

EMILY A. FLYNN

Born June 20, 1889
Died March 9, 1968

The author, Emily A. Flynn, was the daughter of William and Joannae Shanley Flynn, who were among the very early settlers of The Irish Settlement in Underhill, Vermont.

She spent most of her life in Underhill and enjoyed a long and effective career as a teacher in the Underhill School System. She retired on July 1, 1959, after over a half century's service to the Community of Underhill. On that occasion, the School Board in a brief summary reported, "Miss Flynn's tremendous influence on the Town of Underhill through her teaching started many years ago, will continue as long as her many students have descendants."

HISTORY OF UNDERHILL, VERMONT

If you want Vermont in all her rustic beauty, let me take you to the foot of Mt. Mansfield. Here on the ~~eastern~~^{western} side of the mountain lies the town of Underhill. Underhill received its name from Benjamin Underhill, the principal grantee in the original charter, and not from its location under Mt. Mansfield as might be supposed.

Here amid the hills and valleys in the latter part of the 18th Century were built the log cabins of the Underhill pioneers. This territory was then, is now, and perhaps always will be, purely rural in its beauty.

We point with pride not only to the natural beauty of our town, but also to the fact of its being one of the original New Hampshire Grants. Underhill is a mountainous town in the northeastern part of Chittenden County on the western side of the state. It is bounded on the north by Cambridge, on the east by Stowe, on the south by Bolton, and on the west by Jericho and Westford.

In the year of 1763, Benning Wentworth, Royal Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, by His Excellency's (George the Third) command, with the advice of the Council granted to Benjamin Underhill and 61 associates, the township of Underhill consisting

of 23,040 acres of land, or approximately a tract six miles square; Said grant being signed by T. A. Atkinson, Land Secretary and recorded in Book of Charters on Pages 457 and 458. The following reserves were made:

Five hundred acres in the southeast ^{west} corner of the town for Benning Wentworth, being marked B. W. on the chart, which was to be considered as two shares. One share for The Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, one for a glebe for the Church of England, one for the first settled minister of the Gospel, and one for the benefit of the schools in said town.

For this grant one cent per acre was to be paid and one ear of Indian corn for a rental to be paid yearly on the 25th of December over a period of ten years. After this ten-year period had elapsed, each settler, inhabitant, or proprietor should pay one shilling proclamation money yearly on December 25th to an officer of the Council at Portsmouth.

The charter also prohibited the cutting of all white or otherwise Pine trees, which could be used for His Majesty's Navy, except when a license was obtained to cut these trees.

As soon as the town had fifty resident families within its boundaries, two fairs could be held and a market could be opened one or two days a week. But the settlers must do more than pay for their land, cultivation and improvement must be gotten under way. The charter also contained a stipulation saying that: Five acres out of every fifty must be put under

cultivation within a period of five years. Other improvements must be made or the settler would be liable to forfeiture. Each grantee was to be given one acre of land in the Center of the town.

On the 8th day of June 1765, in the town of Dorset, at the home of the Underhill brothers, an important meeting was held to make rules and regulations concerning the settlement of the town of Underhill which had been purchased by Joseph Sackett and several associates.

The first meeting of the proprietors of the Township of Underhill was called by John Shumway, a justice of the peace, and met at the residence of Abraham Underhill in Dorset, Sept. 12, 1785. At this meeting, Timothy Bliss served as proprietor's Clerk.

No settlement seems to have been made within the town's boundaries prior to the year 1786, nor had anything permanent been done about the matter of settlement. However, during that year, 1786, two families, the Eatons and the Benedicts, built their log houses and moved in as permanent settlers.

Elijah Benedict having had his property confiscated, having been a Tory, had been obliged to flee to Canada for the duration of the war. After peace was declared, he moved his family to Underhill Flatts, where he became a genial host in his well run Tavern. This old Benedict Homestead is still known as The Benedict Place and is still owned by the Benedict family.

Abner Eaton located on the Old Post Road - now called The

Hill Road, about half way between Underhill Flatts and Cambridgeboro. Here he built a log house and cleared enough land, some of which was beaver meadows, to keep a yoke of oxen and one cow.

Other people came in as time went on until five years later in 1791, Underhill had a population of sixty-five, while in 1800, the first census showed a count of two hundred twelve inhabitants.

The first Town Meeting was warned by Jonathan Castle, a justice of the peace, of Jericho and was held on the 9th day of March 1795 at the home of George Olds. The following is a list of the town officers elected:

Clerk - William Barney
Constable - Caleb Sheldon
Selectmen - Abner Eaton, Archibald Dixon, Cyrus Stevens
Listers - Luther Dixon, Dexter Ward, William Barney
Grandjuror - Bernard Ward
Tything man - Archibald Dixon
Surveyors of Highway - Ebenezer Brown, Dexter Ward

In 1794 William Barney was chosen as first Town Representative to the General Assembly.

Polly, daughter of Abner Eaton claims distinction as being the first baby born in Underhill on December 24, 1791.

The first death was that of Ira Button, who died April 25th, 1788.

The first schoolhouse was built of logs at North Underhill in 1787. Here also was built the first church in 1804. Here again the oldest cemetery in the town was located. Near this was

opened the first store in the town by a Mr. Campbell.

The first division survey of the town was made by William Dunton, surveyor. Two other division surveys were made, namely; the 2nd and 3rd. The first survey being made in 1785.

The first town meeting held in Underhill elected Daniel Clark, Caleb Sheldon and David Birge as Selectmen. This meeting was held at the home of David Birge at North Underhill. The warrants calling a Town Meeting were called Notifications and were sometimes posted by committees. The Town Meetings seemed to have been called at different times during the year, probably special ones. late
MAY

The first Town Meeting held at Underhill Center in the Free Will Baptist Church, commonly called the Meeting House, was held in 1833. There is record of two grand jurors at different times. There were two or three highway surveyors in the early days. Men were taxed to work on the highway so many days according to their grand list. A town meeting was called for them at different times. Strict order was kept in Town Meeting.

On the 27th of March 1799, the town clerk was commended for the excellent system of recording town records which he had used. This commendation is recorded in the town's records.

Prominent on the records of the town is the number of civil suits brought against the town by individuals. In the year of 1871, seven suits were pending against the town, three of which were settled out of Court, the other four being tried before the

town agent; one of these suits being brought for the injury done to a horse caused by an inefficiency of highway. ✓

Teacher's Certificates were recorded in Town Clerk's office after applicants had been duly examined in the orthography, reading, writing, geography, arithmetic and english grammar and having furnished evidence of good moral character. These certificates were granted for a period of one year.

Each sheep owner had his brand for identification of his sheep recorded in the town records in writings and drawings. ✓ These personal ear-marks were slits, holes, half-penny crop, half-crop, square crop, swallow tail, etc. The records show a closed season when hogs and sheep were not allowed to run at large. These records point to the fact that pastures were not fenced and that flocks ran together. ✓ It also seems to prove that hog growers allowed their hogs to roam in the open.

Several families were put out of the town by warrants issued by the selectmen to the constable to be served upon such a family to the effect that they were to leave town permanently. X

In the early years of our history of the town's poor, they were sold for so much a day, week, or month and for a certain period of time. The Town Records show:

Sale of Town's Poor.

Martin Mead bid Blind Betsey at 83 cents for the first three months and Jonah Palmer for the 2nd three months at 77 cents. Whether the "per" meant by the week or month, is not known. Bond servants were sold in the town; two children bound out until 21 ✓

in payment of a debt owed by their deceased father.

The grand list of the town in 1842 was \$2,089.68 - with 256 polls.

In September ¹⁸³⁹ ~~1862~~, a part of the town of Mansfield was added to that of Underhill. A meeting was held on the summit of Mt. Mansfield for this purpose. Stowe was to get the ^{eastern} ~~western~~ part of the town of Mansfield. The Underhill delegation were there but Stowe sent word to the effect that they were not interested. Not knowing which town owned the Summit House for many years, it was operated by an Underhill party one season and Stowe had it the next season. This condition existed there until much trouble was caused by hilarious young men getting hard liquor at the hotel and neither town having the jurisdiction to stop the sale of it or punish the offenders. Finally Stowe sent surveyors who surveyed the line ^{west?} ~~east~~ of the Summit House, thereby giving it to Stowe.

Mail was brought by stagecoach from Essex Junction to Underhill until the building of the Burlington and Lamoille Roadway in 1876, which was later taken over by the Central Vermont and discontinued three years ago. Underhill payed a heavy bonded debt to get the railroad, the first survey for the road going the full length of the town, but as a matter of fact, Underhill had the station and a few rods of railroad when it was finally built. Once again Underhill received its mail over the old stagecoach route where the auto truck has taken over the carrying of the mail, just as the railroad did from the stage coach.

Sections of the Town.

Underhill was clearly separated into different sections by its ranges of hills and valleys; each valley having its own name. The southeastern part was called by Governors Right, this being the five hundred acres set apart for Benning Wentworth. This is mostly a hilly region with its farms occupying the more level surface on the higher parts.

The Creek is the section leading from Underhill Flatts to Cambridgeboro, a valley somewhat more open than other parts of the town. Running parallel to the Creek is the section known as North Underhill, a hilly region with a high valley set between ranges of hills. This also leads from Underhill Flatts to Cambridgeboro. This section being the first center of the town is the most important historically.

Parallel to North Underhill, ^{east} west of Flynn Hill, lies the narrow valley with its steep slopes known as The Irish Settlement, a stretch of valley four miles long, primarily settled by Irish families. Again ^{east} west of Macomber Mountain and running parallel to the preceding sections is Pleasant Valley, a somewhat wider valley than the one directly east. The River ^{Brown's} extends from Underhill Flatts to Underhill Center, the widest valley in the town.

Beartown is in the southwestern ^{eastern} part of the town, a hilly region with its farms here and there, wherever any open surface is found.

Stevensville, Underhill's summer resort, is directly at the foot of Mt. Mansfield, a hilly section with little tillable land.

The Mountain Road which leads directly to Mt. Mansfield, by way of the State Camp is a steady ascent from the lower land in the valley.

Underhill is essentially a farming town with a few good river farms but mostly hill farms which are fast being abandoned. This fact, taken with the purchase of such a big part of the town by the Federal Government for a military range, helps to explain the decrease in population which has been so evident in our past history. However many other factors should be cited in explaining this decrease in population.

The Irish Settlement.

Back in the Homespun Age of Underhill, shortly after the close of the war of 1812, an ex-soldier, Timothy Burdick, a native of Rhode Island, having served his country for five years, wandered north into the new state of Vermont to make a home among its hills. Just how he came to attack the wilds of what was later called the Irish Settlement, is not known. That he was successful is a fact, for in a wilderness of virgin timber, primarily rock maple, he cleared the farm, part of which has been the Flynn Homestead for ninety years. Here, five miles from any civilization on his section of land, this sturdy self-reliant pioneer built far more than a log house; he built a home in which his children were born and reared. The frame house (the oldest house in the northeastern part of Underhill) built by him, the one still standing with its hand-hewn beams and hand-made nails, has defied the wear and tear of time and Southeasters for more

than a century.

Some years later, in another log house on this farm, lived the itinerant shingle-maker. During the cold winter with a shave, the only implement in his kit of tools, stacks and stacks of spruce shingles were turned out ready for sale. These too, have stood the ravages of time.

Today, on nearly every farm in the Irish Settlement, is found one or more partially filled cellars, somewhere on the hillside, on which stood the log houses, the homes of the Irish immigrants who settled here in the middle 1800's. Many evidences remain of the self-sufficiency of these early Irish settlers; the looms, spinning wheels, candle molds, the old ash churns, leach stones, the old boiling places, and others too numerous to mention, but in spite of, or for the reasons of such a rigorous life, many of these old settlers who perhaps did not live to be centenarians, had more than the ordinary span of life and lived on borrowed time for many years.

Another colorful character of this section was the carpenter, who built nearly every house throughout the Settlement. Here with a broadaxe and saw, he fashioned each new house, all made from the same plan, with absolutely no individuality whatever. How glad I am that our old homestead had been built before his arrival in the neighborhood. Even though no artist at architecture, he was clever at that. For a glass cutter, he used a point like a piece of stone taken from a hard rock, probably quartz. In his home and later in the home of his daughter, stood a corner

cupboard, truly a work of art, which had been fashioned by his hands and showed to its best the efficiency of his crude glass-cutting.

This region also boasted of having an artist in another line, by far and wide the most spectacular liar of the countryside. He had a niche all his own and his perfectly gorgeous fabrications have been closely interwoven in our folklore. It was a part of the life of the town to spend an evening a week in his home listening to his really good lies.

The log houses and the hospitality of the Irish pioneers have long since vanished, but their memory lives in the tales our forebears told us.

The English Settlement.

This part of the Town is separated from the Irish Settlement by Flynn Hill, and at one time had several good sized farms and commodious houses. On the hillsides and even far back in the woods are found the old cellars showing where the log houses stood. The first one built was on the William Burnett place which has been recently sold for a summer home. Some of the first settlers were: Thorpes, Langs, Jacksons, Storys, Metcalfs, and Kirby.

Joseph Kirby built his home on the road leading from North Underhill on what was known as Hedgehog Hill. In going from his home to Underhill Flatts, a distance of eight miles, Mr. Kirby had to take down eight pairs of bars.

Thomas Metcalf settled on a higher elevation and acquired a large territory of land and built what was then a big modern home.

This farm remained in the Metcalf family until recent years. The present owner, John Gagnon, tried ranching it for a couple of years, but was burned out, so his venture raising steers for beef came to naught.

A very few of the farms are still operated although not one of the original English settlers descendants remain where once lived the well-to-do citizens of the town.

Underhill Center and Thereabouts.

The quiet of the pleasing little hamlet of Underhill Center, lying on the lower western slope of Mt. Mansfield, is broken from time to time by the roaring thunder of big guns. This means maneuvers at the U. S. Artillery Range, the biggest range in the East and containing somewhere around 6,000 acres. The site of the Range was what was known as Beartown and Hutchville. The former received its name (I will let you use your imagination) while the latter was so-called for Jim Hutchinson, the owner of Hutch's sawmill. The Hutch Mill did a thriving business in its time using steam power and handling millions of feet of spruce timber.

Capt. N. M. Hanaford, a native of Enfield, N. H. was the first settler in this part of town, locating just above the white schoolhouse on the farm now owned by Mrs. Sadie Breen. He came to Underhill in the early 1800's and lived here until his death in 1862. He served as fifer and drum-major in the War of 1812.

The first postmaster was a Mr. Burbank, who built the Drury Home. Terrill's store was built at about this time. Here the

Terrill family have run a country store for considerably more than a century carrying everything from toothpicks to a shovel. Mr. D. L. Terrill operated a sawmill on the Brown's River near the village on the Bicknell Place.

In the village, a large dam furnished power for a flour, ^X cider and grist mill. A wheelwright and blacksmith shop also operated here. Farther up on the Brown's River toward the mountain, was the site of another saw mill.

¹⁸⁵⁰ The Freewill Baptist Church (the White Church) was built in 1836 and joined in union with the Methodist Society, ~~in 1850~~. For many years, it has had no settled pastor.

The village center is dominated by the Catholic Church, a beautiful Gothic structure of brick and unusually fine stained glass windows. This church was built in 1891, the former one, a wooden structure built in 1856, had been destroyed by fire. The first pastor was the Rev. Thomas Lynch, and the Rev. Joseph Dussault is the present one.

On the River Road between the Flatts and Center, on the Carl Mead farm was located the first home, made by Martin Mead in 1807. He had a family of ten children. He is the great-grandfather of the present owner of the farm.

Nearer the Flatts on the same road, Jason Rogers from Connecticut settled in 1800. His son, Abial Rogers, also settled near in 1808, and carried on the business of saddler for many years. He died at the age of 84. Hubbell A. Rogers, son of Abial,

took over the business.

At about this time, a religious sect, the Millerites, took root in Underhill. The followers of this sect, clinging to a belief that the world was coming to an end on a certain day in the year of 1853, put on their white robes and ascended the house tops to be taken up to Heaven. Mr. Rogers being somewhat of an opportunist, made good use of the episode to advertise his business. The following is a copy of his advertisement which was arranged colorfully and attractively:

The End is Not Yet.

The subscriber, believing that the world will not come to an end in 1853, but that 1853 will end on the last day of December next, and having of late embraced the "one idea" principle that every man must look out for himself, he has concluded to continue the business of:

Harness Making
and to spare no effort to please all who may favor him with their custom. You will find his shop one half mile west of Underhill Center.

To Farmers and Teamsters, Lumbermen all,
Who wish for such articles, give me a call;
I'll make you an easy and elegant saddle
As good as a clown or a king need to straddle;
A Lounge or a Sofa, a Trunk or Valise,
And Bridle well-bitted - one dollar a piece;
And harness too, with good tugs and collars
If not, by my honor, my name is not Rogers.
And carriages, too, with good setting boots,
And if well paid for, warranted to suit;
And whips nicely made, with snapper and lash,
For ready Joe Davis - the real, rattling cash,
Or anything else, almost,
Hides, Grain, Lumber and etc.
Taken in payment.

Underhill, June 20, 1853
H. A. Rogers.

Whether Mr. Rogers was well paid in business returned for this unique advertisement, I couldn't ascertain. However, he

seemed to prosper as to worldly goods but perhaps his business was already well established.

Stevensville, now an exclusive summer colony, in the shadow of Mt. Mansfield, had the first saw mill in town owned by Stevens and Hickok. This mill was situated on the Stevens Road River and received its power from a water-wheel. It was built between 1840 and 1845 and received the virgin spruce and maple from the slopes of Mt. Mansfield. Luther Stevens built the house which is now "The Shannons," (George Meech) run by the Shannons and a very lovely summer place. Mr. Stevens built up a good business, as testified by the fact of the small section having about forty houses, a church and a schoolhouse at that time, where there are now only two permanent resident families.

Here also was found a firkin business operated by Matthew de LaPorte, (commonly known as Matthew Dorr) who made tubs by hand, mostly for butter containers and pork barrels. The heart of the spruce was used for the tubs, kiln dried before cutting into specific lengths. The staves were shaped and polished by a small hand-manipulated machine or tool. The hoops were notched and interlocked. Another tool was used to fashion the chime. For each tub, Mr. Dorr received fifty cents delivered to the farmer's door.

On the farms where stood the houses of the farmers and lumbermen are now found the cabins and cottages of the summer residents. One beautiful log cabin, the summer home of the late Dr. John M. Wheeler of New York and Underhill, graces one of the

hillsides. The guest house, with its early American furnishings, has an ideal setting on rocks jutting out over the Stevens River. Above the guest house is a made swimming pool and nearby are tennis courts. This setting is quite typical of other cottages on the surrounding hills.

The mountain road has also lost most of its residents. From a narrow rocky road, with wood poles forming the roadbed in many places, it has been made into an excellent dirt road, deeply surfaced with gravel, wide enough for two cars. This road improvement has been done by C.C.C. labor as well as the development of the State Park through which it runs.

Near the half-way house, in the vicinity of the Tear Drop Ski Trail, stood one of the town's first schools. Here in a little log schoolhouse, Miss Mary S. Breen began her teaching career at the advanced age of 13. She continued to teach in the town schools and at one time was the Town Superintendent of Schools.

At the state forest park, the road becomes a toll road. Here you will find a caretaker, who religiously enforces all rules. The tent floors, lean-to's, fireplaces, tables, and all other accommodations make it an ideal spot for camping, a picnic, or an outing of any sort. As you stand on the top of one of the ridges and listen to the music of the little river play its same tune over and over again, you understand why Robert Louis Stevenson called Vermont, "a land of 'little rivers' ".

Underhill Flatts.

The village of Underhill lies along a level plain, the main

part being centered around a small tree-studded triangle, the village park surrounded by stores, homes, and a small church with a shuttered belfrey and tower. This little church is the oldest one in the village; a sort of continuation of the First Congregational Church at North Underhill. The Episcopal Church stands at the lower end of the village and the Methodist Church is in between. Three grocery stores, Rice's operated by Parker Rice; the I.G.A. by Frank Simpson, and Kirby Bros. run by Archie Kirby with the Underhill Garage owned by Elwood Clark and a Funeral Home, make up the business section of the village. A modern volunteer Fire Department has its headquarters on the Main Street. Effie's Lunch is the one and only eating place in the village.

In 1741, in New Bedford, Conn. was born one Elijah Benedict, who in the year of 1786 settled in what is now this village, on the farm still known as the Benedict Place. Mr. Benedict had formerly lived in Pawlet, but had lost his property there by confiscation, as he was a Tory, and had been obliged to flee to Canada, where he remained until peace was declared. Part of the frame house which he built still stands and is still owned by the Benedict family.

In 1807, Simeon M. Mead, son of Martin Mead, settled at the foot of Poker Hill.

Jonas Humphrey, another early settler, located a short distance from the Mead home, where still stands the Humphrey Homestead.

Chauncey Graves located a few miles from the village on the Creek Road towards Cambridge, on the place now owned by William Weatherbee.

At the foot of Poker Hill on Roaring Brook, stood a tannery owned by Leonard Dixon. Here the hides were made into leather for farmers of the surrounding areas. A short way above this tannery, a large dam was built on the turbulent stream, to furnish water power for a starch factory owned by Tower and Oaks, where large quantities of starch was manufactured until 1850.

After the building of the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad in 1877, a saw mill was operated here which made clapboards and shingles. Five million feet of lumber was shipped from the railroad station in one year, some of which came from two other mills in town.

The Bell Institute was once a flourishing school having about 100 pupils and was rated as one of the best of the old-fashioned Vermont Academies.

Old timers on the Creek Road were: Josiah Bass, Issac Austin, Tillotson, Prior, McVey, Robinson and Irish. Mr. Robinson was the keeper of the Old Tavern where he dispensed hospitality and good rum.

Among the physicians who have practiced medicine in this village and town, was a Dr. Fish, the town's first doctor who wrote a poem about Underhill, "The Enchanted Vale." No fragment of it remains, it was probably never published. Dr. Fish located here

in 1805. In spite of the healthful climate, doctors seemed to have found it a good place to practice; perhaps for the reason that health laws were the last thing considered for Underhill has had one or more doctors throughout its years. In the list we have: Hiram G. Benedict, A. C. Welch, H. Burroughs, Samuel Dow, Jesse May, G. W. Roberts, Darwin Roberts, and Drs. C. P. Newton, Petty, Prentiss, A. L. Fogg, Hunt, Andrews, Burdick, Rogers, W. S. Nay and R. D. Towne. Most of these M.D.'s were horse and buggy doctors. Dr. W. S. Nay, who was for 36 years Secretary of the State Medical Board, and is the oldest living Past Master of the Masonic Order, resides in Underhill but in the town of Jericho. He owns and operates the Underhill Drug Store and though not far from 90 years of age, is still very active. Dr. Towne is the resident doctor at this time.

North Underhill

North Underhill is the center of the earliest events in connection with the settlement of the town. In 1786, Abner Eaton received the first deed to land in Underhill, situated on the Old Post Road, half way between Cambridge and Underhill comprising the farms now owned by John Mable and Fred McClellan. Mr. Eaton chose this high spot for his home in preference to the lower valleys, because here, on beaver meadows was enough wild grass to feed his stock, a yoke of oxen and one cow. Mr. Eaton's example of settling on the height of land was soon followed by others of his time. Col. Udney Hay settled on what is known as the Jackson Farm, shortly after the close of the Revolutionary War. George Olds, Caleb Sheldon, Barnard Ward, David Birge, Oliver Wells, Chauncey Graves and Colonel Dixon soon came to this part of the town to settle.

Here the first child was born in the town, the first town meeting was held, the first church, school, tavern and store were built.

The schoolhouse was built in 1787 and the church in 1804. The first Town Meeting was held in 1794 at the home of David Birge. In this same year, William Barney was elected the first Town Representative.

The first child born in town was Nancy, daughter of Caleb Sheldon on the 20th of September 1787. The first birth recorded in the town records is that of Polly, daughter of Abner Eaton born Dec. 24, 1791. The first death was that of Ira, son of Benjamin Button, who died Apr. 25, 1788.

Near the church was the old parade ground, 12 rods wide and 50 feet long having at the south end the majestic whipping post. A short distance away was David Birge's Tavern, the John Woodruff Place. Not far from the parade ground was the store operated by a Mr. Campbell, who sold his business to William Birge. The same building housed the first postoffice of the town with William Birge as the first postmaster. The mail was brought from Essex Junction by stage coach.

Here is found the old burying ground. The old tomb stones with their beautiful engravings and strange inscriptions bear dates prior to 1800. A tall marble shaft, the only one, marks the grave of John C. Ball. On the Jackson lot, four flags guard the graves of Albert, William and Lysander Jackson, three brothers who served their country in the Civil War; and Cpl. S. E. Jackson, a member of Co. A. 2nd Vt. Infantry. Many graves are marked by ordinary stones from the nearby fields bearing no inscriptions. In this little cemetery, you may find a humble marker to one of the town's earliest important men, Col. Udney Hay, who is supposed to be buried here.

Here was the first of everything but time has upset all the cherished plans of our ancestors. The meeting house has long since vanished without leaving so much as a trace of ruin; the whipping post uprooted and the Green, the pride of patriotic lads and lasses, fenced in for a ploughfield. Nothing remains as it was planned by our town fathers, save the old First Congregational burying ground. "The dead rest there alone."

One interesting old inscription on field stone says:

"Think of me as you pass by,
As you are now, once was I,
As I am now, so will you be,
Prepare thyself to follow me."

Col. Udney Hay

Col. Hay, an educated Scotchman, settled at North Underhill soon after the close of the Revolutionary War on what is commonly known as the Jackson farm. He represented the town from 1798 to 1804 and was one of the Council of Censors in 1806 at the time of his death. From state papers, we learn that in 1780 he was Department Commissary General for the Northern Department of the Continental Army; and had received an appointment from the Continental Commissary General to purchase provisions in the New Hampshire Grants. His application to Gov. Chittenden was refused upon the basis of the state refusing to be termed "the New Hampshire Grants." Nevertheless, Col. Hay got the beef and other supplies. He is described in Vol. II Governor and Council, as a "gentleman and imposing man rather of the Matthew Lyon cast." He was opposed to the Constitution and to the administrations of Washington and John Adams and remained a politician to the end.

Lieutenant Colonel Luther Dixon

The most outstanding resident of Underhill in the early times was Col. Dixon, another settler at North Underhill. During the war of 1812, he was in command of a force of Vermont militia at Plattsburgh. Upon receiving orders from Gov. Chittenden to return home

with the militia, he refused to obey the order and had Chittenden's messenger flogged. On a vigorous protest sent by the Vermont Officers to Gov. Chittenden, Dixon's name stood first and foremost. Naturally these actions on the part of Dixon were not received kindly by the Governor; and the Colonel was forced to pay a fine of one thousand dollars after being convicted by a court for the flogging. Two or three attempts were made in his behalf in the Vermont Legislature for reimbursement, but met with no success. The matter was taken before Congress to meet the same fate. Col. Dixon was the father of Dr. L. J. Dixon of Milton, one of the most prominent physicians of Northern Vermont and featured in "Memoirs of a Small Town Surgeon" by Dr. J. B. Wheeler. Another son was L. M. Dixon, proprietor of the Dixon House, a noted summer hotel in Underhill. A daughter, Susan married I. C. Bostwick of Jericho. Col. Dixon held many offices in town and was liked by all who knew him. He moved to Milton in 1834 and built a lovely old house, a little of its beauty remains, on the farm now owned by L. J. Rowley. There he died and was buried in that town.

Gay H. Narramore

Gay H. Narramore, a New York City lawyer, has immortalized Underhill in his two poems, "Mt. Mansfield" and "Underhill in December." The author was a descendant of the North Underhill Narramores.

Early Life, Social and Otherwise.

If it be true, as says the proverb, that an idle man's brains

are the devil's workshop, he could have had no truck with our early settlers. Time - what is time? Poor Richard said, "It is the stuff life is made of." It is the opportunity to do good or evil. These people, to be sure spent time in eating drinking and sleeping, but they did not make it the business of their lives. After a hard day long spent in doing whatever kind of work that had to be done, it is doubtful if a hard pillow kept them from sleep.

The social life seems to have a winter emphasis, this being due to the slack season for farmers at that time. For the women, we find the usual round of amusements, here as in most any town around about. Hospitality - the real stuff, giving gladly of what you might have, was the keynote of these peoples lives. With the latchstring always out, time was for them an opportunity to do good. There was evil done to be sure, but facts are facts; in the year 1857, Underhill had no state criminals. I am making no statement as to what the present statistics would show. All day visits, not merely afternoon calls, were made, quiltings in the afternoon with the usual quilt shaking after the men had come in the evening, raisings, another combination of labor and fun, corn huskings, followed by a kitchen dance, and why mention the others?

Among the Irish, weddings and funerals were important events - and I really think the latter one was to a certain degree social, especially the wakes - and surely an Irish wedding was a big event. The church ceremony was attended by everyone, followed by an elaborate dinner, and sometimes a supper, and then the all-night dance.

No honeymoon for the happy couple; the money, if any they had, wasn't to be spent on such goings-on.

The two big days of the year, the days that overshadowed all others, were Election Days, Town Meeting and Freeman's Meeting. Though a matter of politics, they created more social life among the town's people than anything else that could possibly happen.

Democrats and Republicans were about fifty-fifty and the floating vote went to whoever got to them first. Electioneering by the two candidates for town representative meant getting their campaign under way as soon as the haying season was over. The candidates canvassed the town from door to door, shook hands with the ladies; kissed all the babies and must have had a grand time. The secret meetings held in the dark hours of the night, thrills to be remembered and talked over until the next candidate was making his rounds two years hence.

The mad excitement of Election Day has never been overshadowed by any other town event. Men of each party driving miles to bring in a vote for their man, and woe be unto the one who might be suspected of being the cutthroat that cast the deciding vote, he was ostracised for life.

Another form of controversy added its share to the sociability of the town. Underhill supported two lawyers, who made a good living. Almost any day a man could find an afternoon's entertainment by dropping in at the lawyer's office, where he was sure to find a justice court in session. In the old records, suits brought by individuals against the town are prominent. At one time seven

of such suits were pending. Lawsuits over boundary lines between farms were often fought to the bitter end. No explanation of this condition of affairs presents itself, unless it was general at that time.

Industries.

Farming was the chief industry in town, as it is now, but lumbering was done on a big scale for many years. Dairy products ✓ and potatoes were the cash crops.

Before the building of the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad, the potatoes were converted into starch. ✓ After the railroad furnished transportation, 15,000 bushels were shipped from Underhill in one year.

A local cheese factory consumed much of the milk produced. This factory was discontinued about 1850 when it was possible to find a city market for butter.

In old papers, in the possession of one of the old families, we find that scientific methods were used to produce a bigger crop. Crushed bone, ashes and plaster were used as fertilizer by this farmer. He also cites the fact of his increased production in amount and that he had advised his neighbors to try a smaller more intensive method of farming. He speaks of feeding carrots to his horse to take the place of grain, and of boiling fallen and decayed apples for his hogs.

A friend tells of her great grandmother using the yolk of eggs to color butter and she was reputed to be the best buttermaker in the country around.

A letter written in 1821 by a Mr. June Melvin, then 91 years old, one of the early settlers in Pleasant Valley, to his daughter, relates how he sent his son to the neighborhood's carpenter to bargain for his coffin. It was to be made of spruce boards, painted with lamp black and was to cost three dollars.

In 1867, Underhill had a population of 1,637. Today, the count shows 765. Many factors have helped to bring this decrease in population about. Summer residents have begun to pick up some of the abandoned hill farms. More power to them; I hope they keep coming.

This ends some of the crude facts snatched from the fast-fading records of the past.

Underhill Church History.

The pioneers of Underhill were dignified, grave, and manly in their bearing towards their fellowmen, yet humble and devout before God; and by their generous deeds and Christian lives, planted faith in this locality.

The first church in Underhill was at North Underhill near the old Congregational burying ground. The following copy of an excerpt from the records of the Rev. James Parker, first resident minister of the town, gives the date of organization of said church. It reads thus:

"Be it remembered that on ye 29th day of December, in ye year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and one, a number of believers were formed into a church by ye advice and assistance of ye Rev. Ebenezer Kinsbury of the First Church of Jericho."

Following this were the Covenants and Articles of Faith and Practice, which were agreed to by the church. Fourteen persons, an equal number of men and women subscribed to them and thus organized a church of Christ in Underhill. The following were the 14 members:

Males: Adam Hurlburt, Gerard Dixon, George Olds, Cary Mead, Heman Prior, John Coleman, Daniel Clark.

Females: Eleanor Dixon, Judith Mead, Abigail Birge, Rachell Ward, Lydia Dixon, Permit Prior, Eusebia Mead.

On Nov. 22, 1803, a meeting was held at the home of Benjamin Parker and Mr. James Parker was chosen as pastor and at a subsequent meeting at the home of Bernard Ward, Jan. 6, 1804, Jerard Dixon and Cary Mead were chosen deacons.

This church was used until 1837 when it was partly demolished by wind and about a year after, was moved from its commanding situation on the highest point of land on the hill road, to a position about a mile north, where it stood until destroyed by fire some years later.

Previous to the establishment of this church in 1801, there were only five churches in Chittenden County; two other churches were added to the list the same year.

The portions of the town first settled were the Flatts, over the hill to Cambridge and up Brown's River to the Center. This was the field in which the church began its work. The doings of the church in all its earlier years as well as those which have

followed, seems to have been characterized by order and system. Whenever the church was left without a pastor, standing moderators were chosen for its meetings from its members or from pastors from neighboring churches.

No less than 18 cases of discipline were cited, some for very trivial offenses where a public confession of unfaithfulness to their vows was made by the offenders. These people, no doubt had a conscience against indifference which gives the impression that church membership means little else than placing the name upon the church roll and bodes no good to the individual himself or to the church and community.

Mr. Parker though a faithful pastor and greatly beloved by his people, was dismissed in 1812 because of his suspected political views. He could never again be induced to preach in town again, even while visiting here.

The Rev. Nathaniel B. Dodge was the second pastor whose salary was \$200.00, for one-half of his time to be paid in neat cattle on the 1st of October or in grain on the 1st of January each year. The other half of the time he was to have the privilege of preaching elsewhere; though he must not at any time be absent for a longer period than two weeks without permission. By his efforts, a Sunday School was established in 1818, which has continued to work to the present time. Mr. Dodge tendered his resignation in 1820, giving as his reason the meager salary.

To settle a dispute which had existed for some time over the location of a place of worship, a second Congregational Church was built on the River Road near the house now occupied by Edward Bashaw,

in the hopes of drawing the people from the Center and dividing the meetings between that place and the hill. This church built in 1827 was never completed though it was for some time occupied. It was afterward moved to Underhill Center and was the old grist mill located on Brown's River near the bridge.

This was under the ministry of the Rev. Septimius Robinson, who stayed but a few years.

Disturbing factors again crept in and caused the dismissal of the Rev. Phineas Kinsley. This time it was the inconsistent course of some church members attending the preaching of a man, a deposed minister, and had received the Lord's Supper at his hands. This man's influence had left Mr. Kingsley without his salary. The Rev. Samuel Kingsbury, E. B. Baxter, Orville G. Wheeler, Norris Day, A. J. Sampson, and William B. Robinson, followed in quick succession as pastors.

From 1843 to 1856, the Rev. Simeon Parmalee, Father Parmalee, who lived to be one hundred years and twenty days old, carried the church through more storms. In 1838, the present location of the church edifice became the state point of worship.

The People in the north part of the town withdrew and formed the North Church and continued until 1879, when it was reunited with the mother church. Another disturbing factor was Millerism, but Mr. Parmalee straightened out the difficulties and again they were a united and harmonious church. In April 1845, the church was destroyed by fire, and funds were raised and a new edifice

built under the pastorate of Mr. Parmalee. He was followed by the Revs. Charles F. Halsey, Hubbard Winslow and Otto S. Hoyt.

In 1856, another split came in the congregation, caused by a few of its most valued members following the teachings of an excommunicated minister. For a time, their services were held in the Old Academy building. By the persuasive preaching of the Rev. Dr. Worcester of Burlington and the labors of Dr. Parmalee, who had returned for a second ministry, the breach was healed and peace restored. Since then, the church has pursued its work in Christian harmony and forbearance.

The First Congregational Society was formed for the support of the gospel under the Rev. James Parker. How long it functioned cannot be ascertained. In 1838, the Second Congregational Society of Underhill and vicinity was formed, which has had the financial interests as their care. The Ladies Dime Society also worked for improvements of church property and the care of the cemetery. From 1863 until 1871, the congregation was in charge of the Rev. S. L. Bates.

The present minister is the Rev. Dr. William Cashmore of Jericho, under whose direction the cemetery has been enlarged and made into an attractive spot for loved ones to be laid at rest.

The ministers of the church since 1871 have been as follows: E. P. Stone, 1871-75; A. J. Rogers, 1875; J. D. Emerson, 1876-83; J. K. Williams, 1885-88; H. T. Barnard, 1889-91; Clarence Pile, 1891-95; R. H. White, 1895-99; George M. Rees, 1899-1901.

St. Thomas Church
(Catholic) Ecclesiastical History

There seems to be no record of the exact date of the first Catholic settlement in Underhill. It is certain, however, that Catholics were living here as early as 1833. During this year, Fr. Jeremiah O'Callaghan visited this section for the first time and said mass in a home but the record does not state where. Stations of the Cross were held from time to time at the home of Michael Barrett in the Irish Settlement on the farm now owned by James Barry.

By 1846, the following Catholic families had settled within the town: Barrett, Cavanagh, Cale, Doran, Doon, Duffy, Eagan, Fay, Flynn, Fitzsimmonds, Green, Gaffney, Hannon, Hoban, Humphrey, Hynes, Leddy, Marlow, Morris, Murphy, McCaffrey, McCoy, McElroy, McGrath, McQuinnon, McKenna, Papineau, Quinlan, Reynolds, Russell, Sweeney, Wall, Adrian, Gill, McManus, Reavey, Brewin, Burns, Kelley, Waugh, Quinn, McGowan and others. This influx of Irish gave rise to the question of building a church. Naturally each neighborhood argued that theirs was the proper location for such a structure. To lend strength to their arguments, one acre of land on a sandy knoll on the Pleasant Valley highway was given by Patrick Doran for a site for a Catholic Church and cemetery.

This lot was used as a cemetery and today is in a shameful state of neglect. Two years later, the Settlement people moved by a like desire to have the church near them, deeded one acre of land for a church and cemetery to the Rev. Fr. Jeremiah O'Callaghan

and successors. No further attempts were made to erect a church on either lot. The latter lot was also used as a cemetery but has been filled for fifty years or more. This old cemetery receives some attention, is well fenced, and is mowed every year.

From the year of 1833 up to 1853, Stations were held and Mass offered in many houses in different parts of the parish.

Six days after the arrival of the Rt. Rev. Louis de Goesbriand, D.D., the first Bishop of the diocese of Burlington, in Burlington, he was driven to Underhill by Colonel Fletcher, Mary Fletcher's father, in his own carriage. At Underhill Flatts, some citizens interested in the real estate business, tried to induce the Bishop to purchase a site for the new church. Finding few Catholics there, he went on to the "Union" as Underhill Center was then called, which he found to be more centrally located. The following day Bishop de Goesbriand offered Holy Mass in the home of William McElroy, now the summer home of Dewey T. Hanley. A large gathering of between 70 and 80 persons received Holy Communion on this occasion. Later Mass was said in the then flourishing Green Mountain Academy.

In July 1854, on the site of where the church now stands, Mass was celebrated at an improvised altar inside the kitchen door of the house of Martin Flannery. Humbling kneeling by the roadside, the assembled Catholics offered their supplications and thanksgivings to God.

The same day, \$1,250.00 was subscribed towards a new church;

a good round sum for those days, and on Aug. 3, 1854, the spot where the outdoor Mass had been celebrated became the property of these faithful worshipers.

Upon Bishop de Goesbriand's return from a visit to Rome, the following year, he brought with him the Rev. Thomas Lynch, who became entrusted with the mission of Underhill. A new church costing \$1,000.00 was blessed by Bishop de Goesbriand on Dec. 14, 1856.

The local baptismal record was opened Oct. 31, 1855, when Father Lynch baptised five children and said Mass in the home of Martin Flynn; one of the children was Elizabeth Flynn, aunt of this author.

From 1859 to 1861, Underhill was attended in turn by Fathers James Quinn, F. Picart, and George Caissy. In 1861, Father Jerome Cloarec took charge of Underhill, but Father Caissy returned and was succeeded by Father Dennis A. Ryan. In 1865, Underhill was attached to Richmond as a mission, and so remained until 1872, with Father Patrick O'Carroll, as rector.

In 1867, the church was enlarged by a length of 25 feet at a cost of \$800.00 and there was also bought a small house and barn. This site is now occupied by the rectory.

In October 1872, Father Peter Savoie was appointed the first resident rector of Underhill which then became a parish with Hyde Park attached as a mission.

The rectory was repaired at a cost of \$1,980.00. In May 1873, a tract of land was purchased for a cemetery. Two different pieces

of land had been added to the original purchase making the cost \$1,326.00.

Father Savoie was succeeded in October 1877 by Father Joseph Kerlidou. He purchased a lot where the horse sheds stood, a few of them still remain. The Rev. M. J. Carmody came in May 1878, and remained for two years. From 1880 until 1881, Father John S. Michaud, later Bishop of Burlington, attended the parish.

Father Magloire Pigeon moved to Underhill in 1881, and again the church was enlarged at a cost of \$2,000.00. After the death of Father Magloire Pigeon, the parish was attended by Father J. M. Coathuel of the Cathedral in Burlington. Fathers Francis Yvinec and John Galligan followed on. Again the parish became a mission attended by Father Andrew J. Barron of Richmond, and Hyde Park was dropped as a mission.

In May 1889, Father James D. Shannon came to Underhill. On Dec. 19, 1890, the church was completely razed by fire. Mass was held in the Old Green Mountain Academy for the following year.

In 1891, a new wood structure, brick veneered and trimmed with Bennington limestone was erected. It has a basement dining hall, kitchen and stage. The church itself is very solidly built and tastily executed. Its excellent stained glass windows are the work of the New York firm of John Morgan and Sons.

The cornerstone was laid in 1891 and December in 1892 found the church ready for occupancy. The main altar was given by the rector.



In 1895, a bell weighing twenty-nine hundred pounds was placed in the tower.

The Church was dedicated on Sept. 23, 1895, by Bishop Michaud. This structure seats four hundred and cost \$21,399.00.

In 1899, Father Shannon was succeeded by the Rev. Jerome Gelot, ^{Peelmont Jay} James Penders, Joseph Therien, Joseph E. Pariseau, Arthur Griffin, Lawrence W. Mann, Michael Costello and the present rector, Father Joseph Dussault.

Methodist Church

The Methodist Church at Underhill Flatts was built in 1858. This church was in union with the Free Will Baptist Church at Underhill Center.

The Rev. J. C. Wells as Presiding Elder had charge of the first quarterly conference for Underhill Circuit and reports the following officers:

Rev. Benjamin Cox, Circuit Preacher

Rev. J. S. Howland, Local Preacher

T. S. Mears, Exhorter

Luther Brown, John Story, William H. Witcomb, O. G. Gleason,

John Lee, James Bent, J. H. Fairchild, E. Hatch, Leaders.

S. M. Mead, Hiram Day, Reuben Lee, Nathaniel Haniford and

Hiram Martin, stewards. J. C. Goodhue was also steward later.

A negotiating committee on parsonage property was appointed.

The preacher's salary and costs of the church furniture was apportioned to several localities. The total for the preacher's salary

was \$600.00.

A part of the time two preachers were employed appearing successively, the names of William A. Hude, B. F. Livingston, G. A. Silverstein and N. M. Learned appear. J. S. Howland acted as local preacher for a number of years.

The roll of preachers from 1858 to the present time is here given: Benjamin Cox, 1858; A. H. Honsinger, 1859 a well-beloved preacher; Albert B. Truax, 1861 of rare social qualities; Elisha B. Haff, 1863; C. F. Garvin, 1865; D. Austin 1867; John Lawrence, 1868; J. E. Kimball, 1869; A. S. Cooper, 1869 held frequent revivals; James H. Hale, 1870 asthmatic but able to preach; S. Chartier, 1871; J. Halpenny, 1872; D. P. Bragg, 1874; Seymour C. Vail, 1877; Joseph W. Guernsey, 1880; C. E. Scott, 1883 to South America as Missionary; A. B. Riggs, 1885; Lucien E. Taylor, 1888; Charles M. Stebbins, 1891; H. F. Reynolds, 1893; Sidney S. Brigham, 1895; D. C. Thatcher, 1898; Caleb P. Taplin, 1900 died in the harness, 44 years in the ministry; O. L. Barnard, 1903; A. H. Sturgess, 1908-1916; R. A. Mercer, 1932; A. E. Schoff, 1933; L. C. Dibble, 1936; J. A. Dunlop, 1938; A. B. Squires, 1940-41.

The church built in 1858 was destroyed by fire in 1906 and the present edifice was then built. The value of this church is estimated at \$3,000.00.

The increase in numbers of his flock to double caused one of the above clergymen to say:

"Underhill has attained an attitude spiritually which repudiates its name."

Calvary Episcopal Church

The Calvary Episcopal Church of Riverside was consecrated June 18, 1857, by Bishop John Henry Hopkins, D.D.

Before this, from 1842, ministers of this denomination held services in the Congregational Church for their followers.

In 1843, Bishop Hopkins records having confirmed five persons and reporting nine families, and the lay delegate at the convention was Orville Shaw.

In 1845, Arthur Bostwick was serving as lay reader. The services were morning prayer, reading of a sermon, and catechism for the children. Two years later, the number of families had increased to eleven.

The church cost \$2,200.00, seated one hundred and the seats were free. The erection of the edifice was due largely to the labors of the Rev. S. B. Bostwick. Soon after the consecration of the church, the Rev. W. C. Hopkins, son of the Bishop, officiated as rector semi-monthly. The largest number of families being twenty in 1877. The Rev. J. Isham Bliss followed from 1858 to 1862.

In 1868, the Rev. Josiah Swett, D. D. was officiating a part of the time and on other Sundays lay-reading called the people together. In 1868, the rector received \$400.00 as salary.

From 1876 to 1901, the Rev. Gemont Graves, who resided in Burlington, served as missionary to this church. During that time,

services were held from one to three times a month, quite dependent upon summer visitors. No one is reported in charge of the church since 1901.

In 1860, a complete communion service was presented by Ladies of St. James Church, Fort Edward, N.Y. In 1882, St. Paul's Church in Burlington, gave a lectern and two prayer desks, and later prayer books and other gifts came from the same source.

In 1877, a small organ was procured and in 1899, a memorial window for Mrs. Dr. Winslow of Staten Island, N.Y. was placed.

The following names of officers appear upon the diocesan records:

Rufus Brown, William Thorpe, S. B. Bliss, O. R. Brown,
Mrs. G. B. Bliss, Mrs. S. F. B. Wells, Ira Hawley,
L. C. Stevens.

The church is a wooden structure and the churchyard is enclosed by a wrought iron fence.

Early Education

Schools

As mentioned before, the first school in Underhill was a log schoolhouse at North Underhill. Another school of the early years was on the Mountain Road, not far from the Halfway House. In the Irish Settlement, the log schoolhouse was succeeded by a bark-covered one. Finally fourteen little red schoolhouses and fourteen school mam's or school masters (some of them twenty years of age), taught the infants the usual round of the three R's and other subjects as they were added on to the school curriculum.

Female teachers seemed to be in demand for the summer terms, but men teachers held forth during the winter. Poor buildings, equipment, lighting and heating facilities were to be found in the schoolhouses. The old box stove furnished heat for one side, while the other side waited to be baked. Hence the expression "half-baked."

A chair, a teacher's desk, and a broom were considered indispensable to the schoolroom, but as late as 1870, you would search in vain for a map, globe, or dictionary in any of the schools. These luxuries were too expensive to be enjoyed.

In the old town reports, we find the superintendent's personal remarks about each teacher - some very edifying - some not quite so.

As early as the year of 1870, the idea of centralization was being advocated by a town superintendent. The average cost of each pupil's school per year was two dollars. Three hundred and sixty pupils attended the town schools that year.

The decrease in population as well as the idea of centralization reduced the schools in town to three one-room, and one two-room rural schools. Distance has hindered a more consolidated centralization. Dist. No. 3 the Underhill High School and Grades in the Incorporated School District at Underhill Flatts, is not rated as a town school.

The Green Mountain Academy, one of Vermont's old-fashioned academies was a flourishing school at Underhill Center, drawing many pupils from the surrounding towns. ✓

In the present town hall, Mr. Joseph S. Cilley, A.M., as

principal of this academy was said to have done more for the educational interests of the community than any other man. His pupils found from Maine to California remembered him with gratitude and affection. With his only aids, text books and a vigorous mind, he excelled those of greater advantages. The following is a flyer for this academy:

Green Mountain Academy

This Institution, established during the past year, is located at Underhill Center. The First Term of the School commenced on the 29th of November last, and the Trustees have great pleasure in saying that, thus far, it has been attended with eminent success. The Spring Term will commence on Monday, the 28th of February instant, under the charge of J. S. Cilley, Principal, who will secure such assistance as the interest of the School may require. He has already engaged the services of Miss Mary Woodworth, Teacher of Music; and the Miss Charlotte Safford, Teacher of Painting and Drawing; and Mr. C. B. Curtis, Teacher of Penmanship. The Principal designing to promise no more than he intends to perform, would merely give assurance that every exertion will be made to promote the interest of all who may be placed under his charge; and would apprise all who may favor with their attendance that they will find the School Room a place for "labor" and "toil". Believing the School worthy of public confidence, we respectfully solicit for the Institution continued and extended patronage and support.

Tuition Per Quarter:

Primary Department	\$2.00
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Common English Branches	\$3.00
Higher Branches, including Languages	3.50
Music with use of Piano	8.00
Crayoning with Monochromatic, each	4.00
Penciling and Painting, each	2.00
Penmanship	1.00

Those who may wish to obtain Board, will find ample accommodations upon reasonable terms.

Underhill Center,
February 13, 1853

Martin Wires, Chairman, Trustees

Mr. Cilley was afterward Principal of Bell Academy at Underhill and later had a private school which all the elite attended.

From the close of the Academy until the town began paying tuitions for its High School pupils, only a small percentage of the town's children received any further instruction beyond what was gathered in the district school.

The Green Mountain Academy was discontinued about the year 1880.

Underhill in the Wars.

They went where duty seemed to call,
They scarcely asked the reason why;
They only knew they could but die,
And death was not the worst of all.

Whittier.

1887
407
21

Revolutionary War.

Six veterans of the Revolutionary War settled in Underhill soon after the close of the war, namely:

George Olds, Caleb Sheldon, Barnard Ward,
David Birge, Oliver Wells, Chauncey Graves.

These men spent the remainder of their lives in town.

Civil War.

In this war, Underhill is credited by the adjutant-general of Vermont with furnishing one hundred and fifty-seven men as having entered the service.

Only six men were drafted during the war from this town. Soldiers from here served in nearly all the Vermont regiments, batteries and companies as sharp shooters.

Patriotic Societies.

Grand Army of the Republic.

L. H. Bostwick Post, No. 69, G.A.R., was organized Dec. 11, 1883, by the old soldiers from this town, Jericho and Westford. The post was named after Lt. Lucius H. Bostwick of Company F. 13th Regiment, Vermont Volunteers, who died in Washington, D.C. in 1863, and has on its roll the names of 78 men.

The first officers were:

L. F. Terrill, P.C.; J. J. Monahan, S.V.; W. W. Wheeler, J.V.;
A. C. Humphrey, adj.; A. W. Terrill, Q.M.; A. F. Burdick,
surgeon; F. D. Gilson, chaplain; W. H. Hilton, O.D.; William
Burroughs, O.G.

Sons of Veterans.

Camp Custer Camp, No. 7, Vermont Division, Sons of Veterans, was mustered here Feb. 7, 1884, and the first officers were: George E. Terrill, Capt.; H. L. Colgrove, 1st Lieut.; F. S. Palmer, 2nd Lieut.

There were 57 members, all uniformed and armed the same as the National Guard, and they were well drilled.

The Headquarters Vermont Division Sons of Veterans are in this town, having the following division officers:

Colonel George E. Terrill, Underhill; Lt. Col. John E. Fox, Burlington; Major Orvice B. Leonard, Brattleboro; Chaplain E. T. Griswold, Bennington; Adj. Fred E. Terrill, Underhill; Q.M., H. L. Colgrove, Underhill; Insp. P. O. Abbott, St. Johnsbury; Must. Officer J. M. Nash, Middlebury; Judge Advocate, Henry Barrows, Brandon.

A few remaining of the above under the leadership of Fred E. Terrill, hold a Memorial Service at the Underhill Cemetery on each Memorial Day, a tribute to the departed G.A.R. and many of their own band.

L. H. Bostwick, W.R.C. No. 19, was organized Mar. 15, 1886, with Susie Terrill, Pres.; Mary C. Burdick, S.V.; Helen Humphrey, J.V.; Hattie L. Palmer, Sec.; Maria C. Luselle, Treas.; Helen Wright, guard.; Mary Lessor, Asst. with twenty members.

Thus it will be seen that the soldier element of Underhill, while enjoying the blessings of Peace, had every means of enjoyment as well as the opportunity of recalling the stirring memories of days long gone.

Libraries
Town Library.

The Underhill Town Library is soon to be rechristened as the Delaporte Memorial. This library of 3,000 volumes was started at Underhill Center in 1900 by three ladies, namely: Mrs. Carrie Fuller Henry, Mrs. Lelia Machia (both deceased) and Miss Nellie Dorr. Others soon became interested and as the numbers and interest grew, plans were formulated for obtaining funds for carrying out the project. Friends aided in many ways and soon several books were in circulation. For a period of years, the state aided, then some years later, Mrs. Theodore Delaporte of Rhineback^e-on-the-Hudson, who with her husband, (Miss Dorr's brother) spent their summers here, becoming interested, purchased and furnished a home for the library, presenting the same to the town and later gave \$1,000.00 to aid in its maintenance.

Several generous gifts of books have been received from summer residents.

Years of untiring service as librarians have been given by:

Mrs. L. J. Terrill, Mrs. W. J. Fuller and Mrs. Lelia Machia.

A sampler made by Harriet Eaton in 1813, at thirteen years of age, daughter of Abner Eaton who was one of the two first settlers of the town, hangs on its wall, through the courtesy of Elinor Clark and Mrs. Addie Morse.

The following document was unearthed among other old papers of more or less value by parties who were looking for old records and given to the Waters Memorial Library from which I have made this copy:

"WHEREAS, the Benevolent Ruler of the universe has been pleased to place under us a government which prevents both our civil and religious rights from being trampled on long but through our own fault or that of our fellow citizens, AND WHEREAS as a certain degree of knowledge in the people at large is absolutely necessary for the preservation of the invaluable rights we enjoy under our National and State Constitution for the obtainment of which knowledge well regulated, public libraries are highly essential, we the subscribers for the purpose of maintaining the blessings aforesaid, and handing them down to our posterity, pure and unimpaired, do by these presents form ourselves into a society by the name of "The Underhill Library Society" subject to such a constitution, rules and regulations as shall hereafter be agreed on, and as the same shall be from time to time altered or amended:

Provided always that no person in the first instance shall have a right to become a member of the Society unless he has first given an obligation that he will pay, for the purpose of procuring books for the said library, into the hands of Captain Stephen Heyby, the sum of not less than One Dollar on or before the first day of February next,

or that he will deliver grain to the said Captain Heyby, which shall appear to him, the said Captain Heyby, to be equal to the above sum in value.

Underhill, Vermont, December 1st, 1800.

The following signed this document:

"Undey Hay, Bernard Ward, George Hale, Daniel Birge, Simeon Graves, Barnabas Graves, John Coleman, Carey Mead, William Barney, Dexter Ward, Peter Martin, Ezra Mead, Luther Dixon, Jared Dixon, Chauncey Graves, Abner Eaton, Cyrus Stephens, Phillip Griffin, Moses Jones, Silvanus Shepard."

I do not know more about our first library, but do know that there have been several formed in the past one hundred forty-one years.

Hotels and Taverns.

The early hotels and taverns were unique and needless to say, interesting. The first tavern at Underhill Flatts was run by Elijah Benedict. This tavern was noted for its excellent food and a general air of hospitality. Mr. Benedict was a kind-hearted, benevolent, religious man, who allowed his tavern to be used as a church for two years. Here, Lorenzo Dow preached to his flock for a period of two years, prior to the building of a church at Underhill Flatts.

The Dixon House at Underhill Flatts, furnished from its 600 feet of broad verandas, a magnificent view; Mt. Mansfield in the front, on the west the long blue line of the Adirondacks presented

a picturesque scene. For amusement, the guests had carriage drives, horseback riding, croquet, lawn tennis, ten pins, and a recreation hall for Ladies' Assemblies, hops and musicales. The house and accommodations for one hundred guests, single or en suite. They set a first class table, well supplied with fresh rich milk, cream and butter and the rare advantage of an experienced New England chef.

The Whipple House followed the Dixon House which was burned. The proprietor, Thaddeus Whipple, was a jolly old fellow whom everyone loved and he especially endeared himself to his townspeople as well as his guests. About the time of Mr. Whipple's Hotel, ballroom dancing was the most popular of all social functions. Here a ball in the spacious hotel ballroom was an event that called for a formal evening gown for the ladies, but the gentlemen were allowed to wear their ordinary frock coats. This hotel was also burned about thirty years ago.

The Sinclair House held forth at Underhill Flatts for a few years during the thirties but is used now as a dwelling house.

At North Underhill, a hotel was owned and operated by Joseph Robinson. This was perhaps the most outstanding one in the town. Here the old stagecoach unloaded or picked up its passengers as guests, came and went. Here in the basement was the bar room where the guests could mix their drinks or take their rum raw. Perhaps this in a measure accounts for the popularity of Mr. Robinson's Tavern. This old house is now known as the Rat Pit,

a delapidated structure showing none of the charm of earlier days.

The Prouty House at Underhill Center did a thriving hotel business especially during the summer months. They were followed by George W. Woodruff as proprietor and he too seemed to prosper. Later Edgar Blakely took over the management of this hostelry and whether due to poor management, the stopping of illegal sale of liquor, or by some other source, the patronage dwindled to nothing. Several different parties have tried to make a success of it, but their efforts have seemed failures. Now it functions under the management of Mrs. Leora Henry as the Mt. Mansfield Inn. Here may be found good food, clean surroundings and a charming hostess, and its future may again become a prosperous one.

The Meteoric Rock

So the legend goes:

Many years ago, to be exact in the year of 1792, a man returning from Cambridge on a dark night, saw a light fall from the heavens upon what is now the Covey Farm in North Underhill.

Upon reaching the spot, he found this huge rock weighing many tons had melted a heavy depth of snow all around it.



*

ed. note. This large glacial erratic on the hilltop at 33 Covey Rd is a boulder of phyllite, an iron-rich metamorphic schistose rock, which retains traces of its original sedimentary layering. There are outcrops of this rock along Route 15 and Pleasant Valley Rd in Underhill and in towns to the north.

Hoax or History

"Nov. 29, A.D. 1564

This is the solme day I must die; this is the 90th day since we left the ship and all have perished on the banks of this river. I die, so farewelle may future posteritye know our end.

Johne Graye"

A strange document reading as above hangs framed on a wall of the Highgate Center Library, where it attracts considerable attention.

When did the first white man view the unspoiled beauty of Vermont? Our history text books are almost unanimous in declaring that event occurred on July 4, 1609, when Samuel de Champlain paddled into Lake Champlain and gazed with awestruck eyes at the wonders they beheld.

The people of Highgate are a bit skeptical. Have they not seen with their own eyes, hanging framed on a wall of their village library, a document believed to have been penned on the banks of the Missisquoi River 45 years before Champlain looked upon the Green Mountains of Vermont? Whether the document is an authentic original or whether it is an out and out hoax has not been definitely determined. Until it is determined one way or another, the people of that vicinity feel they have, at least a right to wonder about it.

This strange document came into the possession of the Highgate

Library about 15 years ago. It was given to the library by Mrs. Frank Baxter, daughter-in-law of Dr. Henry Baxter, famous in his day as the creator of Baxter's Mandrake Bitters and Baxter's Lung Balm. It was bought by Dr. Baxter after being found in a piece of lead tube when some men were engaged in digging the foundations of a marble mill at Swanton Falls in 1853. He placed it under glass and framed it in the frame which now holds it. It was kept as a curiosity, not much attention being paid to it, until a few years ago when John Clement, who was then head of the Vermont Federal Records Project, asked to see it. It was sent to paper experts in California and elsewhere to determine the age of the paper. According to report, these experts doubted the paper was as old as the date on it would indicate. However, there is considerable doubt whether it is an original authentic document, a copy, or a fake. At any rate, it is an interesting bit of paper and many visitors to northwestern Vermont ask to see it.

In the fourth volume of Hemenway's Vermont Historical Gazetteer, Rev. Prof. John B. Perry gives the following account of the discovery of the manuscript:

"In December 1853, a singular record or certificate was found on the left bank of the Missisquoi, half a mile or so south of the village at Swanton Falls. It was enclosed in a lead tube about five inches long and rather irregular in structure, the cavity being somewhat eccentric. Both ends were an inch and a half in

diameter, filled with a substance which seemed to be very brittle and quite disposed to crumble."

The lead tube, containing this curious manuscript was found by Orlando Green, who was accompanied by P. R. Ripley, under a vegetable mold from six inches to a foot below the surface of the ground. The cavity in the sand in which the tube had lain was very distinct, while there was no indication as the discovered testified that the soil had been disturbed. The lead seemed to be much oxidized and had the appearance of having been long buried. No one knows what became of the tube. Mr. Perry gives us the idea that there is really nothing against the manuscript in question and that though positive proof is lacking as to its authenticity, it is by no means sufficient reason for rejecting what on other grounds appears to be valid and that the record of John Graye may be just what its simple purport indicates.

Thus is the question still left open, be it genuine or hoax?

The Fickleness of the Sun God. ✱

More than a century ago, in the year 1816 to be exact, Vermont saw no summer. The weather was so severe in June that a heavy snowstorm prevailed on the 17th of that month and people were frozen to death in the month of roses.

In Vermont snow was ten inches deep on the level; fifteen inches in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and nowhere less than three inches fell in this area, as well as in the other New

* ed. note: In 1815 eruption of Mt. Tambora in Indonesia, largest ever recorded. Produced so much ash in atmosphere, sunshine was blocked over much of the world. Resulted in 'year with no summer.'

England states. Snow fell several times during the month in Vermont, in fact, there was snow and ice in every month in 1816. ¹¹

The following is an account found in a friend's scrapbook. From the nonagenarian, James Winchester of Vermont, he says:

"I remember the year 1816; that was winter from one end of it until the other. I was 14 years old and lived in Vermont where that season was at its worst. I was at my uncle's and he had some sheep in a back pasture lot. The storm of the 17th began along about noon and my uncle started after dinner to go to the pasture lot to fix up a shelter for the sheep. As he went out of the door, he said to his wife in a jocular way, 'If I'm not back in an hour, call the neighbors and start them after me. June is a bad month to get buried in the snow, especially when it gets so near the month of July.'

By night the roads were impassable and the weather had become bitter cold. When night came, an alarm was sent to the neighbors who searched for three days and then found my uncle buried in the snow a mile from the pasture. He was frozen stiff. The wind blew continuously from the north during June, July and August. Farmers wore heavy overcoats and mittens while about their work every day during these months. There was little use of planting anything, but they did plant corn with mittens on. There was very little rain during the entire season. July was colder than June and August colder than July. Ice half an inch thick formed in July but in

August it was an inch and more. There was not a green thing to be seen. The first two weeks in September brought the first warm weather and the thermometer went up to 70 degrees. ✓

The general opinion had been that the cause of the cold summer was a sudden and rapid cooling of the sun by some violent disturbance and many believed that the end of all things was at hand. The cold wave returned September 16th. ✓ One old man, James Gooding, was so hopeless over the prospect, that he killed all his cattle and then ^{hanged} hung himself after vainly trying to induce his wife to make away with herself to escape the terrible and gradual death by freezing and starvation which he believed to be the common doom. Cold increased from the middle of September until winter and it may be said that in Vermont at least, in 1816 that had neither spring, summer or autumn. There wasn't grain enough to seed the next year. Those who were lucky enough to have more than they wanted for their own use, had no difficulty in selling it for \$5 and more a bushel."

Another article taken from an old diary reads as follows: ✓

"In direct contrast with 1816, appears the years 1827-28, when there was no winter. Captain Daniel Lyon who died years ago in Burlington, used to relate his experience in 1827-28. He said, 'I know of but one summer, the winter of 1827-28. I was running the steamboat, General Green between Burlington and Port Kent and Plattsburg, N.Y. and during the year there was not a bit of ice in the whole lake from one end to the other. The old Lake Champlain

Steamboat Company hauled out the steamboats Phoenix and Congress and hardly a bit of ice appeared in Shelburne Bay during the winter. The Phoenix had a new engine built in Albany and the whole outfit had to be carried from that city to Shelburne Harbor by teams through mud. At Middlebury, the mud was more than a foot deep. The Phoenix was rebuilt and ready to launch by January 15th. January 18th was the day fixed for the launching. I took over a party from Burlington on the General Green. The sun was shining with the warmth of a July day. The women who sat on deck raised their parasols.'

Methinks the Sun God must have had a bad peeve on in the year 1816, and some sacrifice offered to His Royal Highness had appeased his terrible wrath before the year of 1827 - 1828.

The Ridgepole of Vermont and the Ascent Thereto.

There is no better place in all the world for the tired brain and the weary body to find rest than in the Green Mountains, where the silence is grateful to the ears, where the odors of the woodland are refreshing and where the eye may delight itself with the golden glories of the sunrise and sunset.

You will find the Green Mountains, especially Mt. Mansfield, friendly mountains, not just sharp, jagged masses of bare rock, but friendly mountains that will induce your admiration and affection rather than your awe and terror.

These rich beautiful mountains with their lower slopes covered with the soft wood forests, furnish unusually beautiful scenery for nature lovers and constitute the backbone of our state, from which the name of our state is derived.

Geology.

Geologists tell us that these mountains were once at least eight thousand feet high, the second oldest in the United States but that atmospheric erosion reduced them to nearly half their former height and that they were also shaved down once more by the glacier.

The glacier shaved away much of the soil, but left enough for the growth of vegetation on the slopes therefor leaving our mountains greener than any others of approximately the same elevation. For nearly all of the year, these mountains show variations of green;

beautifully green in summer; green with the fall colors, spruce green in the winter and then beautifully green all over again.

Whittier must have had in mind a region like the Green Mountains of Vermont when he wrote:

"Rivers of gold mist flowing down
From far celestial fountains, -
The great sun flaming thru the rifts
Beyond the wall of mountains."

The attraction at Underhill of chief^est interest, that which overshadows all else, is Mt. Mansfield. This section of Vermont has been styled by some writers as the "Switzerland of America."

Mt. Mansfield at a distance resembles the profile of a human being with a face upturned toward the Heavens. Mt. Mansfield is about five miles in length extending from the Forehead to the Adam's Apple, the entire mountain being over four thousand feet in altitude.

Mt. Mansfield, so-called from its resemblance to a human face, rises into the clouds to an altitude of approximately four thousand four hundred feet. A little imagination will help you to trace the upturned face of a giant showing the nose, chin, and lips. The giant's Nose projects four hundred feet and is overshadowed by the eight hundred feet of decision of character as shown by the forward thrust of the Chin. Close observation will disclose the nostril in a perpendicular rock wall. The Adam's Apple is a

projection of rock just north of the Chin. The Forehead is the projection to the south of the nose. Many faces and resemblances to familiar objects reveal themselves to curious peering eyes, the most outstanding being the "Old Woman of the Mountain." She seems to be dreaming as she reclines in a comfy chair, gazing across the valley below.

On the summit of the mountain may be seen the rocks which were scratched by the glaciers, giving us an idea of a well-shaven face in the bare rocks.

From the Adam's Apple, you look down upon the highest lake in Vermont, the Lake of the Clouds, a beautiful little sheet of blue water, evidently fed by springs, surrounded by dwarfed evergreens. Here I am told, maybe a legend, that black bears may be seen making themselves beautiful in the early hours of the morning.

On the eastern side of the mountain may be found the Rock of Terror balancing over a very high cliff. On the mountain is the only place in Vermont where snow stays the whole year through. Here in the Cave of the Winds, a split in the rock over a hundred feet in depth, ice and snow form the bottom of the cave. You may, if you wish, reach the bottom by means of a cable.

Although Vermont's highest mountain, Mansfield, does not reach above timber line, but the small amount of soil affords but little vegetation. Here on the summit, may be found rare ferns and the white orchid as well as numbers of dwarfed shrubs.

If the guests at the Summit House are bird lovers, they may enjoy the bell-like notes of the thrushes, the gray-cheeked, the olive-backed and the hermit. Here at sunrise and sunset and on damp cloudy days, these songsters pour forth their medley of gypsy music.

As you look down from the top of Mansfield on the western side upon the surrounding countryside upon acres of forest interspersed with valleys, some quite narrow, some somewhat wider, dotted by a few small villages, and two cities, your eyes pass over Lake Champlain dimpling and sparkling in her broad fertile valley, you may conceive the idea of starting at the foot of one of its many trails and hiking to the top.

To ascend from the Underhill side, the Long Trail may be approached through Stevensville, the Stevens and Flanders trails from the Halfway House. From there, the Cowles cut-off may also be reached.

The Long Trail starts at Road's End, the summer home of Levi Smith, in Stevensville. This trail, the longest one being five miles, has many attractions peculiarly its own. On this trail may be seen much natural phenomena, such as the Needle's Eye, etc.

No fat man could climb the Ladder. The lower part of this trail is comparatively easy hiking, but the farther you go, the harder and steeper the climb. It brings you to the top of the range at the Forehead and from there on is a nice walk to the hotel.

From the parking area about one-half mile beyond the Old Halfway House, you hit the Stevens Trail that will lead on over

a somewhat flat surface for a mile or two before beginning the real ascent. On the lower part of the trail you cross the Stevens River as it babbles and winds through the maples on the lower slopes of the mountain. Again and again you cross this little river as it winds its way down the slopes to dump its waters into Brown's River and on to the Lamoille into Lake Champlain. This trail leads through a region thick with second growth and sharply begins to ascend. Here is much plant life, more luxurious than on the Flanders Trail. On a sunny day, flecks of sunshine sift through the boughs overhead, thus mingling with the scent of flowers and ferns adding much to the hiker's enjoyment of this trail. As you near the top of the mountain, rocks become as stepping-stones to help you on your way. This climb will bring you to the summit of the Chin, two miles from the Hotel.

Again from the parking area, in the State Forest Camp above the Halfway House, you strike the Flanders Trail, formerly called The Old Trail and started from the Halfway House. This is the shortest climb to the summit, but also the steepest, about one and one-fourth miles in length, one and one-fourth miles of good strenuous climbing. As you wend your way upward, you may pick there the rare "Death Flower", the Indian Pipe or Wax Flower which turns black in your hands. This flower was regarded as a sign of approaching death by the Indians. You may rest on the half-way log, if you are not too fat or too thin, and hope against hope that you are nearing the top. This trail brings you out at the Hotel at the base of the Nose.

If you are still seeking a thrill, make the ascent of the Nose. The sheer cliffs and painted arrows take you over bare rocks to the top. From here, you may peer over dizzying drops or gaze upon the magnificent view to the north and east where looms Jay's Peak and The Presidential Range.

If you are unfortunate enough to find yourself enveloped in a heavy gray fog, I think you still will feel rewarded for your climb. On some of the trails lodges furnish shelter and conveniences for he who wishes to spend a period of rest or for a night's lodging.

At the Mabel Taylor Lodge on the Long Trail, excellent facilities may be found. Here you may make friends with the hedgehog, who may eat up your boots during the night, or be pestered by flies, and listen to the chorus of thrushes. Here the quiet of the night will refresh your tired muscles and depleted nerves. The very atmosphere inhaled is like a tonic for the weary body. Here you will find rest, pleasure, and supreme delight.

In 1910, James P. Taylor organized the Green Mountain Club with a membership of twenty-five members. To this number were added many more Vermonters, who in turn interested people from without the state and by 1930 had a continuous trail from Massachusetts to Canada. This foot-path through the wilderness leads travelers by trees over moss-covered and bare rocks, through ferny wood, and open barren spots, and it had done much to bring people to Mt. Mansfield and open the way for the summer and winter

recreational activities.

An old roadway just how old cannot be determined, ran through Nebraska Notch to the Stowe side of the mountain. Over this old road traveled the stagecoach which carried the mail from Essex Junction via Underhill.

People were travelling through this Notch as early as 1774 following marked trees. Later, this route became a surveyed town road of the town of Mansfield, of which a record has been kept.

By way of this road, Stowe farmers brought their surplus farm products to Burlington for sale. Stevensville, the Underhill terminal, grew in those early days to be quite a good sized village of about forty houses, a church and a school, with a big lumber mill and lumber industry.

A few years ago, a delegation from Underhill presented a petition to the General Assembly of Vermont, petitioning an appropriation from the state for the purpose of making a survey and constructing a highway suitable for mountain travel through Nebraska Notch. An easy grade, with little bridge building and gravel for road material being near, would make the cost of building this three-mile stretch of road relatively small. However, this appropriation was not received by Underhill and the road has not been built. It is felt that this road would be a most valuable connecting link between the highways of Stowe and Underhill, besides furnishing an exquisitely beautiful drive through incomparable mountain scenery. Many tourists visiting Vermont get no nearer to Mt. Mansfield than

Essex Junction. This highway would throw wide open the natural gateway of Nebraska Notch and say to these tourists, "Come and see for yourself the splendors of Mt. Mansfield; take a drive through our mountains, over its heights and along its roomy valleys, don't go around as many do now."

On this proposed route, or very near it, are ice-cellars, monstrous piles of rocks, with numerous openings and passageways leading in some instances to sizeable caverns, where ice may be found practically throughout the year. Farther on in this valley may be seen the "Aerial Bridge" crossing a chasm near the summit of a high ridge.

This bridge was used for logging purposes. Farther on is Polk Flat, followed by Peter's Dump. Tradition has it that Peter St. Jock, returning from a trip to the grist mill at Underhill Center where he had procured some rum, pitched over this precipitous incline some 50 or 75 feet to the brook below. The horse was killed but no one seems quite certain of the fate of St. Jock. The incident, however, gave name to the place.

On this proposed road would be Taylor's Lodge, already mentioned. Were this highway built, we would travel over a gravel surfaced road of good width, bordered with stone-paved gutters and spaces covered with mountain grasses, reaching back to the trees of the woodland except where occasional clearings occur where glimpses of the valley below can be had. There would be revealed to us the towering cliffs

and rocky height of Round Top, called by one Admiral Dewey. Here is a forest unspoiled by man.

Recently a road construction job has been partially done, cutting the face of the mountain southward from the Halfway House for quite some distance. This road was to be put through to Nebraska Notch to Lake Mansfield and then on to Little River Dam at Waterbury. The work was being done by the C.C.C.'s but has been discontinued the past few months. We hope that someday this may really become a genuine highway.

From the western slopes of Mt. Mansfield, billions of feet of hard and soft wood timber has been obtained. This timber was cut and drawn by the towns lumbermen to the sawmills on the lands below. At the Stevens-Hickok Mill in Stevensville, where it receives its power from a water-wheel on the Stevens River, were sawed the boards which were used in building the original Summit House on Mt. Mansfield. A Mr. Pat Gray and his son, John, transported these boards or timbers on their backs to the top of Mt. Mansfield by way of that part of the Long Trail leading from Stevensville. Mr. Gray carried two boards per trip thereby earning three dollars each day for a wage and his son, John, carried one board, thus earning one and one half dollars a day. They made the trip once daily.

The first cow to take up her residence on top of the mountain disappeared. Her owner, the hotel proprietor, never knew whether she fell from a cliff and was killed or was eaten by bears. He

had better luck with his second cow, keeping her for the full season.

The Mt. Mansfield Hotel was operated for many years by a proprietor from both Stowe and Underhill, taking one every year.

Finally the survey of the boundary line between the two towns by Stowe, gave Stowe the Hotel.

Saddle horses were used on the Old Trail to carry people up the mountain. Many tales have been told about a little black mare owned by Lex Mead, proprietor of the Halfway House, and rented to transport hikers who would not walk to the summit. Mr. Dixon, proprietor of the Dixon House at Underhill had saddle horses for that purpose also. It is said that these horses made the trip without difficulty and lived to be a ripe old age. Another folklore story of this region is: Francis Cahill, a native of the mountain district, carried people up the mountain on his back for the consideration of a good sum. This tale I have always doubted, but the fact remains that Mr. Cahill spent the last years of his life bent like an ox-bow, caused so it was said by transporting these people on his back.

Who has said, "To sit on a stone beside a mountain road, with olive-backed thrushes piping on every side, the ear catching now and then the distant tinkle of a winter wren's tune, or the nearer zee, aee, zee of black-poll warblers, while white-throated sparrows call cheerily out of the spruce forest - this is to be in another world?"

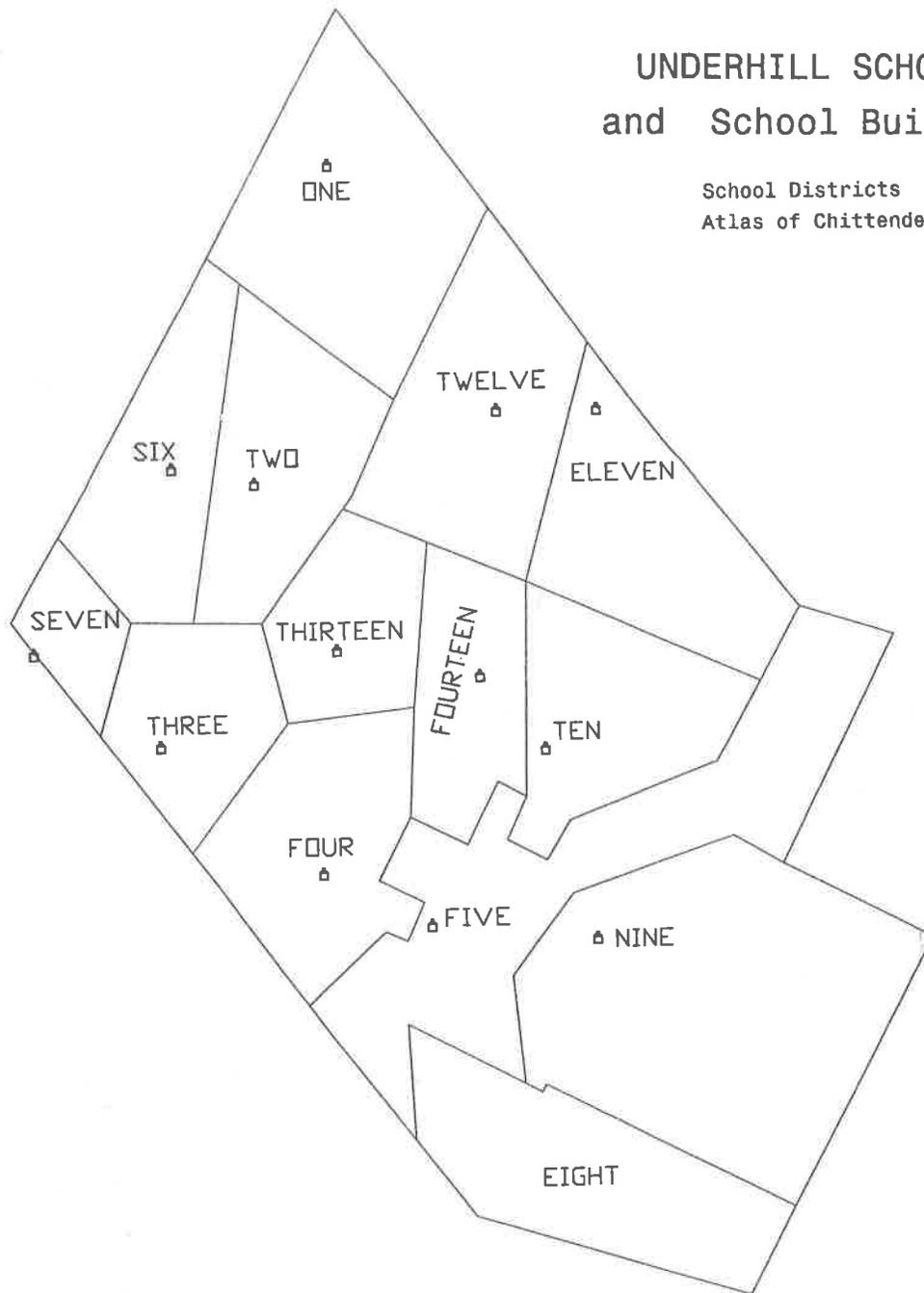
If you are for the song of a bird, or the scent of a flower,

and that particular good fellowship which you may have with them,
if you are a lover of nature, come and walk on the Ridgepole of
Vermont and bask in the sunshine on her roof.

Emily A. Flynn

UNDERHILL SCHOOL DISTRICTS and School Buildings c.1869

School Districts taken from Beer's
Atlas of Chittenden County 1869



OLD SCHOOL HOUSES

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1 -- PH600 | gone |
| 2 -- PH277 | gone |
| 3 -- DM012 | residence |
| 4 -- LE003 | residence |
| 5 -- PV032 | 2nd story added; building used as "pest house" during diphtheria epidemic of 1860s; burned in 1950s; restored by Historical Society, storage use |
| 6 -- VT743 | moved |
| 7 -- CH354 | gone |
| 8 -- | -abandoned in Range, Jericho |
| 9 -- ML012 | summer home, burned, land to ML Farm |
| 10- PV242 | summer home, burned |
| 11- PV598 | abandoned |
| 12- DO002 | summer home |
| 13 -UL141 | barn |
| 14- IS251 | gone |

