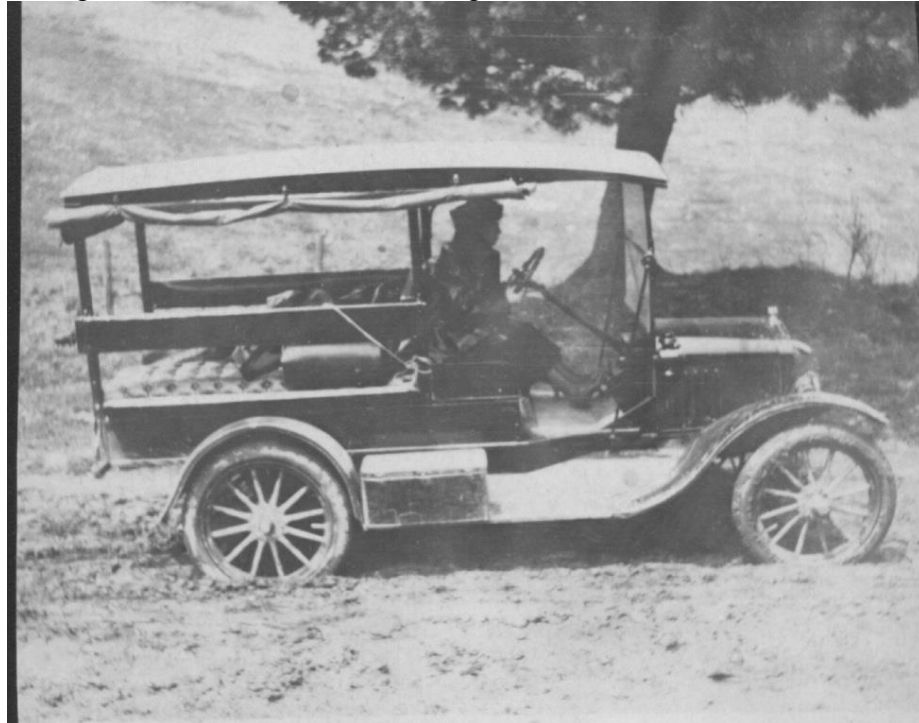
winter, covered sleighs replaced the wheeled coaches. By the 1860s stages ran twice daily from Essex to the Halfway House on Mount Mansfield, stopping at the Dixon House for meals. And in the 1870s, George Howe, who owned a livery stable beside the Dixon House, at what is now 355 VT Rt. 15, also owned and ran the stage from Essex through Underhill to Johnson, including carrying the U.S. mail.

The completion of the B&L in 1877 put an end to the through stage



business, just as 60 years later the automobile would put an end to the railroad, which made its last trip on June 16, 1938. But even after the arrival of the railroad, there was still stage service from the station to Underhill Center, with one stage and two express teams giving daily service. In 1889, the stage to the Center was being run by Mr. L.A. Davis, connecting with the north bound train in the morning and both the north and south bound trains in the afternoon, and in February, 1891 Mr. Billings was driving a stage from the Center to the Flats to every train, including the 8:30 train in the morning. Apparently there was a good deal of competition between them, as in 1893, Mr. Davis advertised that he would take passengers not only to Underhill Center, but to Mt. Mansfield and to any other places they may wish to go, while Mr. Billings would carry passengers at the lowest living rates. Along with passengers, Mr. Davis also delivered milk from the separator at Underhill Center to the one at the Flats. At this time, the Central Vermont Railroad started selling round trip tickets from Burlington to the Halfway House on the western slopes of Mt. Mansfield, the \$2.25 fare including the stage from the station in the Flats to the Halfway House. The trip was billed as being as good as a trip to the White Mountains.

Starting in May, 1918, and operating through the 1920s, Guy Benedict operated a bus known as the "Auto Barge" from Underhill into Burlington. This started with a 1917 Model T Ford,



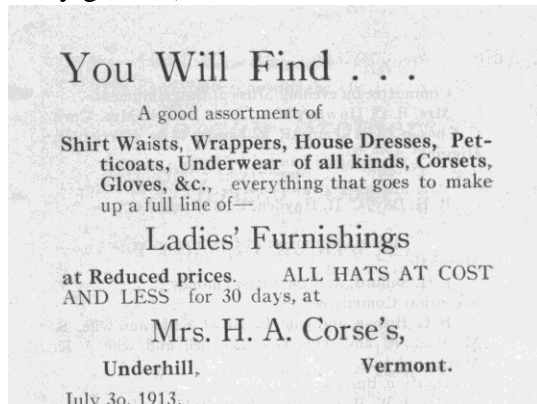
**Guy Benedict's bus**

and as business grew, he went to a Model TT one ton truck and later an International 15 passenger bus. He was a genial man, who, in addition to taking passengers, would do errands for the house wives, farmers and storekeepers of the area, from matching a spool of thread to delivering a side of beef.

### **Millinery & tailor shops**

Another business carried on in the Flats for many years was millinery and dress making. By 1872, Mrs. C.C. Abbott carried on a millinery and dressmaking business in her home just north of the former Waters Library building at 384 VT Rt. 15. Her husband Carlos Abbott was a

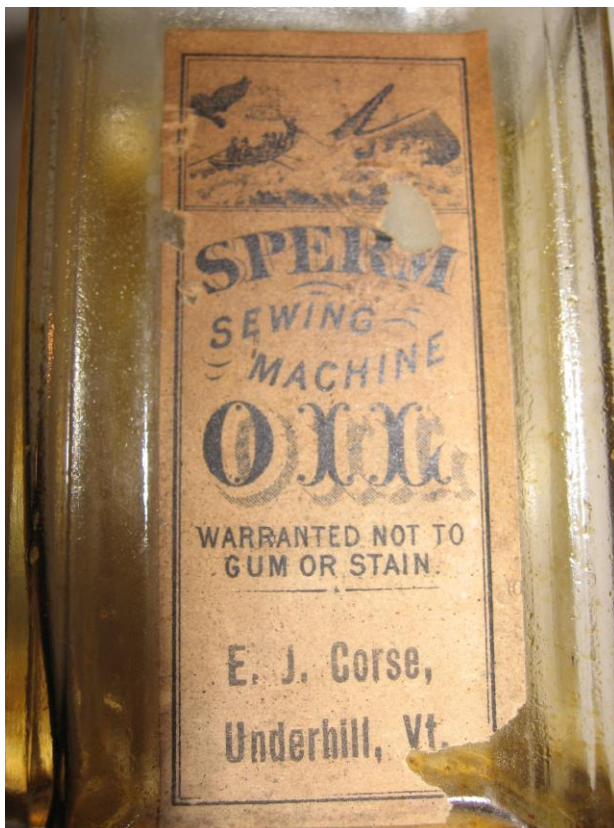
travelling salesman, in 1882 being listed as a wholesale milliner and dealer in millinery and fancy goods (and in March, 1896, he was in Rochester, Bethel and adjoining towns selling



gloves and mittens), so apparently the couple ran the business together. Their son, Clinton Abbott was the Underhill station agent for the B&L for 37 years prior to his death in 1914. Mrs. Hattie Corse carried on a millinery business two houses south of the Academy in the Flats, now 409 VT Route 15, from about 1880 until just prior to her death in 1915. At least once per year, she would go to New York City to purchase the latest in millinery goods - for example, in the spring of 1891, she returned with hats, bonnets, and trimmings, a complete line of ladies and children's gauze and muslin underwear,

skirts, night robes, hosiery, infants' dresses and cloaks, corsets, kid and silk gloves, mitts, belts, handkerchiefs and ladies cloaks.

Her husband, Edgar operated a business selling and repairing sewing machines, being an agent for the Davis Sewing Machine Co. He must have done a large business, as in the spring of 1889, he purchased a train car load of new sewing machines.

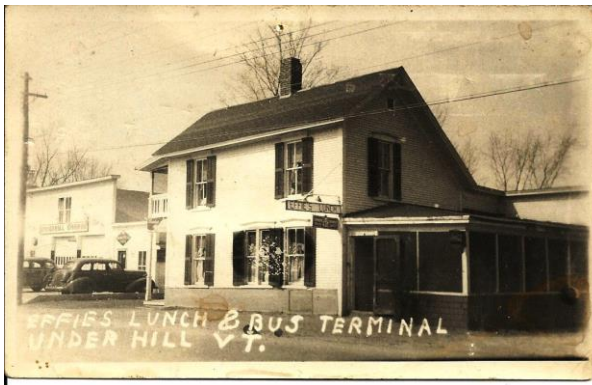


**Hattie and Ed Corse**

For a time in the 1890s, he also sold bicycles, and by 1900 was listed as selling patent medicines and toilet articles. Mrs. Joseph Freneau moved to Underhill in December, 1892 and opened dress making rooms. By the 1890s, Mrs. S.B. Wells was running a millinery business. In 1876, Maria Washburn and M. Benedict were doing dressmaking; in the 1890's Emma Marsh was



doing dressmaking at Riverside, in 1900, Julia Marsh and in 1910 Mrs. Mary Irish were engaged in that business. In December, 1897, Mrs. E.C. Ellsworth opened millinery rooms, and in 1922, Mrs. H.W. Rockwood was engaged in the millinery business. On Route 15 opposite the Brick Store was formerly located a house in which, by the early 1920s Effie Terrill Reynolds ran the Underhill Millinery Parlors, advertising high grade tailored hats for all seasons, along with a line of novelties and toilet articles. In addition she ran a lunch room and this was also the Underhill



**Effie's Lunch & Bus Terminal**



**Effie and Charlie Reynolds**

bus stop in the days when Vermont Transit buses ran through town, and as this became a more important part of her business, it became known as Effie's Lunch. (After her death in 1954, the

BURLINGTON-CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION BUS LINE	
Bus leaves Burlington P. O. for Cambridge Junction	
7.30 A. M. and 4.15 P. M.	
Leaves Cambridge Junction 10.00 A. M. and 6.30 P. M.	
Seven-Passenger Car for Hire Sundays	
PHONE	

Burlington to	
Cambridge Junction,	\$1.20
Jeffersonville,	1.15
Cambridge,	1.00
Cloverdale,	.90
N. Underhill,	.75
Underhill,	.60
Jericho,	.50
Essex Center,	.35
Essex Junction,	.25
Fort Ethan Allen,	.15
Winooski,	.10
Essex Junction to Burlington,	.15



house was purchased by Elwood Clark, who had it torn down to expand his truck dealership.) Her husband, Charles Reynolds was a tailor, and was the proprietor of the Underhill Tailor Shop, located in the rear portion of the house and offering first class custom

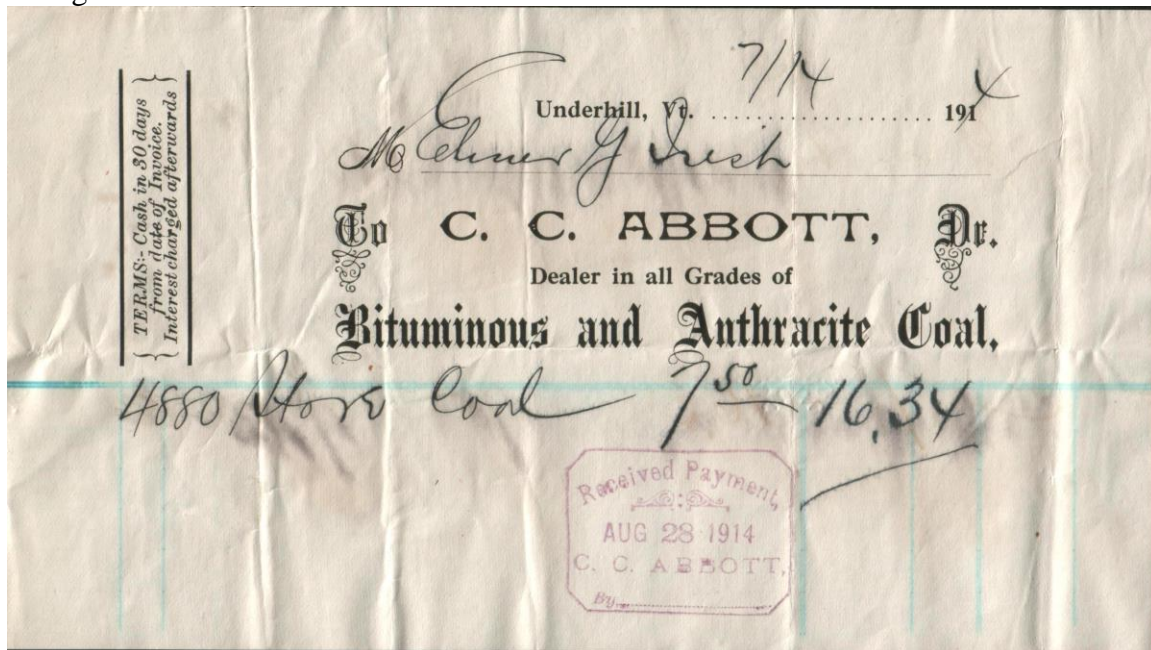
**Underhill Post Office at 406 VT Rt.15**

tailoring and made to measure suits, along with cleaning, pressing, repairing and altering of all kinds, in furs and cloth. (He also carried the mail between the post office and the railroad station on a hand cart for many years when the post office was located in the house at 406 VT Rt. 15, beside the brick store.)

In the spring of 1897, W.I. Asam from Winooski was in town looking for a place to open a tailor shop. It was announced that on May 24<sup>th</sup> the old District No.3 school at the corner of Route 15 and Poker Hill Road was to be sold at auction, and by August Mr. Asam was repairing and adding on to the school building which he had recently purchased, so it is thought that he remodeled the old District No.3 school for his tailor shop. His shop opened soon after, and he advertised that he had just received the finest line of winter samples. Another tailor shop was located across Route 15 from the park in the late 1850s, but it is unknown who the person was who operated it.

### Coal dealers

Another business carried on in the Flats for many years was that of coal dealer. Clinton Brown, on River Road near the current location of Brown's River Middle School, dealt in Lehigh, Lackawanna & Cumberland coal, as well as L.L. Crocker's fertilizers, in the 1880's. While he operated the brick store, George Terrill also dealt in coal, as did C.C. Abbott, Underhill's station agent. In July, 1913, Father Therien bought a load of coal from Mr. Abbott for St. Thomas church and rectory in the Center for \$69.15, plus \$10 paid to Tom Barrett for the drawing of it.



In the 1920s C.M. Henderson, who ran the brick store, and Harm Howard, who ran the steam mill, both dealt in coal, and Parker Rice carried on the coal business from the 1920s until the early 1950s in conjunction with his grocery business.



UNDERHILL, VT. Nov 21 1935

M. Elmer Irish

IN ACCOUNT WITH

**P. H. RICE**

**WOOD, COAL AND COKE**

TELEPHONES { RESIDENCE 337  
STORE 318-10

	9. 68	
6930 # Stone Coal	14.50	50.24
		59.92

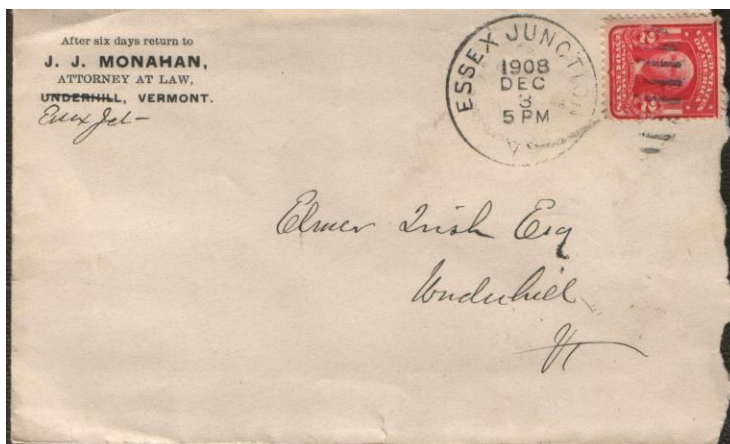
50¢ a Ton Discount for cash by Nov 30

### Lawyers

About 1821, a young man by the name of Bacon tried to practice law in Underhill, but he lasted only a short time. Later, a firm known as Sawyer & Beardsley had a law office here, but that also was short lived. From the 1870s until around 1900, John J. Monahan, who lived at 414 VT Rt. 15, across from the Academy building, carried on a law practice, having his law office in the ell, and was as well the school superintendent and, from 1877 to 1899, town clerk. From about 1885 to 1896, the post office was also located here and he was the postmaster. J.J. Monahan was a Civil War veteran, having served as



**Home of J.J. Monahan – Post Office and Law office on left**



a private in Co. F of the 1<sup>st</sup> US Sharpshooters, and was very active in the G.A.R. after the war. In addition, for a number of years when living in Burlington, Monahan had been associated with John Lonergan in the Fenian movement then popular in the area. He had given speeches and been toastmaster at several Fenian meetings, as well as leading one secret meeting, and while

it appears he did not go to Franklin during the May, 1870 Fenian raid on Canada, he must have played a significant role in it, as he was detained in St. Albans until he was able to post a \$1000 bond for his release. It is interesting to note that during many of the Fenian activities, music was provided by the Jericho Cornet Band, so it appears that there must have been a fair amount of support for the Fenians in the Underhill/Jericho area. Monahan must have remained in contact with Lonergan, as he served as a bearer at Lonergan's funeral in 1902. Per the envelope on the preceding page, Monahan had moved to Essex Jct. by 1908, and upon his death in 1910, he was buried in West Rutland. As noted on page 48, Mr. Monahan's Underhill home was later Dr. Towne's home and office.

In the late 1800s A.C. Dixon had a law office in the Brick Store. Other lawyers were A.C. Benedict in the 1870s and E.W. Thorp in the 1880s.

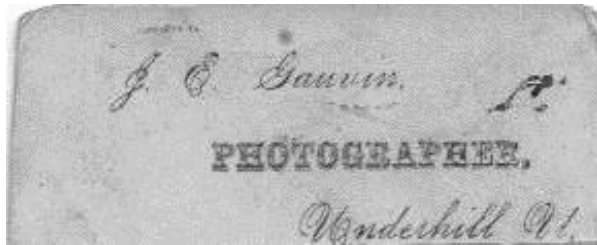
### **Butcher shops**

Samuel Hale, a native of Chelmsford, Mass., served in the Civil War, taking part in 32 battles. After the war, he moved to Jericho, and established a butchering and meat business on Route 15 opposite Dickenson Street, now 357 VT Rt. 15, about 1868. In April, 1889, he brought his sons, Henry and Wallace Hale, into the business and a partnership was formed to carry on the butchering business. In 1893, it was reported that Henry Hale had put in a larger engine due to an increase of business, but just what this means is unclear. In January, 1894, S.A. Hale was building a large refrigerator, so it is possible that this engine was used to power a compressor for the refrigerator. If so, this would have been quite a progressive operation for its time. Refrigeration since ancient times had been accomplished by using ice harvested in the colder months and kept by insulating it in sawdust or straw until it was needed in the warmer months. Primitive mechanical refrigeration systems only came into use in the 1850's, and were just coming into common use by the 1880s and 1890s. Due to the hazardous nature of the refrigerants used, primarily ammonia, these systems were only practical for commercial operations, and typically consisted of a mechanical compressor powered by a steam engine. Henry Hale left the business after a short time, and opened a similar shop for a time in Montpelier. W.C. Stevens, who was operating the grocery business on Dickenson Street described above, was the son-in-law of Mr. Hale. In 1896, S.A. Hale was also advertising that he had purchased a bone grinder, and "was now prepared to grind your bones" (for fertilizer). In October, 1897, Mr. Hale quit the business, renting his meat market and route to Will and Neill Palmer. They carried fresh and salt meats, sausage, tripe, smoked and pressed ham, and chicken at living prices, with a stock constantly on hand at their refrigerator at the barn. The business continued until after 1900. In the spring of 1891, it was reported that A. Edwards was building a new slaughterhouse and freezer on his land near the brook (this may have been Roaring Brook). Besides the slaughterhouse, he apparently dealt in livestock, as in May 1893, he shipped a car of hogs and calves on the B&L from the Underhill station.

### **Photographers**

About 1878, Joseph Gauvin from Cambridge purchased the house at 7 River Road, and for a time operated a photographic studio there. By 1883, he had sold out and moved to Middlebury, but by the late 1880s was operating a studio in Burlington, first on Church Street and later on Clark Street. Mention was found in the Jericho land records of his purchase of a "photograph car now occupied as a photograph gallery and now standing in West Bolton, with all the photograph appurtenances, tools, and furniture of all kinds in and belonging to said car" in June, 1877 for





\$250. This appears to be a movable photographic studio which he apparently used in his business, although it is curious as to why something movable, and in Bolton, was recorded in the Jericho land records.

In 1897, it was announced that the photographing firm of Gleason and Palmer had dissolved, with the business being continued by Mr. Gleason, but it is not known where in town, or for how long this business continued. In the 1890s, several photographers visited Underhill temporarily. In July, 1893, F.X. Thibault of Burlington temporarily opened a branch photograph gallery in the Flats, which was to be open every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday through the month. The next summer, he was back again, this time pitching his photograph tent in Mrs. Thorp's lot, to do business in his line every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for one month. In December, 1895, C.N. Dutton rented the Congregational parsonage, advertising that he would make the best cabinet photographs for only \$1.50 per dozen from then until February 1<sup>st</sup>, and in December, 1896 an advertisement appeared in the local newspaper wanting people to have a photograph made for a Christmas gift by Fitzgerald, the leading St. Albans photographer, who would be at the old Dixon House bowling alley on December 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. He was back in town several times over the next few years. For many years, Earl Cross, who ran the garage at Riverside, pursued photography as a hobby, and for a time he also advertised his services as a photographer, in 1963 being listed as the Riverside Studio. In the 1940s and 1950s, Clyde Hilton, who lived at 385 VT Rt. 15 on the corner of Palmer Lane, carried on a photography business.

### Electricians & Plumbers

In the 1920s, Wendell Hayden carried on an electrical business in Riverside. In the 1940s, Stanley Hoag, who lived at 10 G.A.R. Place, opposite the GAR Hall, carried on a similar business, and after spending several years in Connecticut, he returned to Underhill in 1955 and continued the business with his daughter, Grace, who also repaired radios. Claude Potvin, who lived just north of Effie's Lunch at 403

Riverside, Vermont.....		Feb. 11.....1927	
M.....E. G. Irish.....			
<b>Co W. J. HAYDEN Dr.</b> <b>EVERYTHING ELECTRICAL</b> (Phone 336 - Underhill)			
Bal due on account.		52.06	
by cash		45.00	
		7.06	
labor Feb. 8		1.00	
		\$ 8.06	
<i>Paid in full</i> <i>3-8-27 W. J. Hayden</i> <i>362</i>			

VT Rt. 15, carried on a plumbing business for many years around this time, at least through 1963. He enclosed the porch on his house for a showroom for appliances which he also sold. For a number of years, Ferdinand Comtois worked with him, and then succeeded to the business

into the 1980s. In the 1960s and 1970s, Wendell Metcalf also carried on an electrical and plumbing business in the area.

IN CASE OF ERROR RETURN THIS BILL FOR CORRECTION

Underhill, Vt. *Aug 21, 1953*

M *Hugh Irish*

*Underhill, Vt.*

TO **CLAUDE C. POTVIN** DR.

**HOM GAS**

PLUMBING PHILCO DUO-THERM  
HEATING REFRIGERATORS HOT WATER HEATERS  
GENERAL SERVICE RANGES SPACE HEATERS

PHONE: 354-11

8-18-53	19' $\frac{1}{4}$ gals. pipe	\$ 2.66
	<i>paid C. Potvin</i>	

### Newspapers

One copy of the Underhill Enterprise newspaper from 1909 is known, and a reference was found where a legal notice had been placed in the paper in 1906. By 1909, as had happened with other local newspapers such as the Chittenden Reporter in Jericho, the Enterprise had become part of the Suburban List, published by the Essex Publishing Company; nothing is known of its origins. The Suburban List continued to consolidate local papers, including the Charlotte Chronicle, the Essex Eagle, the Burlington Clipper, the Essex Record, the Shelburne Review, the Grand Isle Star, the Green Mountain Press, the Hinesburg Recorder, the Milton Rays, the Richmond Gazette and the Winooski Journal, and covered local news in the area until the 1970s. For many years, Mary Esther Hayden was their local reporter with her Riverside Ramblings column. While other regional papers covered the Underhill area to some extent, the next one known to specifically target Underhill was The County Weekly. Duncan and Charlotte Stevens had produced the Lamoille County Weekly in Jeffersonville starting about 1971, and in 1974 they extended their coverage to Underhill, followed the next year by Jericho. On November 14, 1977 they launched the first issue of The County Weekly from a new office over Richard's Beauty Shoppe on Pearl Street in Essex Junction, covering the Underhill, Jericho and Essex area. Unfortunately, while the paper received some support, it was often looked upon

STATEMENT

*Dec. 20 1941*

M *Hugh Irish*

IN ACCOUNT WITH

**STANLEY W. HOAG**  
Electrical Contractor  
UNDERHILL, VERMONT

TELEPHONE 236-3

51 $\frac{1}{2}$ Duplex	1.53
38 $\frac{1}{2}$ 14-2	1.52
2-13 $\frac{1}{4}$	30
3 Romex Co.	1.8
Porcelain full	4.0
12 Insulators	5.0
Tuben	2.25
	66.8

*Paid in full*  
*Stanley W. Hoag*



as an Essex paper. With this handicap, and competition from the Suburban List, the paper was unable to build a sufficient advertiser base, and was out of business by the early 1980s.

September 29, 1987 marked the debut of the Mountain Villager, published and edited every other Tuesday by William Atkins. Over the next several years, their office was at Chittenden Mills in Jericho Corners and in the Gallup Block in the Flats. On July 11, 1991, the paper was sold to the Buyers' Digest of Fairfax, although Will Atkins continued as publisher; at this time Ted Tedford started as editor. By 1992 John McKeown had taken over the publisher's position. In October, 1995, the Villager was sold to Blue Line Marketing, located at 76 Pearl Street in Essex Junction, with Anthony Scampoli as publisher and Jennifer Poreda as editor. On November 7, 1996 Paul and Faith Davis, medical researchers from West Sand Lake, NY purchased the Villager, publishing it as P.F. Davis, Inc. With the sale, Ted Tedford re-joined the paper as editor, as well as general manager. An office location has not been found for this period, but their mailing address was Underhill Center. It is thought the paper went out of business about 2000. By this time, the community had become used to having the local paper to spread news and announcements of local happenings, and much discussion ensued as to how it could be replaced, including even the possibility of support for a paper through local tax money. But in the summer of 2002, Brenda Boutin, who had previously worked for the Essex Reporter for 15 years, decided to start a newspaper in town, and on July 4th of that year, the first issue of the Mountain Gazette appeared. From 2002 the Gazette office was located in the brick store until moving to Starksboro about 2008. Besides the traditional paper edition, there is also now an online version.

### **Miscellaneous Businesses**

In June, 1891, Mrs. Thomas Rogers opened an ice cream parlor the first door above the post office. By mid-summer, she was advertising both first class ice cream and fruits. This is believed to have been in the building next to J.J. Monahan's office, also mentioned on page 35 as the building where, in the 1860s, Richard Washburn had had his harness shop. In October, 1891 a dance was held at Thompson's Hall under the management of Mrs. Rogers.

In November, 1960, a new building at 419 VT Route 15, on the site of the Custer House, opened to house the Underhill post office.



**Dedication of the new post office, November, 1960**

In October, 1985, after the post office moved to its present location on Park Street, Jane Maheux and her husband Marc purchased the building, and the next month opened the Countryside Florist shop. In August, 2000 the business was sold to Judy Riani of Jericho, who operated it until October, 2003. Jane Maheux ran the business again for a short time, but due to having developed an allergy to flowers, the business was soon closed. In September, 1987, Paul and Roberta Gillespie opened the Brick House Bakery in the brick store on the corner of Park Street; after the closing of Countryside Florists, the building was leased to them, and they opened the Flour Shop bakery & cafe in the space. They carried on the shop until May, 2008, when the business was sold to Sarah White, who continued it until the summer of 2010, when the business was closed.

On April 4, 1967, Thomas Morse, a Korean War veteran, established Green Mountain Foam Products in the garage at his home at 439 VT Rt. 15, making boat cushions and other foam products. As the business grew, he first built a shop at his home, and then in 1972, Mr. Morse purchased the old Academy building at 413 VT Route 15 which had been unused since the Underhill ID school moved to their new building. In October, 1979 he added a four bay garage on the side of the Academy building to give him additional storage space. The business is still operated today by Mr. Morse and his son Matthew, providing foam products of all kinds, as well as upholsterers' equipment and supplies.

Starting in the late 1980s, Richard Grzywna operated Rick's Service Shop at 409 VT Rt. 15, selling and servicing chain saws, lawn mowers, kerosene heaters and offering small engine repair and oil burner service. By the late 1990s, this became the Boiler Man plumbing and heating



business. Also in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Clifford Hill ran Cliff's Repair Shop at the north end of the Flats, at 483 VT Rt. 15, doing small engine repairs of all kinds.

In the 1990s, Mr. & Mrs. Hudson operated Binex Business Services, an accounting business at 441 Route 15, including a subsidiary, Alpha Omega Financial Planning.

First Step Print Shop, located at 22 Park Street, was started by Bob and Mary Martelle in 1992, and as the business grew, they expanded in 1995 and again in 2002. They operate a commercial printing business, and are Vermont's only union print shop.

On Mother's Day, 1998, Diane (LaBrie) St.Cyr opened Nellie May's card shop in the former Hayden residence just north of Saving Time Vintage Watches, at 378 VT Rt. 15. It was named for her mother, and tried to evoke the vintage atmosphere of her great grandmother's parlor in Bakersfield. At the start, it operated as a Victorian shop open three days per week; in 2006, the business was changed to a smaller operation catering to ladies for shopping and tea parties, "designed to reflect the tenderness of motherhood and the innocence of childhood".

For about 10 years, Kathy Cummings and her husband Thomas have operated Saving Time Vintage Watches at 376 VT Rt. 15. At first this was a general repair shop for vintage watches, but now focuses primarily on repairing timepieces for other businesses such as antique shops, rather than for the retail trade.

Two businesses which are headquartered in the Riverside area, although not actually operating there, are Green Mountain Chipping, at 309 VT Rt. 15, and Clean Green Sanitation at 364 VT Rt. 15.

Several other businesses have operated in or near the Flats over the years, although their exact location is now lost in the mists of time. Among them was the Noyes broom and hoe handle factory, which operated in the early 1880s, before moving to Westford in 1885. In 1882, this business employed 15 men turning out about 400,000 fork and rake handles per year, along with \$4000 worth of chair stock annually. In 1889, William Noyes was turning chair parts at the steam mill; perhaps this is where his earlier business was located as well, although its location is only listed as Main Street. In the 1880s, Charles Simmons worked as a basket maker, believed to have been located in Riverside. In 1887 E.H. White was renting a building from A.C. Humphrey at his complex on Poker Hill Road where he had a paint shop, and by the 1890s he had a painting and paperhanging business in Riverside, which he continued at least through 1912, living on Route 15 near the corner of Dickenson Street. In 1897, James Hutchinson finished off the room above Howe's blacksmith shop in Jericho Corners, and for a time this space was occupied by Mr. White for his painting business. C.B. Aldrich also carried on the same business in Riverside in the early 1900s, as did E.A. Bliss, son of blacksmith Samuel Bliss. In 1889, Carlos H. Howe advertised his business of manufacturing stencil plates, German silver badges, rubber stamps, indelible pencils, etc. in Underhill. In 1882, Sidney Stevens had a business as an instrumental music teacher, and in 1897, Miss Phoebe Powell, who had until recently taught piano at the Essex Classical Institute, moved to Underhill, and the pupils at the Underhill Graded School were urged to avail themselves of the instruction of an excellent teacher. In 1889, Mrs. H.L. Thompson advertised that all persons desirous of taking lessons in painting should call on her. J.H. May, The Wagon Man, carried on a business in Underhill selling wagons, sleighs, harnesses, etc. and was in addition an auctioneer. He sold out in the fall of 1893 and moved back to Jericho. (He at one time ran the Beach House in Jericho Corners, and had carried on the wagon business as well as a livery stable in connection with the hotel there.) The next spring, George Terrill was pressing and shipping hay from the May farm. In the 1890s, Fred Tillison had the agency for Deering equipment, including their mower, corn harvester, improved steel

binder, steel hay rake and binder twine, as well as being the agent for the Empire cream separator. Mention is found of I.A. Gleason running a butcher shop in the late 1890s, but it is not known where it was located. In the mid-1890s, G.H. Prior ran a bakery here, but by 1896 he had moved to Morrisville, and Alonzo Sherman was running a cart in town for him, and at the same time Bert Curry ran a bread cart in town from Kent's in Burlington. In October, 1897, John Clark opened a bakery near the north end of the village, and was soon doing a fine business, while in November of the same year, Mrs. Rushford started a new bakery at the south end of the village, in what was referred to as the Clin Brown house. For a time in the 1890s, George French of Jericho drove a tea cart through Underhill, as well as other local towns, for the Union Tea Co. of Burlington, and a Mr. Gleason, who lived between Underhill and Jericho, operated a similar cart for the Grand Union Tea Co. around the same time. Willie Marsh of Jericho also operated a tea cart for a time. Both Mr. Crow, from South Burlington, and Mr. Levensen operated tin carts in town, and in the early 1900s, Zack Ruben was another well-known peddler in town. In the summer of 1893 Joseph Billings had a shoemaking business in Riverside, as did J.E. Winn in the early 1920s. In the spring of 1889, the Town of Underhill purchased a new American Champion road machine, costing about \$270, and it was reported that wherever it had been used, it gave the best of satisfaction. In 1981, two businesses were listed in Underhill as Country Threads, selling fabrics, and the Gift Horse, selling gifts, and in September, 1990, the local newspaper reported the grand opening of Mary's Crafts on the Raceway.

Somewhere in conjunction with his other business interests at Riverside, E.S. Whitcomb Jr. had a set of platform scales, as it was noted in the mid-1890s that he had repaired them, making it quite handy for that end of the village. In the spring of 1894, a fish & game club was formed in Underhill, and by the end of May, it had over 40 members. It is unknown if there was a connection, but in early May, 1895, E.S. Whitcomb placed 35,000 brook trout in area streams, and in May, 1896 another 20,000 trout fry were released. In February, 1897, a meeting of the members of Sunnyside Camp was held at E.S. Whitcomb's, where L.H. Chapin was elected manager for the coming season, although what or where this camp was is unknown. For several years in the 1890s, O.P. Edwards cut ice on the Creek for the local market. A curious article appeared in the local newspaper on December 3, 1895, describing a meeting of the Underhill branch of the Granite State Savings and Loan Association held at the Custer House the previous Wednesday, where L.F. Terrill, T.S. Whipple, A.V. Edwards, Frank S. Jackson, C.C. Abbott, S. Knox and F.E. Terrill were elected directors. At a subsequent meeting of the directors, L.F. Terrill was elected President, S. Knox, Vice-President, C.C. Abbott, Secretary and Treasurer, L.F. Terrill, Attorney, and Frank S. Jackson, L.F. Terrill and T.S. Whipple were appointed to the executive committee. \$10,000 in shares had been subscribed, and the association was starting off on the most favorable auspices. This is a veritable Who's Who of Underhill businessmen, but outside of this one article, nothing whatsoever is known about this activity.

## **Bicycles**

In the 1890s, bicycles became the latest fad. In 1894, in addition to his duties as the Underhill station agent, C.C. Abbott became an agent for Columbia bicycles, E.J. Corse was selling the Dayton, the Crawford, and B&D special brands, and A.W. Terrill, and Will Payne were also selling bicycles. By 1895, L.C. Wetherell was the Underhill agent for Perry & Burke, bicycle dealers in Essex Junction. By 1896, Abbott & Terrill were selling the Keating bicycle as well as the Silver King and Queen, "the best \$75 wheel on the market". In addition to reports of local people bicycling, such as C.C. Abbott, Arthur Nay and Olin Gleason taking the excursion



on the lake from Burlington, making the trip down and back on their “wheels”, it was noted in August that three men from Cambridge stopped in the village on their way home from a trip to the White Mountains on their “wheels”. And this pastime was not just for men, as, for example, Leslie Terrill and Miss Maud Fuller bicycled from Underhill Center to Burlington. This new pastime was not without its dangers, as Frank Tatro came near to being run over by a loaded team one day when he was thrown from his bicycle and landed under the horses’ feet.

The most well-known area bicyclist was W.C. Bailey, a retired farmer who lived at what is now 388 VT Route 15. He first took up bicycling at the age of 79, and in 1937, at the age of 84, he rode his bicycle to Illinois and back, a trip of 2451 miles and taking 18 days for the trip out. The next year, he made this trip a second time, gaining national fame and leading to his travelling to New York City for an appearance on the CBS radio program “We The People” later in 1938. In all, he logged over 37,000 miles on his bicycle. At the time of his death he was riding the bicycle that had been presented to him in Chicago by the manufacturer. It was a late model woman’s type bicycle, which was easier for him to get on and off. His possessions were carried in a small box attached to the rear, and lettered “W.C. Bailey, Underhill, Vt.” It is believed he applied the front wheel brake, a hand brake attached to the handlebars, while going down a grade around a slight curve on Route 15 north of the Flats and the brake locked, setting the wheel and pitching the aged man forward. He was less than three weeks from celebrating his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday at the time of his death on October 26, 1939.



**W.C. “Bill” Bailey**

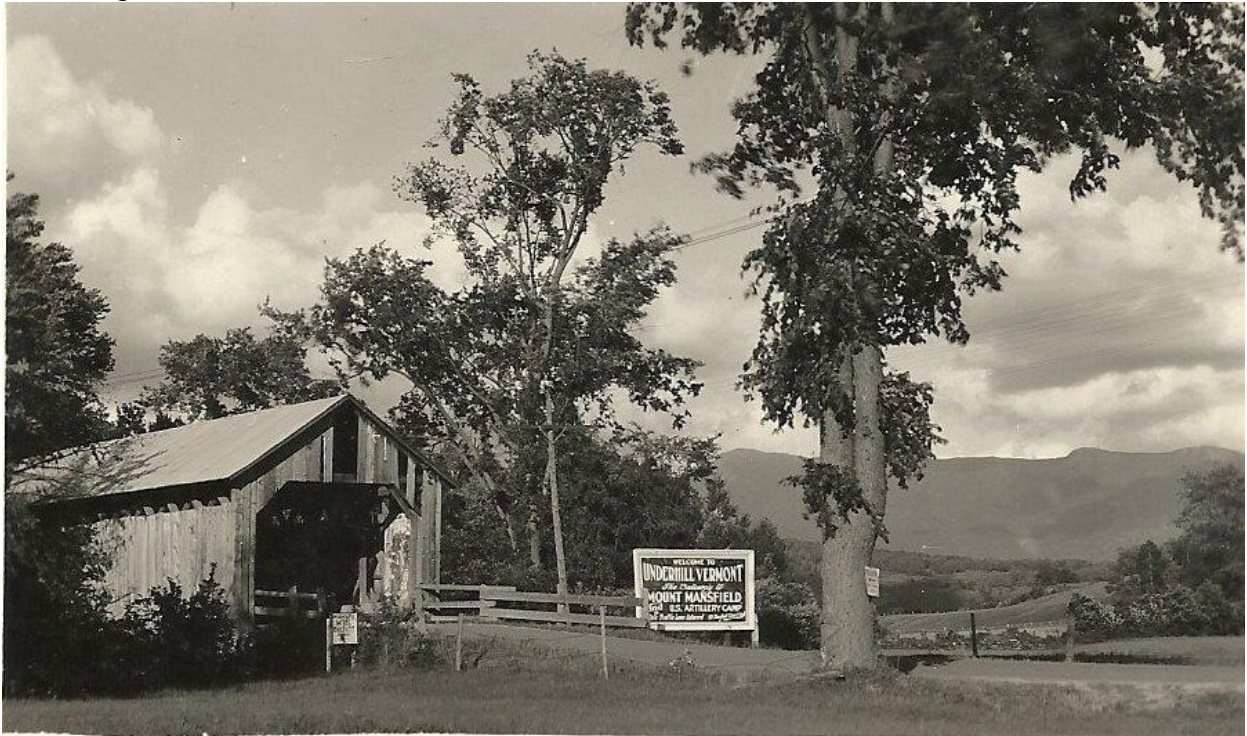


**Mr. Bailey’s funeral in the Underhill Methodist church**

### **The Underhill water system**

In the summer of 1894, Thomas Thorp started work on a water system for the village. The water source was two miles north of the village, and a survey showed a 132 foot fall. A water sample was sent away to be analyzed, not for any health concerns, but to see what type of pipe was required! By the middle of August the contract had been let to build the reservoir and bids were being received on the ditching. By mid-September, work on laying the pipe was well under way, having reached the north end of the village and by early October was nearly all in place, with the extension to the lower end of the village taking place in November. It was reported that everyone was well pleased with the system and thought it a boon to the community. The next spring water hydrants were placed at several points about the village, and the watering trough at the park, put in by Mr. Thorp, was the cause of much praise from everyone. The installation of the hydrants prompted a move to organize a hose company in the village, but apparently this came to naught. In September, 1897, the railroad put in a new water tank at the depot, getting

their water supply from Thorp's system, although by the 1920s if not earlier, the railroad was leasing a spring from R. Lee Howe as well, and in October, 1897, Mr. Thorp extended his system to Herbert Morom's shop in Riverside as well as to Darius Knight's house on River Road, across from the present location of Brown's River Middle School.



**“Welcome to Underhill Vermont...Mount Mansfield and the U.S. Artillery Camp”  
Covered bridge on Route 15 at Riverside**

### **Rooming houses**

In the early 1920s, as the U.S. government was establishing their proposed military camp and artillery range near Underhill Center, local residents formed the Mt. Mansfield Civic Club, to assist the military authorities and to be of assistance for the reception, comfort and entertainment of the soldiers who would be in town during June, July and August, and further to accommodate relatives and friends who would likely be visiting. A canvas was made of both the Center and the Flats, resulting in over 100 rooms being available if needed, along with parking camps for automobiles. These included John Shannon and Mrs. E.W. Henry's hotel accommodations of 9 rooms in the Center, along with 59 rooms in 18 private homes, plus Mrs. F.P. Tillison, Mrs. Eunice Hackett, Mrs. J.D. Santimore and Mrs. E.S. Sinclair's hotel accommodations of 23 rooms at the Flats, with an additional 47 rooms in private homes. In doing this, it brought to light the opportunity to advertise the attractive scenic features of the town for the tourist and summer guest.

For the many hikers who ascended Mt. Mansfield, the carriage road to the site of the old Halfway House was improved with turnouts to accommodate automobiles. (By 1925, a cottage had been built there, and was being enlarged for the reception of guests.) In addition, in the early 1920s, Edwin Henry, Underhill's town representative, pushed for legislation to require the state highway department to reopen the road which had existed in the early 1800's connecting Underhill with Stowe through Nebraska Notch. One of the ideas behind this was that it would

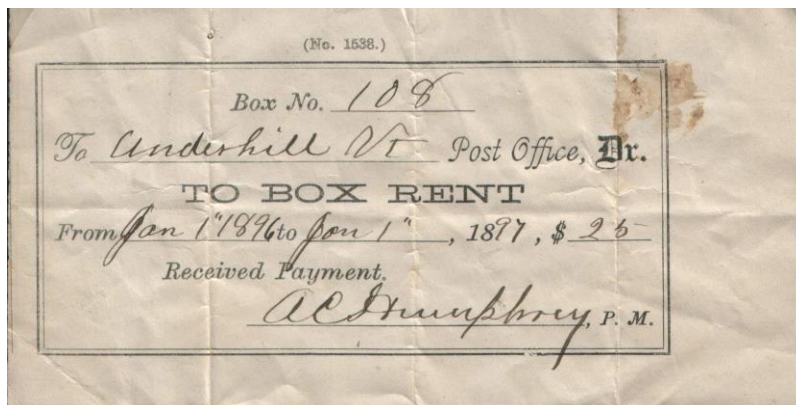


make an attraction for tourists, to be able to circle around Mount Mansfield from Underhill via Nebraska and Smugglers Notches. It appears that his bill was approved, but nothing was done until 1926, when under pressure from the Civic Club, the state Highway Department studied the reopening of the road. In 1927, Thomas Maguire, Rep. Henry's successor, introduced a bill to appropriate \$10,000 to survey and construct the Notch road, but the measure failed, reportedly because of pressure by property owners in the Stevensville area who wished to maintain their isolation. Although the Civic Club and Mr. Henry continued to talk up the idea, it never was seriously considered again.

### Underhill Libraries

The first library known in Underhill was organized December 1, 1800, when twenty men in town signed a resolution creating "The Underhill Library Society". They felt that while our government prevents our civil and religious rights from being trampled on, it was necessary for people at large to possess a certain degree of knowledge to insure that these rights are preserved. Members were required to either pay \$1.00 or the equivalent value in grain by February 1, 1801. Nothing further is known about this society.

In 1881, the Underhill Library Association was formed, with L.F. Terrill as president. Donations enabled the purchase of about 100 volumes, which were housed in Dr. W.S. Nay's office, he being the librarian. For \$2.00, one could become a life member, with an additional \$1.00 per year per patron going toward the purchase of more books. By 1889, the collection had expanded to over 400 volumes, and by 1893 was up to 600 volumes. By February, 1894, the library had outgrown Dr. Nay's office, and was moved to Mr. Humphrey's building beside the



Congregational church, with a new case being built to hold the expanding collection.

By 1896 the building was remodeled in preparation for the Underhill post office moving into it (J.J. Monahan had been postmaster for 11 years, but in 1896, with the election of McKinley, a Republican, to succeed Cleveland, a Democrat, the Collector of Customs in

Burlington appointed A.C. Humphrey postmaster and he immediately moved the post office to his building). While books continued to be added, nothing further is known about the location of the library. However, in January, 1907, the property was sold to the Grange, and also early in 1907 it was reported that the Underhill Library Association decided to divide the books belonging to the association among the remaining shareholders, so it is entirely possible that the library remained in this building until that time, when the association was dissolved. It had been voted at the 1903 Underhill town meeting to establish a public town library, and when the books of the Underhill Library Association were divided, two of the shareholders offered to sell their portion of the books to the new town library, adding a total of 140 books to the town library's collection, which was located in Underhill Center.

In the early 1920s a few ladies in the Riverside area, realizing the value of good reading, started meeting at the home of Mrs. Mary Hale, 357 Route 15 (where her late husband Samuel

Hale had carried on his butchering business), bringing their own books to exchange. This led to the Mansfield Woman's Club accepting contributions of books in 1924, which were first housed at the home of Mrs. Clara Benedict, and then, in 1925, moved to the school and later to several other locations. On June 21, 1929, the Mansfield Community Library Association was incorporated, and on December 8, 1930 they purchased the lot on Route 15 opposite Palmer Lane, which had formerly been the site of Samuel Bliss's blacksmith shop, from Ed and Ruth Sinclair. Mr. Sinclair removed the existing buildings on the lot and constructed a new building to house the library at a cost of \$2831. Augustus Waters was mentioned above as the former employee of Homer Thompson, who installed separators throughout the area. He later worked for the Home Market Co. in Jericho Corners, and had for years taken notice of the interest in a library. When he saw the efforts of the Mansfield Woman's Club to build a building to house the library, he donated the sum of \$1000 to their efforts. In honor of his support, the library was dedicated as the Waters Memorial Library on August 9, 1933.



**The Waters Memorial Library**

To enable the completion of the building, a mortgage of \$1350 had to be taken out with the National Life Insurance Co., the payoff of which was celebrated with a mortgage note burning ceremony on September 11, 1941. By 1995, the Waters Library was running short of space, and with no room for expansion on their small lot and without handicap access, alternatives were being looked at. This resulted in the formation of the Jericho-Underhill Library District, the first municipal library district in the state. Black River Design of Montpelier designed a new 5000 square foot building which is located at 8 River Road beside the Underhill ID school. This was funded in part by a generous donation from Dr. and Mrs. Burdett Rawson in memory of their daughter Deborah Rawson, in whose name the new building was dedicated on January 24, 1998.

The former Waters Library was purchased by William Harlow in 2000, and he has since operated My Croft, an eclectic bookstore where "good books are bought, sold and traded".

### **Grand Army of the Republic**

L.H. Bostwick Post No. 69 of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized in Underhill December 12, 1883 with 43 charter members from Underhill, Jericho and surrounding towns. It was named after Capt. Lucius H. Bostwick of Co. F, 13th Regiment, Vermont Volunteers. He had enlisted from Jericho on Sept. 10, 1862, and died of disease in Washington June 6, 1863.



Mr. E.S. Whitcomb, Sr., proprietor of the store at Riverside mentioned above, made several trips to Washington during the war to secure the return of sick and dying soldiers, and was responsible for arranging for the return of Capt. Bostwick's body to his native state for burial. On February 7, 1884, the George A. Custer Camp No. 7, Sons of Veterans was mustered under Col. F.D. Proctor with 19 charter members, and on March 15, 1886 the L.H. Bostwick Women's Relief Corp No. 19 was organized as an auxiliary to the Post. Post meetings were held in the Academy for nearly six years, but the desire for a hall of their own was growing. Finally, in March, 1889 a committee was appointed to devise ways and means of building a hall. By early June a piece of land 60 by 42 feet behind the Thompson store, at what is now 9 G.A.R Place, had been donated to the Post by Warren E. Morehouse, and by June 11 the foundation for a hall 50 by 30 feet was being laid. Work progressed quickly, with the sills and lower joists being laid a week later, the framing done by the end of the month ("with 19 foot posts, which will make a good sized hall, with plenty of room below"), and by the first of August the roof was shingled, the walls clapboarded and the windows in. August saw the carpentry work finished, as well as the plastering. In the front of the first floor was a large room used as a dining room, with a smaller room in the rear where the kitchen was located. The second floor had the meeting room of the Post, plus some anterooms. On August 14, while work was still under way, the Women's Relief Corps held a supper in the hall as a fund raiser for the building.



**Veterans in front of the G.A.R. Hall, about 1890**

Finally, on September 11th, all was ready for the dedication of the new hall, and the Post went all out in doing so. The day started with the flag raising, on the pole on the front of the hall donated by Thomas Thorp. The rest of the morning was taken up with field sports, followed by dinner in the Post parlor at noon costing 50 cents per person. After dinner, the Posts fell in and marched to Kennedy's Meadow to witness a match game of ball between Sons of Veterans General William Wells Camp No. 19 of Burlington and General George A. Custer Camp No. 7 of Underhill. At 2:30, exercises began back at the Hall, with supper at 5pm followed by a tug of war, and a Camp Fire (the term for a meeting of the Post, not an actual fire). Music was then

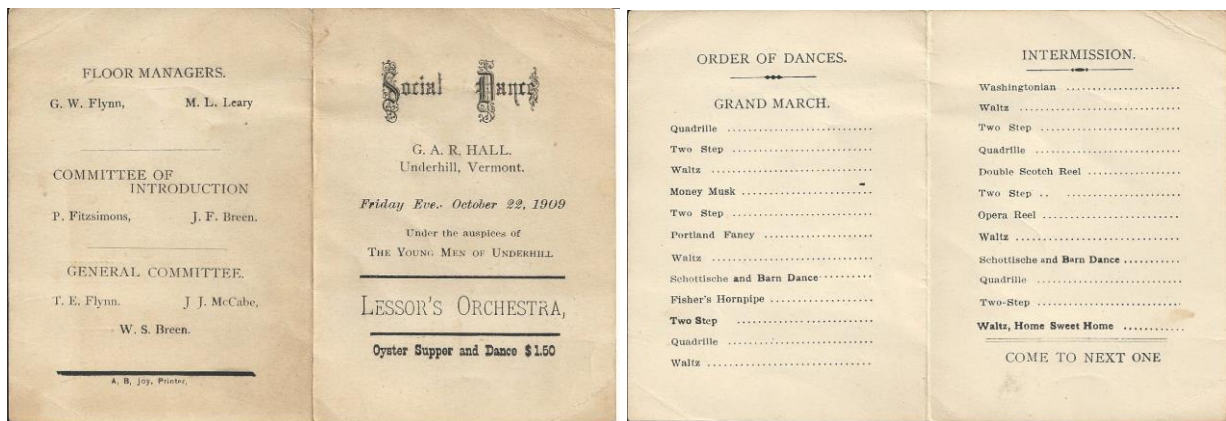
furnished by the Howard Opera House Orchestra from Burlington, for those wishing to dance, and the day ended with a 10pm banquet. Music for the day was furnished by the Underhill Citizens Band. It was intended that there be a transcript made of the day's addresses, and this was done for those made during the evening Camp Fire. However, none was made of those in the afternoon due to the heat in the hall being so oppressive. The soda fountain in the drug store was in operation throughout the day. In December, the W.R.C. held a fair at the Hall, with tickets even being sold in Essex Junction. The net profit from this was \$396.75, with \$300 going towards the cost of the building, leaving a debt of only \$300. Prizes were raffled off, and everyone was pleased that the hanging lamp won by D.G. French was donated by him for use in the Hall.



**G.A.R. Hall - second floor meeting room, about 1890**

The Hall proved to be an immediate success, being used for many G.A.R. events in addition to regular meetings, plus numerous community social events as well. Examples include the following: the ladies of the W.R.C. gave a sugar party at the Hall on April 1st, 1892, followed by music for dancing. On the evening of February 3, 1893, the W.R.C. gave a Colonial Tea with literary exercises at the Hall. The program consisted of music, speaking, etc., with Joseph Fremau playing a banjo solo. On May 27, 1894, the Rev. Mr. Reynolds preached a Memorial Sermon at the Methodist church. The Post, Women's Relief Corps and the Sons of Veterans all gathered at the Hall, where they marched to the church as a unit, with the band escorting them while playing a dirge. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1897, Custer Camp, S.O.V., gave their first annual ball, with music furnished by Paul & Sons Orchestra, with as many present as the Hall could accommodate. Only a couple weeks later, another dance was held to dedicate the new floor which had just been laid in the Hall.





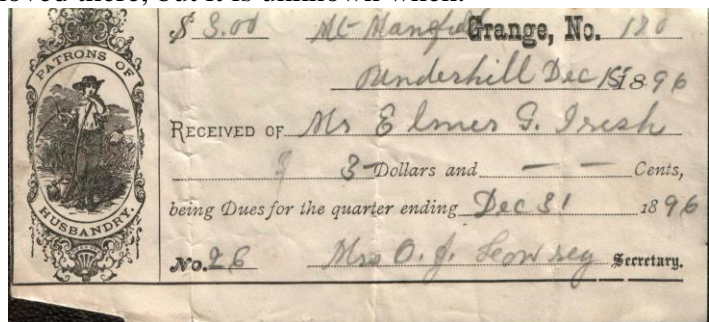
Examples of community events range from the "beautiful and pleasing" operetta, 'The Gypsies' Festival', given there in May, 1895 to a dance sponsored by the Sons of Veterans on April 21, 1930, with music furnished by George H. Lessor's Orchestra, the proceeds of which were to be used to defray the expenses of Memorial Day, to Halloween parties for area children in the 1950s. In the spring of 1896, the Jericho Center Cornet Band presented 'The Heroic Dutchman of '76' under the auspices of the Underhill Citizens Band, with three hours of dancing after the entertainment, and a few weeks later Professor Yon Yonson's celebrated minstrel show performed in the Hall. Later that year, The Grand Magic Stereo-Diorama, vulgarly known as a magic lantern, gave an entertainment.

Mrs. Medora Schweig, daughter of Dr. Arthur Burdick, attended art schools in New York City, and also studied dramatics. When back in Underhill, she assisted with plays presented at the Hall, including 'The Chronothanatolettron' in March of 1896, for which, according to the local newspaper, she planned costumes in exquisite styles as well as drilling the ladies to do their parts well. As often was the case, the play followed a supper, which the ladies served in Colonial style, the cost of both being 25 cents. After her husband's death in 1898, she returned to Underhill to live, and for many years she coached local youths in plays she produced in the G.A.R. Hall, when it was the center of the social life of this and surrounding towns. She was actress, producer, coach, wardrobe mistress, and make-up artist. Being an excellent needlewoman, she made many of the costumes, as well as painting much of the scenery, and was even handy with the carpentry work needed to build sets. Much of the scenery she created was used into the 1940s. About 1956, Doris Ward taught a group of young people how to square dance, culminating in a program given at the Hall for their parents and friends. For many years, graduation exercises for both the Underhill ID and Underhill High School students were held at the G.A.R. Hall, until at least 1956, when the graduation speaker for the eighth grade class was Judge Edward J. Costello of Burlington.

As the years passed, and there were fewer and fewer veterans to carry on the Post, it was decided to transfer ownership of the Hall to the W.R.C., and this was done in November, 1904. In December, 1937, they sold the hall to the towns of Underhill and Jericho, and they in turn sold it to the Underhill ID school district in July, 1942. It continued to be used for public gatherings until the late 1950s, when it was closed and on August 25, 1958 it was sold to the Clark family for a bid of \$503. The Clarks used it for storage for their garage business until selling it to Jim and Sue Carter in December, 2009. The Carter's, along with their son-in-law, John Monk, began the restoration of the Hall in the spring of 2010, moving it a few feet onto a new poured concrete foundation. Then early on the morning of November 24, 2010, the building was burned to the ground in a fire of unknown origin, destroying a true local landmark.

### Mount Mansfield Grange

Mt. Mansfield Grange #170 was organized by Mr. Naramore January 15, 1875, one of the original members of the Chittenden Pomona Grange (the second Pomona in New England). Little is known of the history of the grange in Underhill. In February, 1877, they made arrangements with the trustees of the Underhill Academy to finish off a room on the second floor of the Academy building for a Grange Hall. In the fall of 1893, the grange held a harvest festival at their hall, presumably still in the Academy building. In early November, 1896, it was announced that the "Mt. Mansfield Grange have bought the lower school building and land on which it stands, and they will make it into a grange hall"; it is not known what school this refers to, but as Riverside was often referred to as the lower end of the village, this could have been the school house that once stood on the north side of Route 15 beside the covered bridge over Brown's River. By the end of the month they held an oyster supper, followed by musical entertainment, in their new hall. When the Methodist church and drug store burned in the Flats in 1906, the fire also destroyed the Grange hall next to the church, (at an estimated loss of \$2000), so at some time the Grange had moved there, but it is unknown when.



In January, 1907, Grange #170 purchased the small building located beside the Congregational church from A.C. Humphrey, and in October, 1908, this land was sold to Minerva Lodge #21, Knights of Pythias. This building had originally been a classic example of Greek Revival architecture, with a portico on the front topped with a pediment, similar to the Underhill Center post office. Apparently during the time the grange owned it, the building, which had formerly been the Congregational chapel, was remodeled to enclose the portico, and then was moved beside the new Methodist church, where the Grange hall destroyed in the fire had been located. Mt. Mansfield Grange #170 disbanded in 1908, and it is likely that at that time, the building was transferred to the Methodist Church for their parish house. In the 1960s it became the XYZ Senior Citizen's meeting room, until they moved to the Congregational church basement when that church was raised in 1979. Since 1997 the building has been the office for the Green Thumb hydroponics business. The next thing known about the grange in Underhill was when Mt. Mansfield



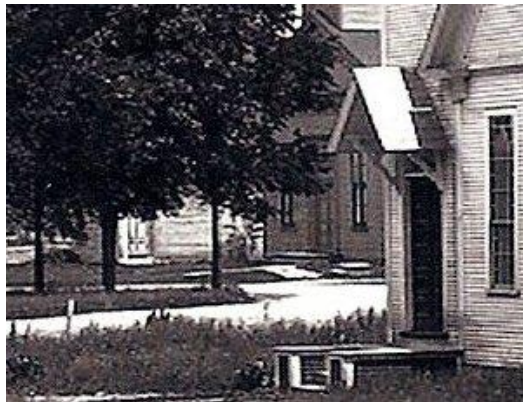
Grange #524 was organized in Underhill February 6, 1935 by H.A. Stoddard. In July, 1937, they purchased the former KP Hall, which they had shared, from the Knights of Pythias. They sold the hall to Harold Brown in May, 1942, and ceased operations in 1944, but were reorganized in 1949.



**Original Congregational Chapel**



**Underhill Center post office, similar in appearance to the original appearance of the chapel building**



**Chapel/Grange (in left distance) after portico was enclosed**



**After being moved beside the Methodist Church**

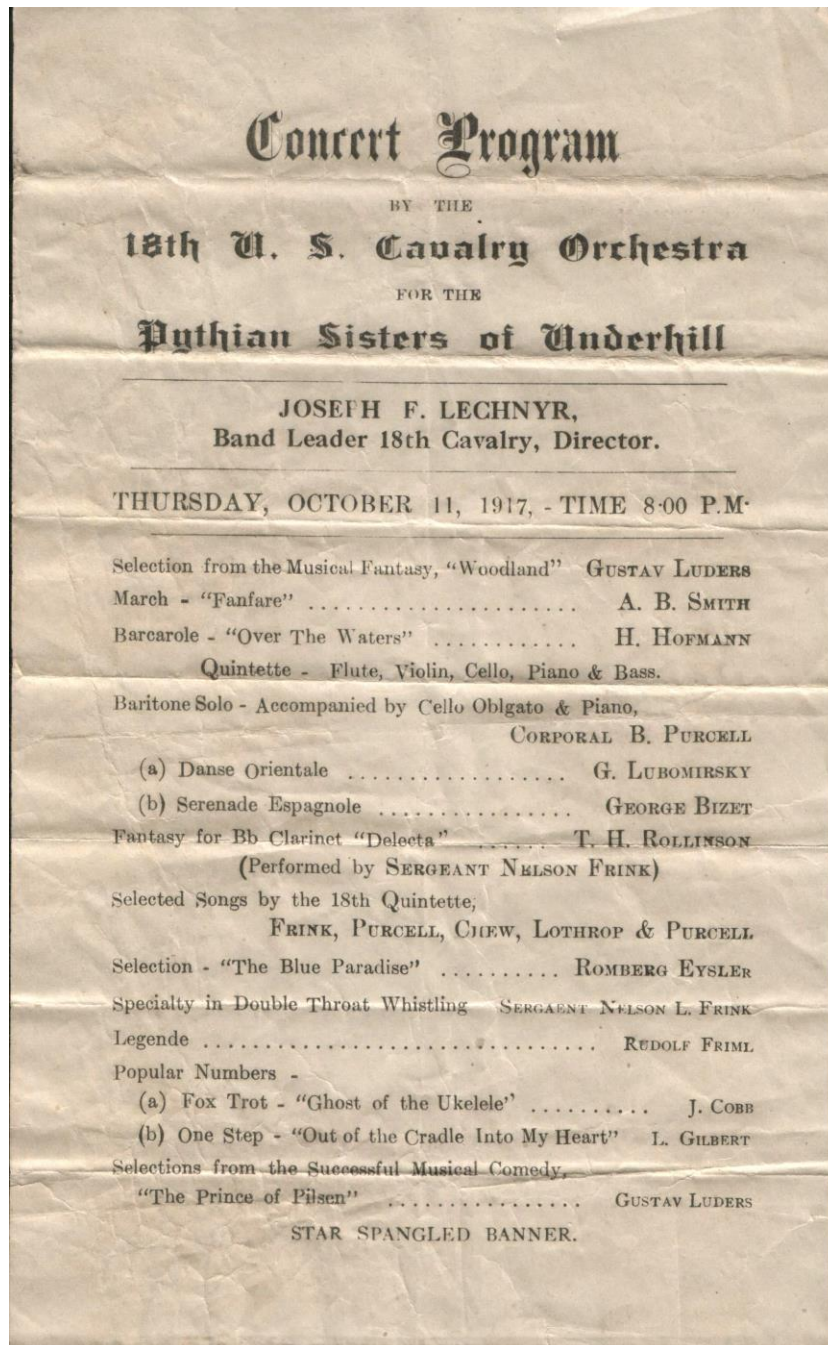
### **Knights of Pythias**

Minerva Lodge #21 of the Knights of Pythias was organized in Jericho in 1898, its purpose being for friendship, charity and benevolence as exemplified in the ancient Grecian episode of Damon and Pythias, an example of friendship in cruel times. Mizpah Temple #14, Pythian Sisters, was organized in 1907. In October, 1908, they purchased the lot beside the Congregational church from the Grange, and about 1915, they built a hall there.

This seems to have been used at times by the Grange under some sort of joint arrangement. The Knights of Pythia and the Pythian Sisters were said to still be flourishing organizations in 1937, but in July of that year, they sold the KP hall to Grange #524. Older residents recall attending “medicine shows” in the KP hall, where some traveling group would put on a show

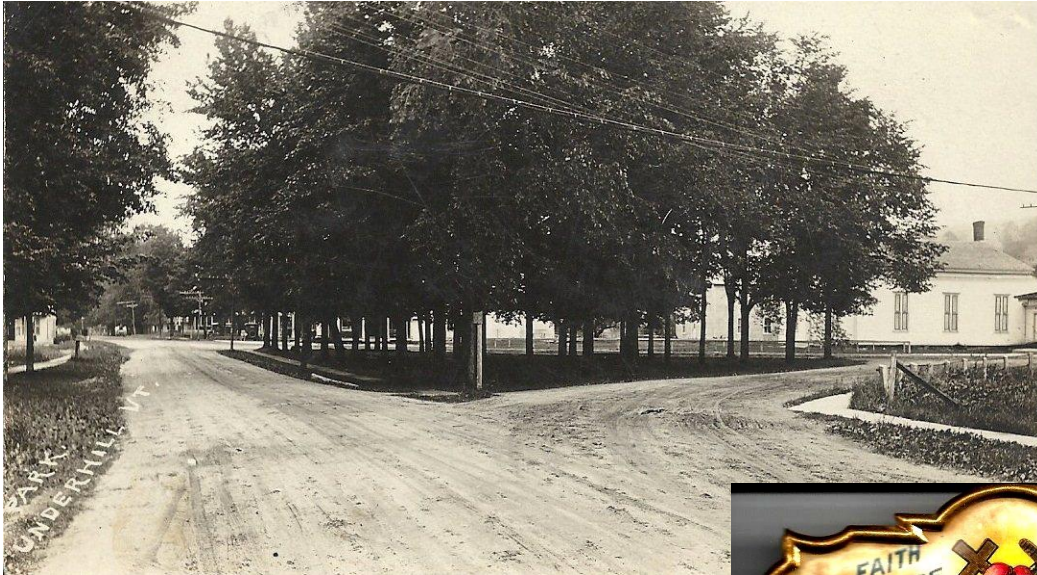
and try to sell some patent medicine to the audience. The Grange sold the hall to Harold Brown in May, 1942 which he used as a branch of his funeral home in Richmond.

Upon his retirement, Mr. Brown sold the funeral business to George Gifford in May, 1969, and upon his retirement in January, 1998, the hall, now known as the Gifford building, was purchased by the United Church of Underhill, who now use it for their Clutter Barn during the annual Harvest Market.



**Program for a concert given by the 18th U.S. Cavalry Orchestra  
For the Pythian Sisters of Underhill, October 11, 1917**





**Underhill  
Flats park  
with Knights  
of Pythias  
Hall in  
distance**



**Gifford Funeral Home, about 1970**

### **I.O.G.T., Independent Order of Good Templars**

Another group which was active in Underhill for a time was the I.O.G.T., the Independent Order of Good Templars, an international temperance organization founded in New York in 1850 with a structure modeled on Freemasonry. It is unknown when the Underhill lodge began, but by the spring of 1884, they were making arrangements to rent a room in the Academy building for their meetings. On October 9 and 10, 1889, the state convention of the I.O.G.T. was held at Thompson's Hall, with over 50 members in attendance. The Women's Relief Corps furnishing them board at their new and elegant dining room in the G.A.R. building, with members of the G.A.R. Post furnished food for the occasion, and \$86 was raised,



going towards the cost of the new Hall. It appears that interest waned at times - in 1891, it was reported that they were holding regular meetings again, yet in 1893, an attempt was being made to revive the Mt. Mansfield Lodge No.120 of the I.O.G.T., with all interested in sustaining a lodge were requested to meet at the Academy on November 15. When the Chittenden Lodge No. 62 in Jericho Center held their anniversary celebration in February, 1894, they invited the lodges from Essex, Jericho Corners, and "what remains of Underhill Lodge". And in June, 1895 a lodge of Good Templars was instituted at Underhill by State Deputy W.W. Conger of St. Albans Bay. By November, they had 42 members, and on Christmas Eve, they had a Christmas tree at their meeting held at the Academy. However, the exercises were cut short when the floor started to give way, and it was not thought safe for the large crowd. In March, 1896 it was reported that they held a box party at their hall, but it is unknown where this was, or if they shared a hall with some other local group. They were still active in 1900, but nothing further is known.

### **Underhill Congregational church**

As noted above, the Congregational church at the Flats was located on land leased from Tower & Oakes in 1838 for that purpose. The meeting house which had been built in 1827, although never completely finished, near the home of Ziba Church on River Road just past the intersection of English Settlement Road, was moved to the Flats at that time and thoroughly repaired. In April, 1845, this building was destroyed by fire, completely disheartening the congregation, but due largely to the efforts of Rev. Simeon Parmelee, the minister at the time, by 1847 the existing structure was built to replace it, the expenses being covered by the sale of pews. In 1867, the church was repaired at a cost of \$900, and in 1885, in cooperation with the Ladies Dime Society, the church parlors were added to the rear of the building, complete with a kitchen. Then in 1889, the church itself was completely remodeled. At least one Sunday in September, the church was so much torn up that services were held in the Academy building. By the end of October, new windows were in place. Apparently the church parlors were also remodeled, as it was reported in early November that repairs were so nearly completed that Sunday School was held there, even though the seats would not arrive until December. A furnace was also installed to heat the building, the total cost of the work being \$2,000. May 14, 1890, the building was re-dedicated to the worship of God. A debt of \$500 on this work was cancelled by the generosity of Dr. A.F. Burdick, a member of the church, on the condition that the pews thereafter should be free. E.S. Whitcomb had always felt that the church building stood too low, and after his retirement, he offered to have it raised at his own expense, and to give bonds that it should be safely done, but the church committee objected, and the building remained as it was until 1979, when it was finally raised and a complete cellar put under the building.





In 1894 the Ladies Industrial Society began raising funds to purchase the Mason & Hamlin organ which still graces the sanctuary. One of the fundraising methods they used was that each lady had to raise a dollar for the organ fund and write a poem about how she earned it. (The first charge was the easier; writing the poems was a challenge -- for the ladies and their families.) The culmination of their efforts was presented at a poem social held at the church on October 2, when about 100 people heard the results of their work to the great amusement of all. The poems were said to all be well rendered, showing care and talent in their construction. In particular, Mrs. S.M. Palmer's effort to weave into rhyme the names and subjects of her contribution was more than well done, showing fine poetical ability. The results of this effort netted \$50 towards the fund. Their work was documented in a booklet entitled, *Experiences of the Would-be Poetesses Connected with the Ladies Industrial Society and a Response from one of the Sufferers*. On December 4th, they held a sale and oyster supper at the church parlors, the proceeds of which also benefited the organ fund. Finally, after further fundraising efforts, on January 24 and 25, 1896, parties from Burlington were in town, putting the organ in the church on trial. Even though it was found that the cost was much higher than expected, the \$650 quote being the selling price, not the list price as had been thought, the trial seems to have went well, and the Society bought the organ in early February. However, this still left a debt, so on May 5 and 6, they held a bazaar at the G.A.R. Hall, selling items that had been donated to them, ranging from tidies for your chairs to pen wipers, big aprons to picture frames. Through the rest of the year, they managed to raise \$175 to pay off the remainder of the debt.



**Congregational church (right) and chapel (left)**

A small building located just north of the church was, through the efforts of Deacon Wells, purchased and put in repair in the spring of 1864 for use as a chapel. The addition of the church parlors in 1885 included a chapel, and in 1892, W.S. Nay and T.B. Barney, as a committee appointed by the 2nd Congregational Society, sold the building to A.C. Humphrey. In the deed, it was specifically stated that, if Mr. Humphrey or his heirs were to ever use the land for any purpose which will interfere with the quiet, peace or comfort of the 2nd Congregational Society, then the deed was to be void and the land would revert to the Society.

### **Calvary Episcopal church**

The Bostwick family, along with the Brown and Castle families, were all members of the Episcopal Church, and the first record of any service in the area was a baptism performed at the house of Joseph Brown Sr. in 1789 by the Rev. Reuben Garlic of Alburgh, VT. This same year lay services were held in the log school house located at the corner of Route 15 and Brown's



**Church Street school house, about 1870**

Trace in Riverside, with Jonathan Castle and Timothy Brown acting as lay readers. Jonathan Castle lived across the road from the school, at what is now 287 VT Route 15, where by 1784 he kept a tavern. During the 1790s, the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden came once in four weeks and held services in the school house, what was known as the Church Street school, until in 1796 the Rev. Garlic moved to the area to live.

He continued services until about 1806, when due to a Methodist revival in the area, the Browns became Methodists, and some of the Castles Baptists. This left the Episcopalians so weak and scattered that regular services were discontinued until the coming of Rev.



S.B. Bostwick (son of Arthur and Polly Bostwick) in March, 1842. Under his leadership, the denomination was revived, and by 1851 a subscription was being circulated to build a church. In 1852 a lot 70 feet wide by 13 rods deep was purchased from Joseph Kingsbury for \$69. Polly Bostwick, who had been a member of the Congregational Society, became an Episcopalian through the agency of her son, Rev. Bostwick. There was still a substantial sum of money



remaining to be raised in order to erect a church building, and she conceived a plan to buy a knitting machine which she used to make the tubing for socks, with the legs to be put out among the church families to be footed. Through these efforts, a large amount was raised towards

the completion of the church and the first service was held in the church on May 20, 1856, although the building was not completed. The first service after the completion of the building was at Christmas, 1856. Polly Bostwick just lived to see its completion, and her funeral was the first held in the church, on January 3, 1857, conducted by Rt. Rev. S.H. Hopkins.

Through the years, the prosperity of the church was quite dependent upon the summer visitors who stayed at the Dixon House, and after the hotel burned this support was lost. As a result, the church was largely closed from about 1901 to 1928, when it was refurbished and reopened by Father Ross and Edward Sinclair, proprietor of the Hotel Sinclair in Riverside.

### **Leisure activities**

Prior to 1850, it was common for local residents to gather in the various farm homes for amusement. Sometimes it would take the form of dancing, instrumental music, singing and so forth - what was often called a kitchen tunk. But in the absence of a fiddler, the "lilter" was required to furnish the music. To be a good lilter was considered a great accomplishment. The lilter was a self-made musician, whose voice accomplished the function of instrumental music and singing, often without the use of words other than syllabic sounds, frequently repeated for emphasis, in a melodious voice. The sound was not in the nature of a yodel; it was a musical, almost wordless rhythm of voice accompanied by motion of the body keeping time, and punctuated by the lilter calling off the various figures for square dances and other figure dances in which the Irish, Scotch and English settlers of the Underhill region excelled.

Other amusements in early times included collar and elbow wrestling practiced by the young men, especially in the Irish community. This got its name from the initial stance of the wrestlers, which resembled two men dancing at arm's length. Vermont, with its large Irish population, was

the center of collar and elbow wrestling in the 1870s and 1880s, with 21 Vermonters earning championships in the sport. For the women, there were quilting bees, and sampler making lessons for young girls, as well as weaving and needlework. There were also frequent building and harvest bees, which gave the opportunity to make work easier by sharing it in a social setting. They were invariably accompanied by feasting, singing and dancing towards the end of the day.

By the middle of the 19th century, change was beginning to take place in the lives of local people. A number of people had been forced to travel far from their homes due to participation in the Union Army during the Civil War, and by this time, travel in general was getting easier with the coming of the railroads, first to Essex Junction, and then to Underhill itself. As a result, local people tended to travel more than ever before, but as well, more of the world started coming to Underhill. One group that figured large in this trend was the G.A.R. They had many reunions and excursions over the years, and many from Underhill attended. On June 22, 1885, a special train with four gaily decorated cars took the G.A.R. excursion to Portland, Maine. On August 25 another G.A.R. excursion left from Cambridge for Montpelier. At Underhill alone, 225 tickets were sold, and by the time the train got to Essex Junction, there was such a crowd that it had to be divided into two trains for the trip to Montpelier. And in the summer of 1889, the Central Vermont Railroad issued a special brochure with timetables for the national G.A.R. encampment in Milwaukee, with a special fare of \$20.45 for the round trip. In June, 1895, Edward Monahan of Underhill was elected state commander of the Sons of Veterans at the state encampment in St. Albans, the youngest person in the United States to ever hold this office, and in September, he and his father, J.J. Monahan attended the G.A.R. encampment in Louisville, Kentucky.

Excursions were popular in the area, with many taking place over the years, often encouraged by low fares given by the railroads. On August 4, 1894, a special train ran from all stations on the B&L to Burlington, where passengers then boarded the lake steamer Reindeer for a trip through the most picturesque portion of the lake to Au Sable Chasm, all for a special fare of \$1.50. This attracted about 75 from Underhill, with another 29 from Jericho and 40 from Essex Center. On July 26, 1895 over 200 tickets were sold at the Underhill station for Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in Burlington, with another 91 sold in Jericho. In April, 1897, special prices were offered by the C.V.R.R. for people interested in attending the Grant Monument ceremonies in New York City (depending upon the route chosen, round trip fares from Underhill cost from \$6.10 to \$8.45). Both Rev. R.H. White and Rev. & Mrs. Brigham attended from Underhill.

People were travelling on their own as well. In the spring of 1889, Mr. & Mrs. M.L. Washburn left Underhill to travel to Alaska, coming back in November, and in 1895, they made the trip a second time, returning via Atlanta, New Orleans, Washington and New York. In 1885, S.J. Mead of Underhill travelled to St. Paul de Loanda on the west coast of Africa as a missionary. In March, 1889, Martin Woodworth and his wife attended the inauguration of President Benjamin Harrison in Washington, DC. The culmination probably occurred in 1893, when numerous people from town attended the Chicago World's Fair. For spectators, the fair could be seen for a cost of about \$15 to \$20 per week. Truman Barney attended as an exhibitor for the Vermont Farm Machine Company of Bellows Falls, displaying their maple sugar utensils. Although some amount of travelling entertainment had passed through the area for years (there is a record of an elephant in Jericho in the 1830s), this greatly increased with the improvements in transportation. Travelling medicine and vaudeville shows often stopped in the Flats at one of the local venues. In May, 1894, the Shepard Family, eight in number, gave another of their popular



musical entertainments at the G.A.R. Hall for a 25 cent admission, and in 1896, they were back, giving a program at the G.A.R. Hall on January 11th and another show at Academy Hall in Jericho Corners on the 13th. In the fall of 1893, Professor A.J. Maxham, the great Republican campaign singer, was passing through the area, assisted by Miss Vera Colton, the celebrated whistler and Miss Nina Miller, the accomplished cornetist. He gave a show in Williston September 30, then Underhill on October 5 and Jericho on October 7, along with a stop in Essex Center. And in August of 1894, he returned to give another show at the Hall. In August, 1893, Shaffer's Bell Ringers gave an entertainment at the G.A.R. Hall and in May and again in December of 1894 the Jubilee Singers gave concerts there to overflowing crowds. Meanwhile, at Thompson's Hall, the Essex Dramatic Club gave an entertainment, along with such things as "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and "Sylvia's Soldier" being performed, and a show by The Original Comical Brown. There is also mention in September, 1889 that the Kickapoos were in town. This was the Kickapoo Indian Medicine Co., one of the largest and most successful of the medicine show operators. Their shows, promoting Kickapoo Indian Compound, had an American Indian or Wild West theme, and employed many Native Americans as spokespeople. In the Underhill show, Mexican Matt was a featured spokesperson. This drew an audience from not just Underhill, but many of the surrounding towns as well.

In addition, numerous local people used their various talents to entertain themselves and their neighbors. Some were in local homes, such as the dance at John Kennedy's in February, 1889 attended by about 20 couples. Sometimes it might just be a social gathering, such as the evening in February, 1896, when a large company of neighbors and friends gathered at the home of Mr. & Mrs. William Douglas to make them a social visit, with cake and coffee being served to about one hundred people. Or it might be attending the New Year's ball at the Dixon House, which 40 couples attended. A number of people attended the Lyceum held at the Academy for several years in the 1890s. In June, 1885, quite a number of young people from Underhill went skating at the Cambridge rink, in the "Concert Hall" annex of the American House, and a number went again on July 4th, when music was furnished by the Johnson Cornet Band. In April, 1889, a number of people from Underhill attended the Centennial Ball at the American House in Cambridge. And it was decided in the winter of 1895-96 to flood the flat near the depot to create a skating rink. By January it was reported that there was "quite a skating club here, and a nice place to skate near the station". It was reported in the summer of 1896 that the tennis court beside E.S. Whitcomb's was in almost daily use by lovers of the game, and that bowling was also quite popular.

In December, 1907, the Underhill Debating Club was formed, but other than a copy of their constitution and bylaws and a list of charter members, nothing further is known about this group.

For many years, going to the top of Mount Mansfield had been a pleasant entertainment, both for local people and visitors from further away, many of whom came expressly for that purpose, and as mentioned above, a bridle path was maintained for many years from Underhill Center to the top of the mountain. Sometimes local people would act as guides for those wanting to go up the mountain, and there is even the story of Francis Cahill, a strong Irishman, who would hire himself out to carry spindly-legged tourists to the top of the mountain. In the fall of 1894, a new possibility was created with the opening of the road through Smuggler's Notch. On September 29th, a group from Underhill took a trip to Mount Mansfield via Cambridge, Jeffersonville and the new road through the Notch, making the entire trip to the Summit House with one pair of horses. They reported that it was a very hard road through the Notch, with the pitch on two hills

being fifty feet to the hundred. And in August, 1897, a party from Underhill made a trip to the new slide on the side of the mountain, which they described as grand, yet terrible.

For a number of years, a Demorest Silver Medal contest was held at the G.A.R. Hall. This was a world wide contest originated in 1886 by W. Jennings Demorest, publisher of Demorest's Magazine and a leader of the Prohibition Party, who gave at his own expense silver, gold and diamond mounted medals for the best recitations of Prohibition selections. By the time of his death in 1895, he had given out over 41,000 medals to successful contestants. Probably reflecting an interest in prohibition at that time, on May 25, 1888, George Penniman, prohibitionist, gave a political lecture to an audience of about 200.

There have been several churches active in the Flats over the years, and many activities which residents engaged in were related to them in some way. In January, 1887, a Holiness Convention was held at the Methodist Church in the Flats, with ministers from Boston and elsewhere being present, and a revival meeting was held there for a week in February, 1889, with assistance given to Rev. H.F. Reynolds by others from out of town. In September of that year, the Vermont Holiness Association held a state Holiness convention at the Methodist Church, and in conjunction with this, the Dixon House offered board of \$1.00 per day to anyone wishing to attend the Holiness meetings. In August, 1894 a Holiness camp meeting was held on the Dixon House lot (the hotel having burned by that time), with services in the forenoon, afternoon and evening being conducted by eminent laborers from abroad. Two weeks before this meeting, Rev. Reynolds and his family had attended the camp meeting in Sheldon, and at the same time, Mrs. S. Matthews of London gave a lecture at the Congregational church. In late June, 1895, another Holiness camp meeting was held, this time on the Wells lot opposite the Custer House at the north end of the village, with a large number in attendance from out of town, causing the Custer House to be full to overflowing for that week. Many residents also attended various camp meetings in surrounding towns, such as the Spiritualist Camp Meeting at Queen City Park in Burlington, and the Methodist Camp Meeting held every August in Morrisville was popular for many years. In January, 1893, a party of eight young people from Underhill attended a church entertainment at Fletcher.

Speakers often gave talks at the churches as well. In April, 1893, Rev. Fisk, recently from Jerusalem, gave a talk on that city at the Congregational church and in May there was a missionary concert and a sociable held there. In October, 1895, Mrs. Carswell gave a lecture there under the auspices of the Ladies Home Land Circle.

In addition, many purely social activities were held by the churches, although often with fund raising in mind. In June, 1889, the ladies of the Congregational Church held a strawberry and ice cream festival at the church parlors, with strawberries and ice cream costing 10 cents each, and cake 5 cents. In December, 1893, the Ladies Industrial Society gave a "China Tea" in the church parlors, and in February, 1895, they gave a "Poverty Soshul at the Congregashunel Vestry". The rules were that "every woman who kums must ware a kaliker dress & apurn or sumthing ekely appropriate, and awl men must hay on their old close & flanul shurtz", and attendees were "fined" if their dress did not conform to the rules. Fines ranged from 1 cent for wearing a gold pin or earrings, up to 5 cents for "tellin secrits" and 10 cents for wearing a silk dress. "Extry gud vittels were et durin the nite from 6 erklok on, with admishun & supper all together 9 sense each." It was reported that everyone was fined to their satisfaction. In November, 1894, a social was held at the Congregational church parlors, where Martin Naramore exhibited the wonders of his phonograph, although the next February, J.M. Foss from Morrisville also gave a phonograph



exhibition in town which was described as "so much superior to anything else of the kind that has been here that it is useless to try to draw any comparisons".

Baseball was a pastime enjoyed by many for years, and most towns had at least one town team. Jericho had the Muffs and the Crescents, Cambridge had the Lone Stars, and Underhill had the Resolutes. Games were often played at Kennedy's grounds in Underhill. The location is unknown, but had to be near the Flats, as at the dedication of the G.A.R. Hall in September, 1889, the Posts were to fall in and march to Kennedy's Meadow to watch a ball game. And if needed, baseball equipment could be purchased at the Underhill Drug Store.

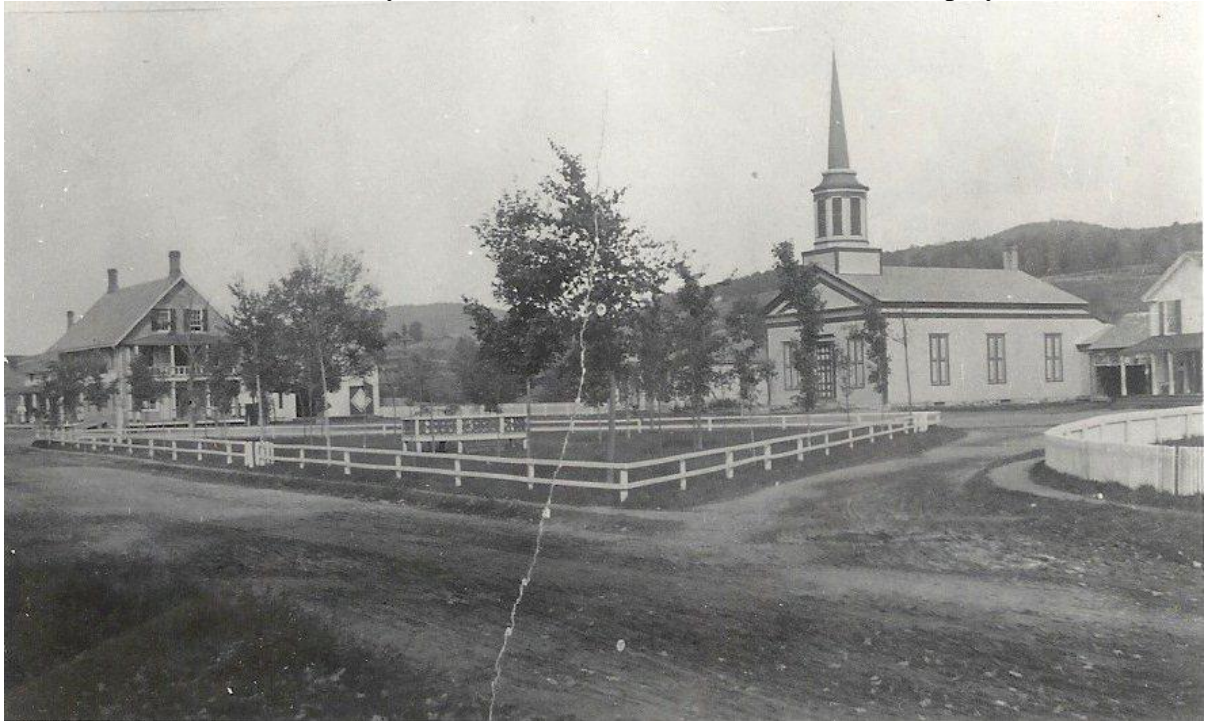
One of the more unusual games played was a softball game played as part of the Labor Day festivities organized by the village improvement society on September 4, 1916 between the Fat Ladies, captained by Clara Bartlett and the Lean Ladies, led by Lillian Cross. No record of the outcome of the game has been found, but a practice game held at Bartlett's field the previous Wednesday was won by the Fat Ladies.



### **The Underhill Citizens Band**

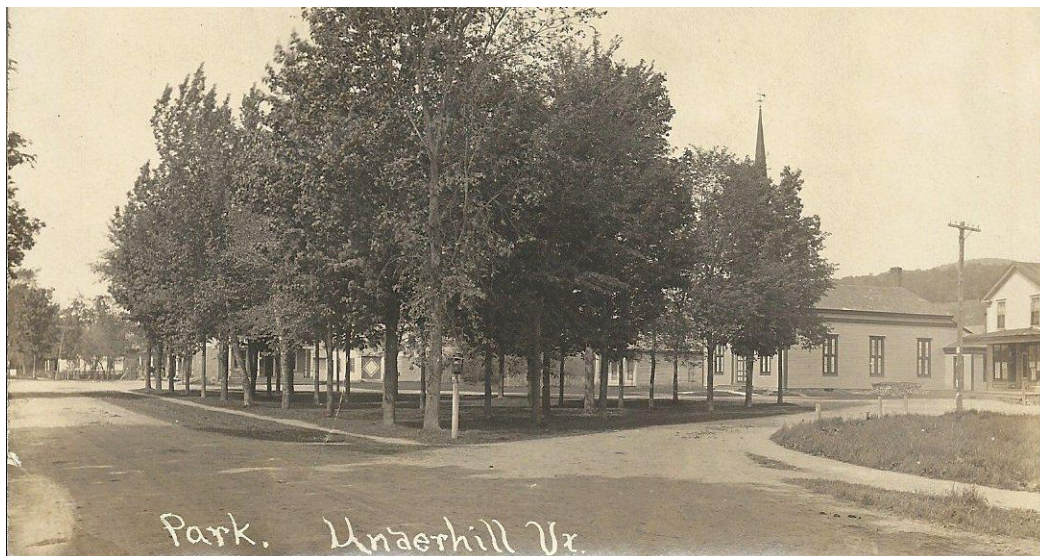
In the mid-1880s the Underhill Citizens Band was formed in the Flats, practicing at the Academy every Wednesday evening. They often played in return for donations to support their group. For example, in November, 1886, they played at the Beach House in Jericho Corners (and were said to have played well for the length of time they had been practicing and considering that they have no out of town talent). A table in the hotel dining room was set for 28 people, in the middle of which was a large cake bearing the inscription "Underhill Band Boys". The band furnished music both before and after the oyster supper, and at the end of the evening they were presented with a donation from those present of \$13.25. In February, 1887, the band gave a concert and dance at the Dixon House, the program including 16 songs, including a coronet solo by W.E. Prior, two songs by Mrs. W.S. Nay, a song by Homer Rockwood, and two songs by the male quartette. Admission was 25 cents, and supper could be had for an extra 35 cents. At the conclusion of the concert, music for dancing was furnished by Lessor's Orchestra from 10pm to 2am at a cost of 50 cents per couple. They also gave concerts at Thompson's Hall, and after its construction in 1889, they held dances, and gave box socials, concerts and cotillions at the G.A.R. Hall, including on February 26, 1895, a "masquerade, promenade, box party and social hop" for the benefit of the band. At their annual meeting in January, 1889, C.C. Abbott was elected leader and musical director, and in 1893, Joe Fremau took over as leader. In the spring of 1894, Mr. Fremau held a clam bake for his friends, with the band furnishing music. Within the span of a week in February, 1889, the band played for donations at the Congregational church in the Flats, and then in Jericho Center. In the summer of 1894, the band accompanied two excursions, to Barre with the Sons of Veterans and with 65 people to Highgate.

In August, 1895, the band sponsored an excursion to Plattsburgh, NY. A special train left Cambridge at 8:30am, picking up passengers all along the line, and from Burlington the group went by boat through the vicinity of the north islands to Plattsburgh. In the absence of C.C. Abbott, both the band leader and Underhill station agent, Maud Rood tended to the station for the day. The next month, the Bolton Band played three days at the fair in Waterbury, and Homer Rockwood, J.P. Tillison and Tyler Pease from the Underhill band went to play with them.



**Bandstand and fence around park about 1888**

In the spring of 1888 a bandstand was erected in the park in the Flats, along with a fence enclosing the park. Due to the efforts of S.A. Hale, the work was completed in time for use



during the Decoration Day celebration. Over the next few years, the band often gave concerts here during the summer months. In the summer of 1894, funds were being raised

to repair the bandstand and paint the fence.

By the time the above picture was taken in 1907, both the fence and the bandstand are gone.





About 1937, the cobblestone fountain which is in the park today was built, and it was also about this time that the granite G.A.R. monument was erected in the park. That monument was in turn replaced in the 1950s with the one standing there today after the original one was struck by an automobile and damaged.

### **Holiday Celebrations**

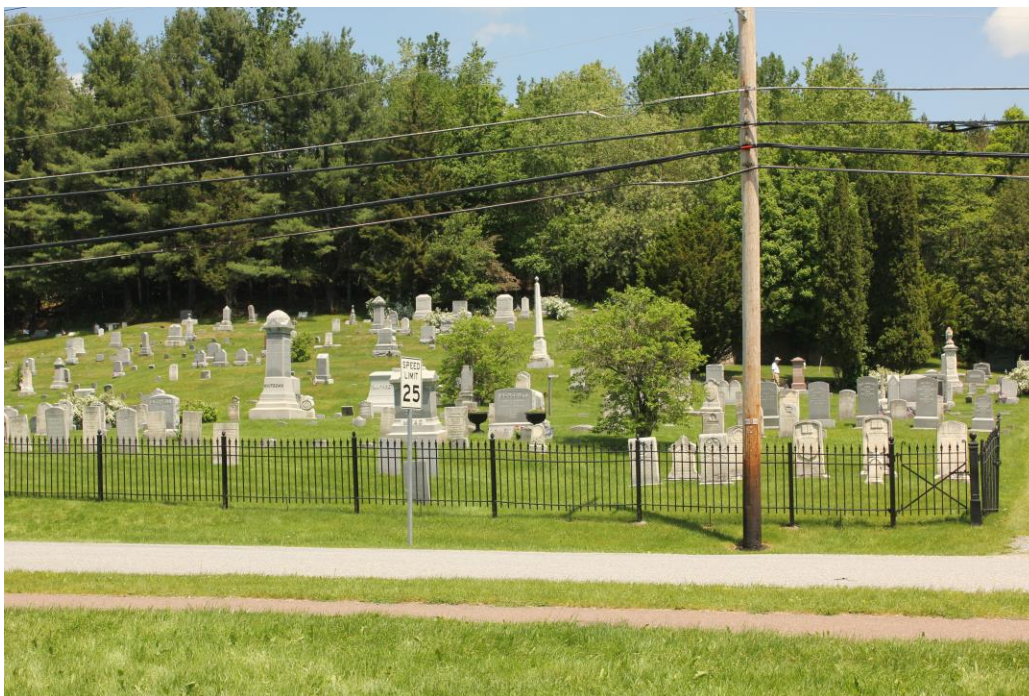
Holidays have usually been celebrated in some fashion. With the establishment of the G.A.R. post in town, Decoration Day became a widely celebrated occasion. Most often, in the morning, the Post would meet and spread out around town, decorating the graves of veterans. Then they would re-assemble at the Hall, perhaps to march to the church for a service or participate in a parade, and afterwards to have a meal at the Hall. In 1897, the day concluded with a musical and literary entertainment given by the W.R.C., including all the latest songs and several novelties,

and the monologue 'Blind Marguret', which was given in a style that had lately become quite popular.



**Cemetery on Park Street, May 30, 1911**





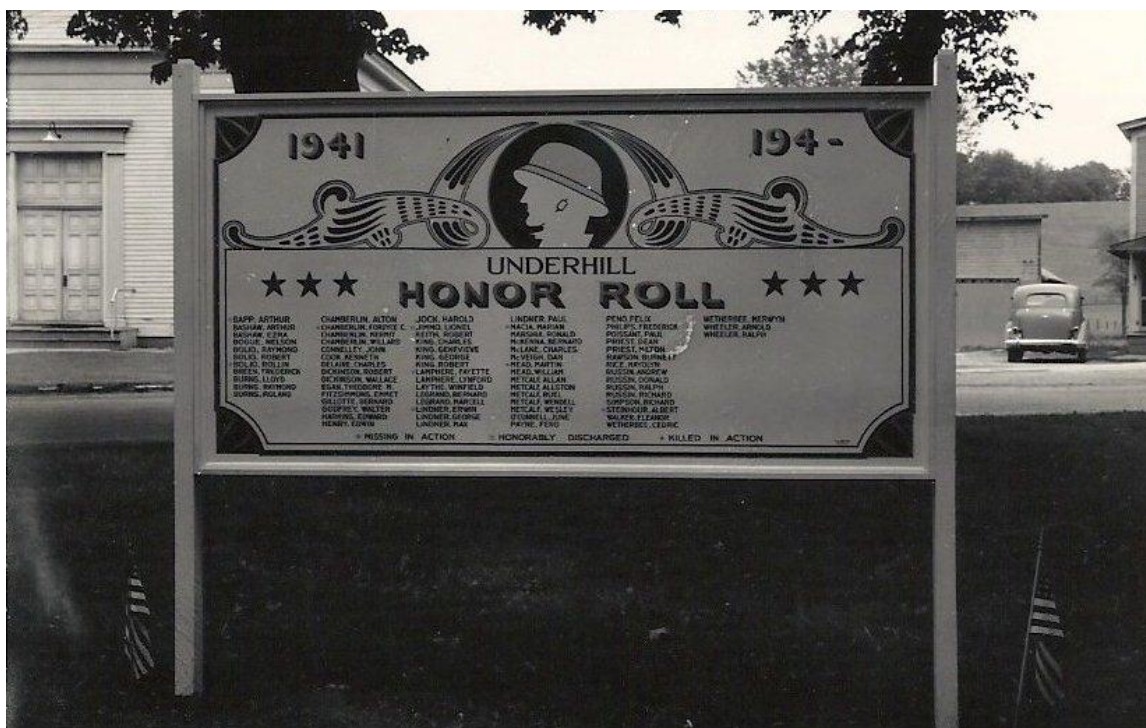
This tradition has carried on to the present time, although it is now called Memorial Day, with other local groups organizing the event after the G.A.R. disbanded.

**Cemetery on Park Street, May 30, 2011**



On May 30, 1941, the Underhill Honor Roll, located in the park, was dedicated during the celebration.



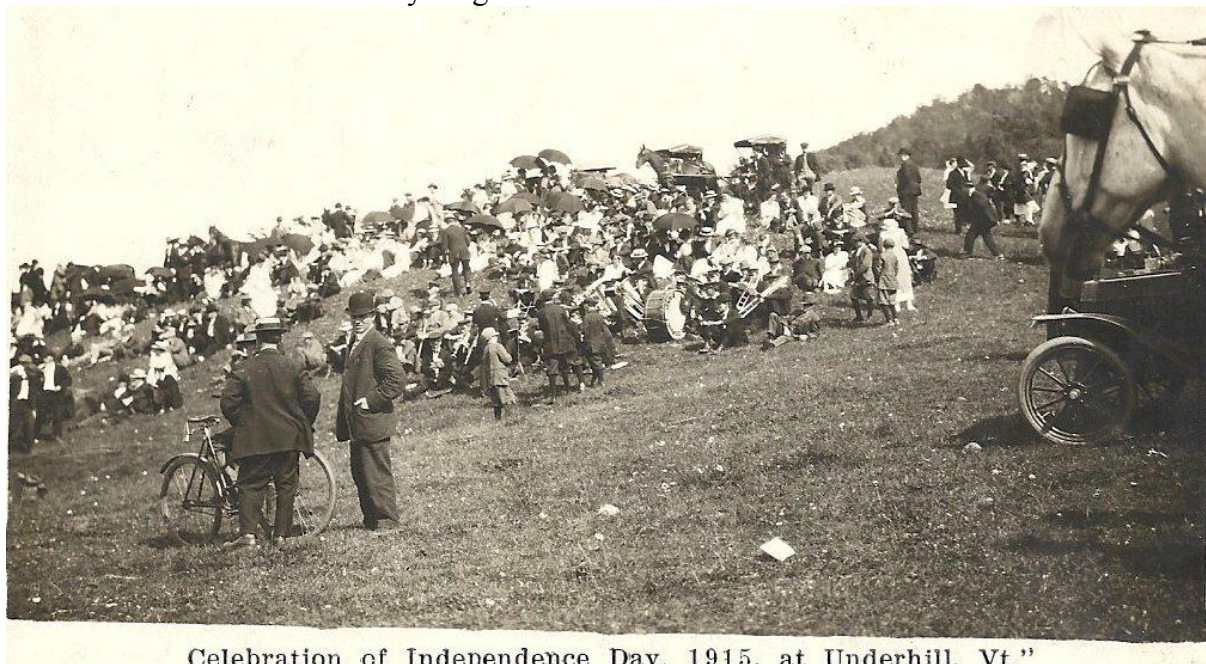


Underhill Honor Roll, erected in park in 1941



Often the day now is celebrated with a parade followed by a barbeque and a Little League baseball game. A few times, Independence Day was also celebrated in Underhill. On Saturday, July 3, 1897, there was a baseball game between Underhill and Bolton (won by Underhill 21 to 8 after 6 innings) and bicycle races, with entertainment in the evening including the Hyde Park,

Jericho Center and Underhill Bands, followed by a grand parade and culminating with a display of Roman candles “ahead of anything ever seen in Underhill”.



Celebration of Independence Day. 1915. at Underhill. Vt."

### **Accidents and unusual happenings**

Accidents were also a part of daily life in Underhill throughout the years. On the evening of June 18, 1891 two runaway railroad cars loaded with lumber started off from Underhill with brakeman Flood aboard, and passed beyond Essex Center before they could be stopped. On May 29, 1893, Mr. Clarkson, a salesman from Burlington was stopped at the new Hayden store in Riverside selling a bill of goods when his horse became frightened and ran down Church Street (now known as Route 15). It was stopped at the Irish place, near the corner of Brown's Trace, but in the process of changing the harness, the horse got loose again, and ran to Jericho Corners, where it was finally stopped by the blacksmith. And in January of 1897, Herbert Morom and Mr. Martin were considerably burned on their faces and hands while experimenting with gasoline. It was believed they were looking to see if the gasoline was frozen! Perhaps because of this, on September 9th of that year a representative of the Standard Oil Co. gave an exhibition at Morom's shop, showing the safety of using gasoline.

On August 11, 1892, a downpour on the side of Mount Mansfield caused the water-soaked earth to loosen its hold on the rocks and plunge toward the valley below, leaving the mountain side bare for an area of about forty rods wide by nearly a mile in length, making the third slide in the recorded history of the mountain. On a clear day, the slide could be seen from University Hill in Burlington. Fortunately, no farms or dwellings lay



in the path of the slide. Oliver Papineau's house lay near the river, which dug a channel within a few feet of the house, the channel being from ten to twelve feet deep and about fifteen rods wide. Papineau's hog house was carried away, with one hog. The animal went under at first, but rose to the surface and coasted off downstream with an expression of pained surprise on his face that such advantage should be taken of him. The next day Papineau found the pen intact, forty rods below, and his hogship rooting in the mud as though nothing had happened. The loss in lumber to Mr. Terrill at Underhill Centre was not less than \$1,500. A number of landmark boulders weighing several tons could not afterwards be found.

In July, 1897, two days of almost continuous heavy rain caused much flooding in town. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, the morning mail train was able to go only as far east as Underhill, and washouts to the west prevented its return until the next day. Trains did not run through to Cambridge for another two days after that. Around Underhill, roads were washed out, bridges gone, and crops of all kinds ruined. One of William Pollard's barns was carried away, together with a lot of poultry.

Another disastrous flood struck on August 17, 1955, when a cloudburst caused by Hurricane Diane caused brooks on the side of Mount Mansfield to swell into raging torrents within moments, in turn filling the Brown's River to overflowing. Soon many roads were washed out in the Stevensville area and in Underhill Center, including four bridges, and it also flooded over Route 15 in Riverside. Stevensville was entirely cut off, and the Irish Settlement and Pleasant Valley could only be reached from Cambridge. It was two weeks before all roads were once again opened to travel.

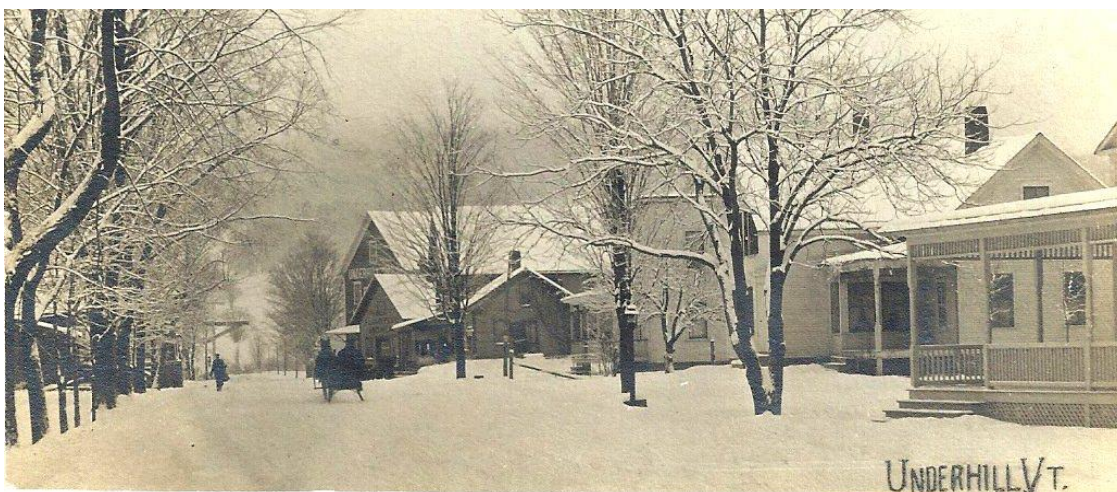




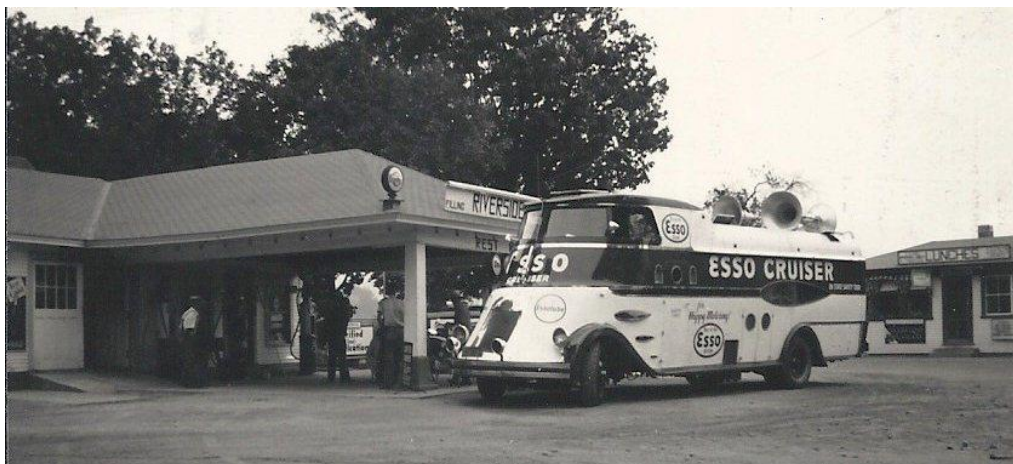
## Miscellaneous Underhill photos



Route 15, Underhill Flats, looking south toward the park from 409 Rt. 15, about 1910



Looking east from 6 Park Street, about 1910 – Underhill Mill in center distance



The Esso Cruiser at Earl Cross's garage in Riverside, 1930s  
Frank Machia's lunch room on right





**Underhill park – Dr. Burdick's house on left, Grange hall on right**



**B&L railroad tracks behind present day Jolley's store, Riverside**





**The Ward Family Band, from Riverside, played at many local venues**



**Route 15 looking north from the Brick Store, about 1915**





**Paving Route 15 in front of the Brick Store, 1936**



**Halfway House – June, 1867**





**Cars parked in meadow at 341 VT Rt. 15, Riverside, about 1954**



**Same view as above photo in 2011, now location of Jolley's store**

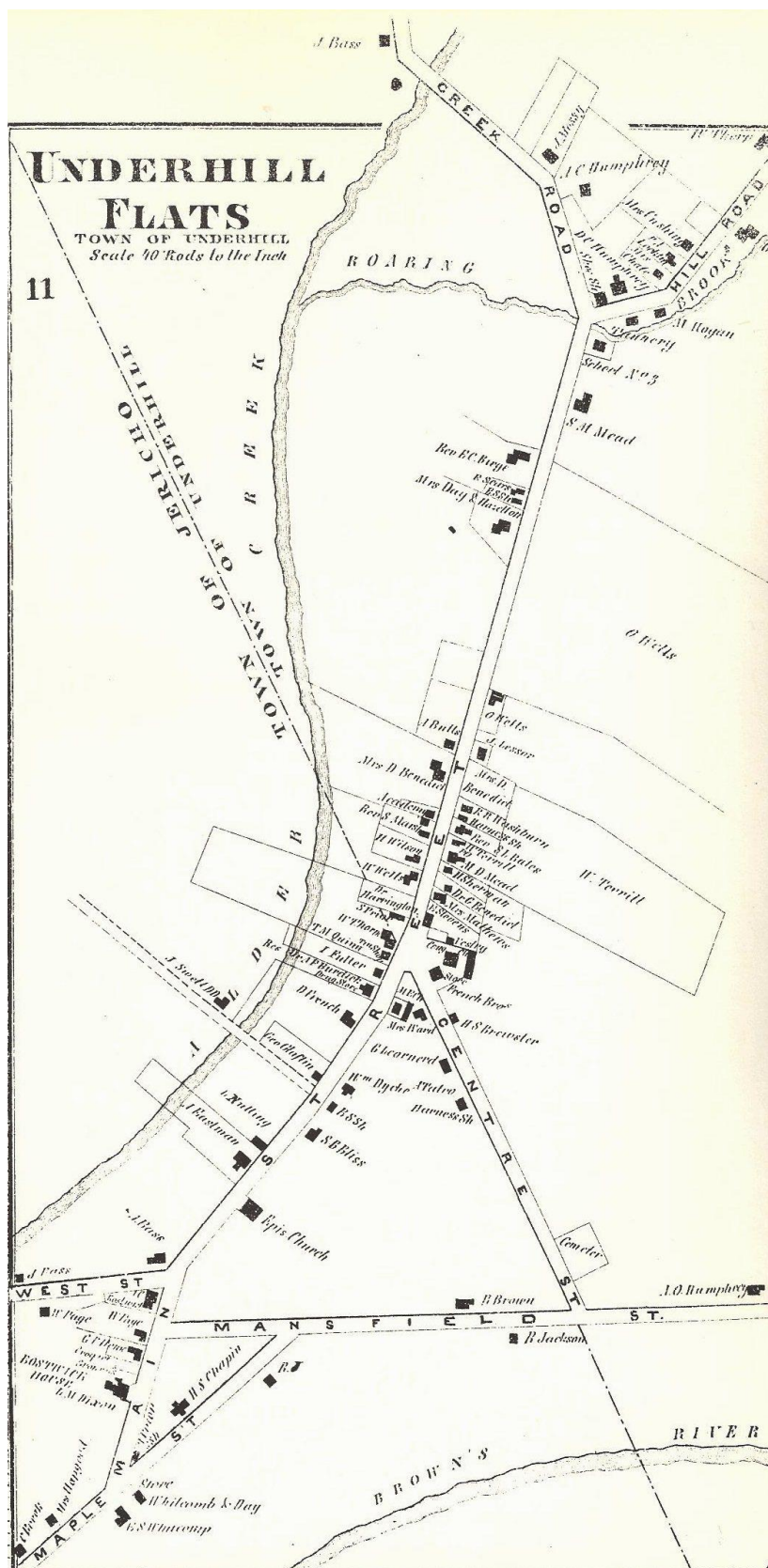




**Burlington & Lamoille train coming into Riverside from Jericho  
Route 15 in foreground, meadow is now the location of the Jolley store**



**Last run of the B&L at the Underhill station, June 16, 1938**



## Underhill Flats, 1869



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### **Interviews with/information from:**

Jeff Alexander  
Brenda Boutin  
Jerry Fox  
Dr. Mary Kintner  
Kathleen Lamphere  
Jane Maheux  
Bob Martelle  
Rick Middlebrook  
Diane St. Cyr  
David Villeneuve  
Sarah White