

**The Seven  
CEMETERIES  
of  
UNDERHILL**

Elizabeth Weichel Moore

was emerging as a village center with a store and a sawmill. New settlers from New Hampshire of the Methodist Episcopal persuasion built a meetinghouse and the new local cemetery served their needs. The earliest burial appears to be 1824. The last burial is dated 1921. Neglected for some time, *The Underhill Center Cemetery* has been maintained for many years by members of the Hanaford Fife and Drum Corps. The corps is named for the young drummer, Nathaniel Hanaford, who served in the War of 1812 and is buried in the cemetery. (The cemetery is often referred to as the 'Hanaford Cemetery'.) Recently the Selectboard of the Town of Underhill installed a fine new wood fence around the property.

#### *Pleasant Valley Cemetery:*

The small private, non-denominational cemetery on Deane Road, known as the *Pleasant Valley Cemetery*, has served the nearby residents of Underhill and Cambridge since the land was first deeded by the Shanley family in 1813. It is managed by the voluntary 'Pleasant Valley Cemetery Association'. Andy Butler was the cemetery sexton and caretaker for many decades. The cemetery was enlarged by a gift of 1/4 acre from James Forgan in 1978 and is in use today.

#### *The Underhill Cemetery:*

In 1827 the Creek Rd (now Route 15) was surveyed and laid out and it replaced the 'Hill Road' as the County road. The center of gravity was shifting in the Town as the area known as Underhill Flatts along the Creek Rd was growing with commerce and industry. The historic Birge Tavern (now PH271) near the Congregational Meeting House on the 'Hill Road', which had been a gathering place and the location for Town Meetings, was replaced by the Barney Tavern (across from the present UJFD) on the new County road. In 1832 it was formally voted to hold the Underhill Town Meetings at William Barney's Tavern.

The prime movers in the Flatts were the entrepreneurs, John Towers and Henry Oakes, who owned considerable land and had a thriving general store. In 1837 John Towers laid out part of his land for a burial ground and sold lots. In 1838 a 'Second Congregational Society' was organized to manage the financial affairs of the Congregational Church and to decide what to do about the original meeting house on the 'Hill Rd' which had been severely wind-damaged and was unusable. Tower and Oakes leased to said Society a lot next to their store in the Flatts on which to build a new meetinghouse. The same year John Towers also deeded his vacant cemetery lots to the same 'Second Congregational Society'. So began *The Underhill Cemetery* on what is now Park Street. At a yearly meeting a sexton and treasurer were elected for the cemetery care and management. (The cemetery has headstones with dates as early as 1809, which precede the 1837 establishment date.) A structure known as the 'River Church', which had been located somewhere near the intersection of Sand Hill and River Road, was moved to the new lot next to the Tower and Oakes store. It replaced the wind-damaged original meetinghouse until 1845, when it was damaged by fire. By 1847 'The First Congregational Church' building had been erected on the same lot by the store and next to the village green. It is a fine structure which now serves 'The United Church of Underhill'. (Some of the original founders of the 'Congregational Church of Christ in Underhill' undertook to salvage parts from their wind-damaged meetinghouse and use them to build a meetinghouse farther up the Hill Road, - - near the present intersection of Poker Hill and Page Roads. It was known as 'North Church' and the members actually seceded from the parent church. Shortly thereafter, that building also burned and the few remaining church members rejoined 'The First Congregational Church' in the new building in the Flatts. Over the years more land along was acquired for the enlargement of *The Underhill Cemetery*. Along the way 'The Second Congregational Society' was reconstituted as 'The Congregational Society'. Then in 1916 'The Congregational Society' and 'The First Congregational Church' merged with a new constitution

## NORTH UNDERHILL CEMETERY (Poker Hill Rd)

### North Underhill Cemetery Association

- 1763 Town of Underhill chartered
- 1787 Earliest settlers (near present Cook and Covey Rds)  
Caleb Sheldon had first deed. Daughter Mary first born in town in 1787  
Col Udney Hay - - Revolutionary War veteran (represented Town from 1798-1804)  
Log schoolhouse built near home of Abner Eaton
- 1791 Hill Rd surveyed and laid out . (Poker Hill Rd)
- 1795 Town of Underhill organized
- 1799 "Burying Ground of the Town of Underhill" 1 1/4 A. deeded in February by Udney Hay to 'proprietors' ; deed signed by William Barney, moderator and Peter Martin, clerk. At meeting in March, the committee, including Caleb Sheldon and Dexter Ward , voted to collect obligations ( 6 bushels and 1 peck of wheat) and put them to best advantage of proprietors.
- 1800 New settlers from Connecticut establish hamlet halfway up the hill near present cemetery.
- 1801 'Congregational Society in Underhill' established. Meetings held in Birge Tavern (Brewer).
- 1802 Proprietors meeting refers to 'North Burying Ground'.
- 1803 'North Burying Ground of the Town of Underhill' surveyed. Was along the road and adjacent to Hay property. Now ( Jan. 2003) Francis Russin PH365.
- 1804 At March meeting subscribers agree that by Dec 1, 1806 a board fence would be erected around the burying ground to be kept in good repair.
- 1807 Bernard Ward ( Louella Lamphere's great, great, great grandfather) *leased* 1Acre of Lot 31, 1<sup>st</sup> Division ( original right of Cornelius Law) to the 'Underhill Congregational Society' to build a meeting house . (Pay yearly lease of 1 ear of Indian corn.) Among signers were William Barney and Eliphas Thrall. Vol. p .  
(Meetinghouse was next to present N Underhill cemetery. Supposedly the old steps are in the cemetery wall.)
- 1806 Col Udney Hays dies. After large Burlington funeral, body returned to Underhill farm for burial. (Gravestone is in Poker Hill Cemetery.)
- 1807 Bernard Ward *leased* 1 acre of land to the Town of Underhill for a burying ground.  
( On west side of highway leading from Underhill meeting house to Jericho. In lot 31 1<sup>st</sup> Division, right of Cornelius Law.)  
Signed by Selectmen Caleb Sheldon, Eliphas Thrall, Peter Martin.  
( Deed not recorded until 1/1/1813 vol.4 p.298.) .
- 1897 Jason Rogers *deeds* to Selectmen 1 acre of land known as 'The North Underhill Burying Ground' , now 'North Underhill Cemetery' (vol. 25 p.205)
- . Note: There is no mention of the ' North Burying Ground' on the Hay property or proprietors' meetings after 1806. The Hay farm later was owned by Thomas Jackson. and it is said that during that ownership the burial ground was abandoned and gravestones, if not bodies, were moved to the Town burying ground, 'The North Underhill Cemetery'. Along with the gravestone for Colonel Hay , there other stones with earlier dates than 1807:  
1797 Mrs Patty Martin; 1801 C. Thrall; 1806 Udney Hay; 1808 H. Brown.
- 1911 After many years of neglect , the Town cemetery on Poker Hill Rd was taken over by a group of concerned citizens. The 'North Underhill Cemetery Association' was formed by Fillmore Robinson -- to oversee the maintenance.



Kika McArthur 2010

**NORTH UNDERHILL CEMETERY**  
**Poker Hill Road**  
**1807**

**PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY (Deane Rd)  
Pleasant Valley Cemetery Association**

**Private cemetery for residents of Underhill and Cambridge**

**Original deed : Shanley c. 1813 (vol. p )**

**Early burials: Melissa Melvin 1813; Laura Richardson 1814; Dickinson infant 1826;  
Ephraim Lewis 1838**

**Additional land ( 1/4 A. ) deeded from James Forgan c. 1978? (vol. p )**

**Most recent burial:**



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**PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY**  
Deane Road 1813

**UNDERHILL CENTER CEMETERY (Sand Hill Rd)  
Town of Underhill Selectboard**

1821 (vol.6 p 115) David Goodhue (M.E. minister d.1837) deeds ½ acre to Town of Underhill for a burying ground. (Is actually ~ 1 A.)

**Earliest burial: 1824 ?**

**Most recent burial: Lewis D. Melvin 1921**



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UNDERHILL CENTER CEMETERY  
River Road 1821

UNDERHILL CEMETERY (Park Street)

Underhill Cemetery Association

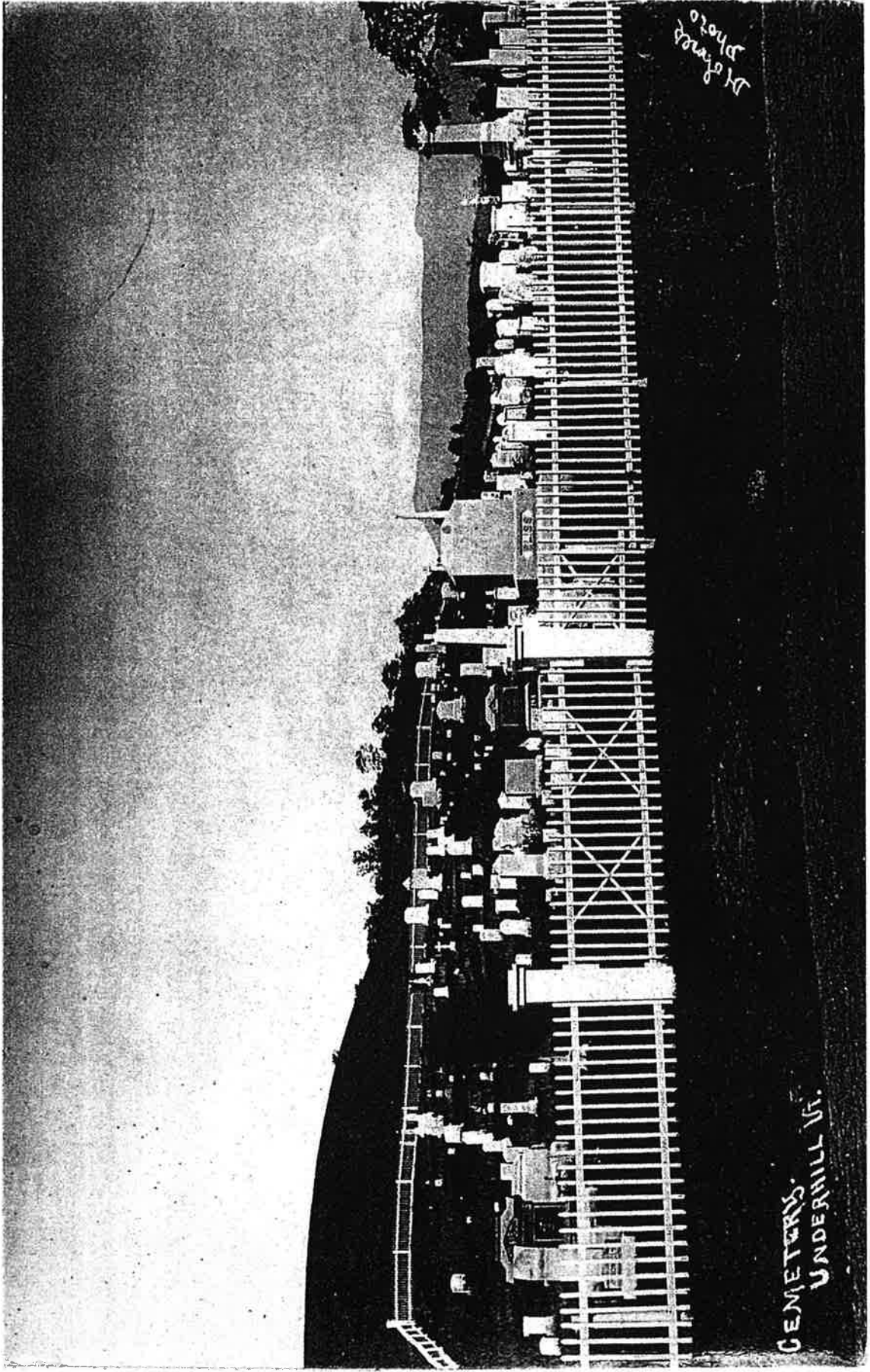
- 1837 John Towers laid out ½ acre of land on his farm in Underhill Flatts for a burial ground, sold lots.
- 1838 'Second Congregational Church Society of Underhill, Vt' organized. (Later referred to as 'The Congregational Society' of Underhill, Vt' )  
(Tower and Oakes were founding members. Was a group of 24 men from the 'First Congregational Church of Underhill' ' charged with responsibility to repair original Meetinghouse on Poker Hill Rd, which had lost its steeple in a windstorm that year and was unuseable — and to hire a minister. The 'First Congregational Society' had been organized -with a formal constitution - - to oversee the 2 Congregational church buildings- - on Poker Hill and River Rd. )
- 1838 Tower & Oakes *leased* to the 'Second Congregational Society' (for one ear of Indian Corn per year) a lot next to their store in Underhill Flatts on which to build a meetinghouse.
- 1838 12/31 John Towers *deeds* his cemetery vacant lots to 'Second Congregational Society'. Sexton and treasurer elected yearly for care and management.
- 1839 'Lower Meetinghouse' on River Rd (also called 'River Meetinghouse') building was moved by 'Second Congregational Society' to newly acquired lot next to Tower & Oakes store in Underhill Flatts. (Must have decided the original church was not worth saving.)
- 1839 Some of the founding Congregationalists salvaged parts from the damaged original meetinghouse church on Poker Hill Rd and rebuilt it farther up the road (near corner of present Page Rd). Petitioned to secede from the 'Congregational Church of Christ in Underhill', became known as the "North Church".
- 1845 Congregational Church building in the Flatts (which had been moved from River Rd.) was damaged by fire. Funds were raised to erect the present church building (Building became the 'United Church of Underhill' in 197 .)
- 1853 April 4: ( According to the Dr A. F Burdick, sexton and treasurer, who wrote in 1910 'Underhill Cemetery History and Management', John Towers sells the vacant lots in his cemetery by Warrantee Deed 4/23/1853 to members of the 'Underhill Congregational Society' - -  
Joseph Wells. S.W. Mead, John Cadwell, John Terrill signatories.  
Burdick writes that "This cemetery has been under the control and management of the Said Society since the first purchase of land from John H. Tower in 1853."  
(??? These lots were supposed to have been sold to the 'Second Congregational Society in 1838 - -which did not change its name to the "Underhill Congregational Society" until 1889.).

Early burials are: 1837 Robert Burns; 1837 Oliver Wells; 1840 Elizabeth Gile; 1842

Lucretia Hurlburt; 1842 Betsy Wells, 1843 Laura Prior

(Burials which precede Towers 1837 burial ground: 1809 Hiram Hicks; 1810 Polly Rogers; 1813 Juliette Church; 1819 Susan Mc Cormick)

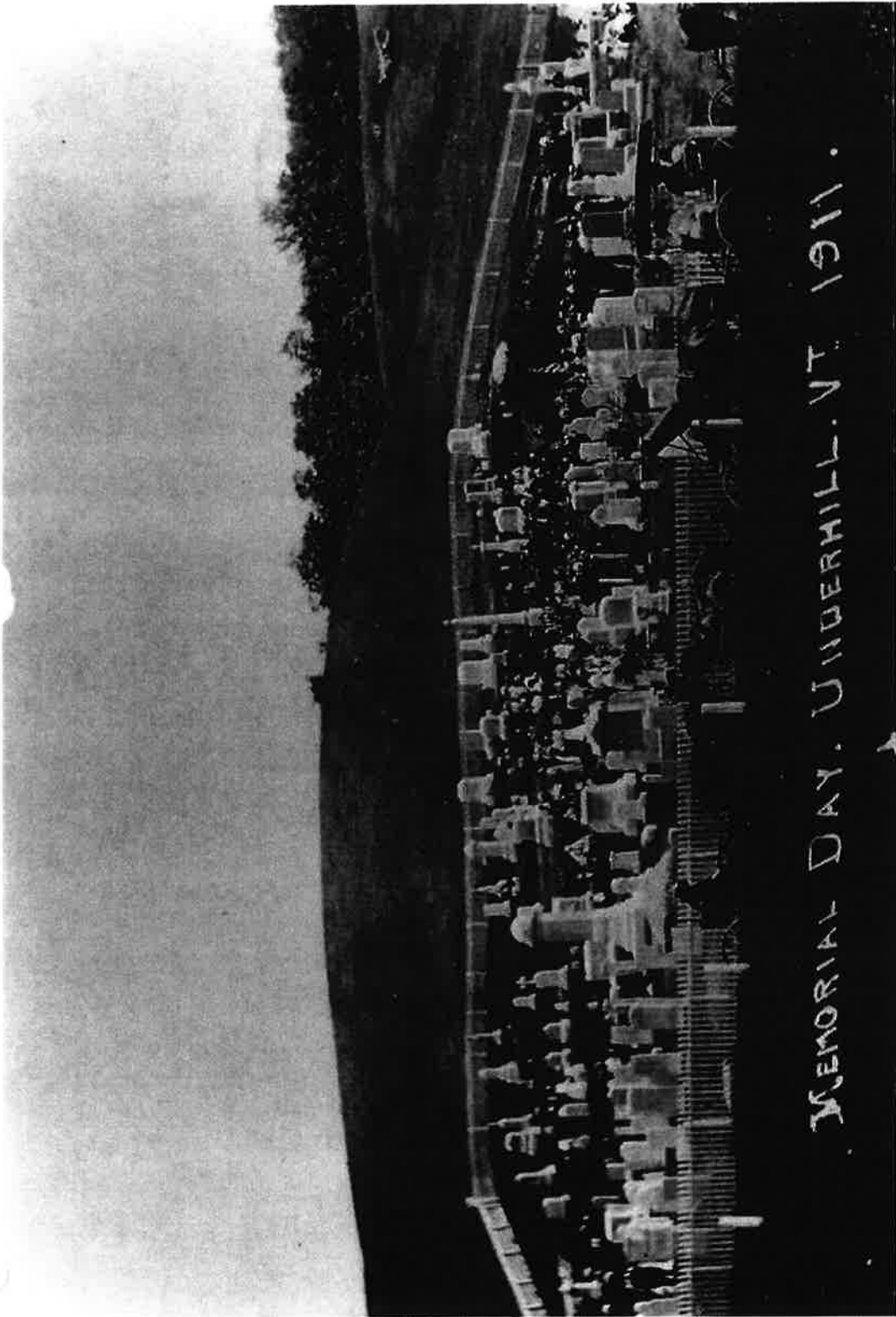
1853 June 3: 'First Congregational Church of Underhill, Vt' reorganized .



*By Grace  
2/19/20*

CEMETERY.  
UNDERHILL VT.

UNDERHILL CEMETERY c. 1900





**UNDERHILL CEMETERY**  
**Park Street**  
**1838**

Kika McArthur 2010

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES  
Burlington Diocese

DORAN CEMETERY (Pleasant Valley Rd.)

1846 Patrick Doran deeds 1 acre to Bishop Fenwick of Boston with an open way for carriage and foot across his land on Pleasant Valley Rd. (vol p )

Early burials: Thomas Doran 1847; Margaret Kelley 1847

1854 John B. Fitzpatrick, Bishop of Boston, to Bishop Louis de Goesbriand (vol.20 p.467)

IRISH SETTLEMENT CEMETERY ( Irish Settlement Road)

1851 Patrick Cole sells one acre ( Lot 15 , Second Subdivision) on Irish Settlement Rd to Bishop Jeremiah O'Callaghan of Boston (vol 13 p 27)

1854 Boston to Burlington Diocese (vol 14 p 127)

1977 Wally Stone deeds ~ 1 A. to Diocese (vol p )

Early burials: Peter Duffy 1851; Thomas Waugh 1851; Michael Beirnie 1851

Burials predating first land transfer: Matthew Casey 1815; James Morris 1831; Martin Barrett 1836; Elizabeth Morris 1837; John Morris 1841

ST THOMAS CEMETERY ( Range Rd. Formerly, Poor Farm Rd.)

1873 Thomas Sears deeds 5 acres and 145 rods to Bishop De Goesbriand. for St Thomas cemetery. (vol 18 p 600)

Early burials predating land transfer: 1815 James Shanley; 1846 Mary Guyette; 1848 Peter Breen; John Mc Elroy 1851; Angie Vasseur 1856; Mary Splain 1855 ; John Mc Clane; Hattie Papineau 1868; Theresa Papineau 1870)



Kika McArthur 2010

**DORAN CEMETERY**  
**Pleasant Valley Road**  
**1846**



# Old Cemeteries tell Underhill History

by Michael Luck

*Michael Luck is a student at Johnson State College.*

In 1823, the first Irish landed in Swanton, Vermont, and in the succeeding years migrated down into the green valleys of Underhill, now called the Irish Settlement and the Pleasant Valley. Once there, they built log cabins on 100-acre plots. "There seems to be no record of the exact date of the first Catholic settlement within the limits of St. Thomas Parish. It is certain, however, that Catholics lived here as early as 1833. During the year, Father O'Callaghan visited this section for the first time, met Michael Barrett at Cambridge, and said Mass at his home, which was located in Fletcher. Father O'Callaghan probably said Mass in Underhill on this visit, but no record states where. Mr. Barrett soon moved to Underhill, locating in the "Settlement" on the farm now owned by his grandson, W.J. Barrett. Here, "Stations" were held from time to time. About this date several Catholic families seem to have come to Underhill, taking up homes. Up to 1845-46, the following families had settled within the limits of the Parish of St. Thomas: Barrett, Cavanagh, Cale, Doran, Doon, Duffy, Eahan, Fay, Flynn, Fitzsimmonds, Green, Gaffney, Hannon, Hoban, Humphrey, Hynes, Luddy, Marlow, Morris, Murphy, McCaffrey, McCoy, McElroy, McGrath, McGuinnon, McKenna, Papineau, Quinlan, Reynolds, Russell, Sweeney, Wall, Adrien, Gill, McMannus, Reaney, Brewin, Burns, Kelley, Waugh, Quinn, McGowan and others.

No sooner had these Catholics gathered in little groups, than the question of building a church was agitated. "Naturally, each argued that his neighborhood was the proper location for such a structure. To lend strength to his argument, Patrick Doran donated to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Fenwick of Boston, one acre of land, located on a sandy knoll, a few rods west of the Pleasant Valley highway. This was intended as a site for a Catholic church and cemetery."

"About two years later, the 'Settlement' people moved by a like laudable desire to have the church near them, purchased from Patrick Cale, for \$30,000, one acre of land, located on the east side of the 'Settlement' highway. This, also, was intended for a church and cemetery lot and was transferred by deed to the Rev. Father O'Callaghan and successors."

No further effectual attempt was ever made to erect a church on either lot. A church was not built in the Pleasant Valley because of fate. The story begins when Bishop de Goesbriand becomes

head of the new diocese of Burlington upon his arrival in 1853. Because many people of Underhill traveled to St. Johns, in Canada for the sacraments, Underhill was considered for the first parish of the diocese.

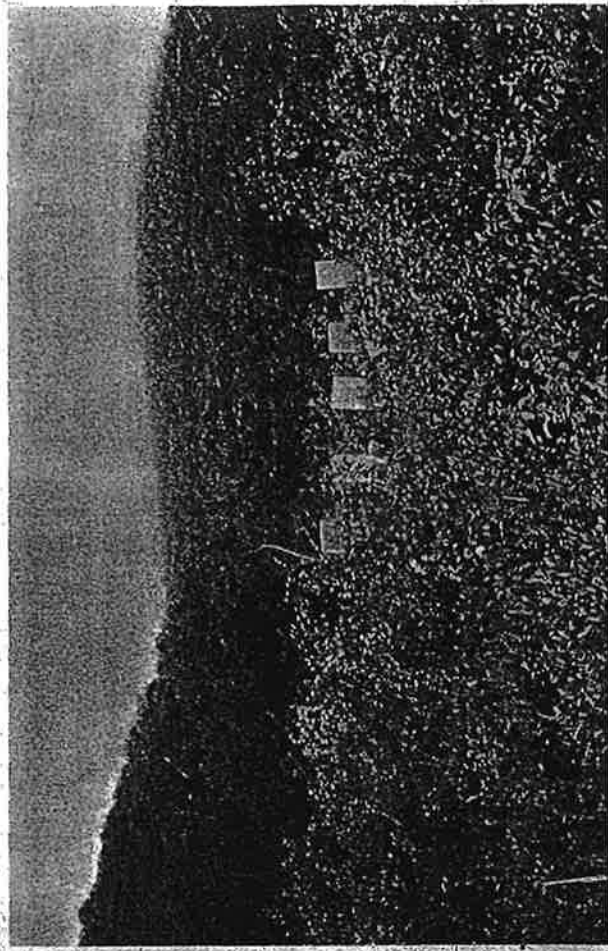
The Bishop traveled to Underhill Center or the "Union" in 1853. In his diary, he writes, "Visited the Settlement on the 15 and 16 Nov. and found there 63 families living close together in 'Union' village. They speak of building a church and need one. I heard many confessions and there gave communion to 70 or 80 persons. Heretofore, they had been visited 3 or 4 times a year by Rev. Father O'Callaghan." On the following visit on St. Joseph's Day March 19, of the following year the Bishop states, "Said Mass at Union village in the Academy, (Green Mt.) then spent three days in the Irish Settlement where there are 60 families. Appointed a committee to select a lot at or about the village." However, no lot could be found and when the Bishop returned on July 2nd of 1854, and the Academy could not be used, Mass was said in a kitchen while the people stood in the street. This apparently strengthened their desire to have a church of their own. "So earnest were they in their resolution," states the Bishop in his diary, "that the Catholics of that neighborhood subscribed \$1250.00 towards the creation of a church to be built about that place." Martin Flannery was soon induced to sell to the Bishop, for the sum of \$300.00, his house and lot so a church could be built. Construction soon began, as the Bishop writes on June 4, 1856, "The church was raised today. It is a good frame building 50 x 32 and 16' between floors with a gallery." Soon, on December 14, 1856, the Bishop blessed the church in Underhill.

The early Irish Catholics, who are now buried in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery remain, to date, practically anonymous, except for a few facts which have now been assembled about each.

Patrick Doran, whom we have already spoken about, was one of the early settlers of the Pleasant Valley. He married Mary Nugant soon after arriving in the area and took up residence near the present day cemetery. The cellar hole of the original farmhouse still remains today. His parents, Fredrick and Catherine Doran, stayed behind in the Old Country. As previously explained, Patrick Doran, being a stout and fervent Catholic, left an acre of land to the Bishop so that a church and cemetery could be started. However, as we have already seen, a church was never built there, but a cemetery had its beginnings. As was the custom in those days,



Patrick Doran's grave lies amid the leaves and grass.



Nearly hidden by under growth, five headstones in a row still stand nearly erect.

Patrick and Mary Doran gave 10 acres of land to their son Thomas when he reached the age of twenty-one. Shortly after coming of age, Thomas married Emily Ellsworth, who hailed from Cambridge, and settled down to farming. However, as was the practice in those days, he spent many winters in Worcester, Massachusetts working in the textile factories. It is said that most of the men left on Labor Day and returned on Decoration Day, and the wife was left to take care of the small farm chores throughout the winter.

Thomas and Emily Doran had six children and their names were Thomas, Edward, James, Susan, Eliza and Emily. Thomas Doran died of an unknown infant disease in September of 1847. James Doran died at two months of a disease of the head on September 23, 1858. All the rest died of diphtheria when a plague hit the area in 1866. Edward was

Susan five, Eliza three, and Emily two. These children, it is said, were all buried at night because of fear of spreading the plague. It is truly grim. It can be seen in the census readings of 1800's that the population of the area thrived and grew on lumbering and farming until 1850. From that date until 1880, the population grew very little and many died of typhoid and diphtheria. In 1880, the population barely was ahead of the 1840 figure for that year.

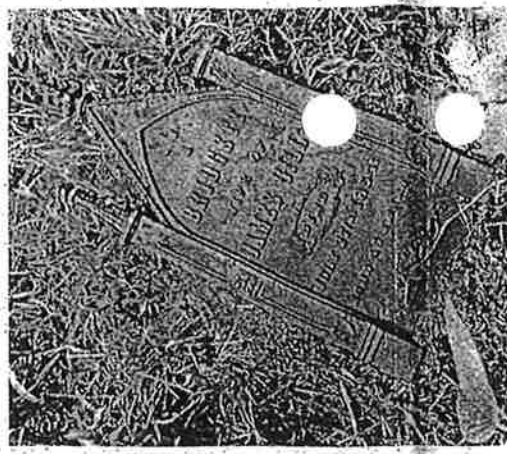
On December 6, 1871, Thomas Doran died in Underhill of typhoid at the age of 45 years and 8 months. Two years later his wife Emily died. The records do not show what she died of, but do say, she was 40 years and one month old. Strangely enough Thomas's father, Patrick, outlived him and died of consumption on November 15, 1887 at 68 years of age. His wife, Mary, died of old age on June 26, 1878, or almost ten years earlier. She died at an almost unheard of age of 95 years.

John Carney, son of James and Jane Carney died January 9, 1852, at the age of 2 years 5 months and 2 days. For a few years, he lived two miles in the woods in back of the Irish Settlement cemetery. His brothers and sisters moved to Keeseville, New York in the late 1800's and started a new farm. One of the descendants is a heart specialist in Michigan. The Carneys were extremely poor and John's father is thought to have worked in the granite quarries in Montpelier when winter came to Underhill. Where they lived was once called Carney Hill.

Thomas Burns, the son of Michael and Elizabeth Burns, died June 24, 1865, at the age of 17 years and 2 months. Ironic as it may seem, an inscription on his tombstone states, "Gone but not forgotten." It is believed that Thomas Burns was a Civil War soldier and died while in the service of the North. He lived with his folks at the present day Beekwith home on the Irish Settlement road. His brothers and sisters went West in the 1870's and have since all passed away. The Campbells are thought to have been relatives of the Burns.

Catherine Waugh, who died January 24, 1851, at the age of 35 years, was the wife of Thomas Waugh. Their homestead was in back of Frank Corbett's place, which is about three miles beyond the cemetery and a mile off the road. One of their children, Pat Waugh, is remembered for always giving a dollar at the yearly church dinner to benefit the cemetery where his mother was buried. Their relatives are said to be the McGuires and McHughins, as well as the Burkes of Massachusetts, of whom most are now dead.

Three of the Wall children died early in life, before they became adults, of the Black Diphtheria Plague. Mary Wall died on July 31, 1860, Ammie on November 1, 1859, and James on January 30, 1853. Their mother and father were Daniel and Beatrice Wall. The children lived with their parents near their cousins, the Waugh family. Most of the surviving



This stone, lying on the ground, was hidden under leaves and over-growth until the author uncovered its beauty.

children moved to Worcester, Massachusetts to work in the factories. A granddaughter now lives in Trenton, New Jersey, and her married name is Waters. Mary McGlynn, the wife of Patrick McGlynn, died in childbirth on December 2, 1856, at the age of 26 years. After some time, her husband is thought to have boarded with the Harvey's in Underhill Center. Their daughter, Elizabeth McGlynn, who died on January 17, 1852, is buried near her mother. Peter Duffy, who died on January 5, 1851, at the age of 65 years, lived on the present day Trask farm at the end of the Pleasant Valley. He was the most prosperous of the farmers in the area and owned a great deal of land. His brother's name was John and he married a Hanley. His children were: Libby Morris, Nancy Duffy, Mary Carvel, Nancy McLain, and John Duffy.

Susannah MacMannus, the daughter of Barney and Mary, died of diphtheria on April 15, 1866, at the same time as the Doran children died. She was also very young, having turned just three before her death. Her surviving brothers and sisters moved to Springfield, Massachusetts.

They lived about one-half mile before the Irish Settlement cemetery where Mrs. Stone lives today. Susannah's mother worked in the Corbett home where Frank Corbett lived at one time.

Bridgett Gill, the wife of James Gill, died on July 27, 1854, at the age of 45 years. The Gills lived across the road from the cemetery about one and a half miles up in the woods. One of Bridgett's sons owned a granite shed in Montpelier and another operated a restaurant in the same town.

Michael Beirne, who died on December 15, 1851, at 44 years, is said to have about a mile beyond the cemetery by the brook which cuts the road. Mrs. Mary Barrett thinks that he was a relative. Margaret Kelley, the daughter of Gerald and Mary Kelley, died on July 28, 1847, at the age of 4 years. She lived with her

# FAIRFAX

Maryann Raymond, Reporter

## Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Ovvitt Honored on 40th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Ovvitt of Isle LaMotte, formerly of Fairfax, celebrated the 40th anniversary of their marriage April 29. To mark the occasion they were held that night at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin F. Abell of 64 Ferris St.

Prior to the party Mr. and Mrs. Ovvitt were guests of their son-in-law and daughter at a dinner at the Cornerstone Restaurant. Upon returning to the Abell home they found a large group of their friends and relatives had gathered there.

The honored couple received gifts, including money, and a silver coffee service from their four children. They also received a shower of greeting cards.

Mrs. Ovvitt was presented a corsage of pink and white carnations and her husband, a white carnation boutonniere, by their granddaughter, Cathy Abell, before leaving for the dinner.

The guest book was in charge of another granddaughter, Kerry Abell.

A highlight of the refreshments was a three-tiered anniversary cake decorated with white doves and bells.

Mrs. Melvin F. Abell Sr. presided at the coffee service and the grandchildren served ice cream.

Mrs. Ovvitt is the former Miss Alberta P. Foster, daughter of the late Hermon Foster of Swanton and Mrs. Nora P. McGinn of Olmsteadville, N.Y. She was married to Walter M. Ovvitt, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Ovvitt Sr. of Sheldon, on April 29, 1930, in the First Baptist Church in Wyandotte, Mich.

They lived in Fairfax for several years where Mr. Ovvitt was engaged in farming and then in Burlington while he was employed by the University of Vermont. He is now retired.

The have three daughters, Mrs. Russell (Harmony) Bolstridge of South Windsor, Conn., Mrs. Melvin (June) Abell Jr. of St. Albans and Mrs. Robert (Eileen) Gould of Enfield, Conn. and one son, Jack Ovvitt of Parish, N.Y.

Round out their family circle are 12 grandchildren, seven and one great-grandchild.

## Family Reunion held

A family reunion was held on Sunday, May 10 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dalton Achia and family with 29 attending.

A buffet dinner was served by the hostess to the following guests: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gillin of Groton, Mrs. Dewey Gokey and two children of Essex Junction, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Collins and three children of North Hero, Miss Loretta Gillin of St. Albans, Mr. and Mrs. Earle Sweet of Jeffersonville, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Dunn of Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. John Shaw and three sons of Wichita, Kansas, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gillin of Swanton and Miss Claire Dunn of Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gillin have now begun their summer employment at Lake Groton, Vermont.

## Shower Given for Cheryl Palmer

Miss Cheryl Palmer was guest of honor at a miscellaneous shower given on Sunday afternoon at the Elementary school in Georgia.

The hall was decorated in green and yellow streamers and the bride, to be received her many gifts from a decorated table, assisted by her attendants she has chosen for her wedding. Games were played and prizes awarded to Hazel Brusco, Joan Blackmore, Leora Palmer, Adeline Sartwell, Ardelle Sartwell, Janet Bovat, and Claire Therrien. Refreshments were served by the hostesses Mrs. Colleen Paquette, Patricia Shores, Sharon Palmer, and Elsie Duscharme, from a table decorated with streamers and bells of variegated green and yellow. A feature of the refreshments was two shower cakes, one in the shape of a watering can and a tiered cake with the topping depicting the bride and groom with all her attendants in their gowns in half inch miniatures. These were made by the guest of honor's sister Mrs. Paquette.

Fifty friends and relatives attended from Rhode Island, Newport, Swanton, St. Albans, Burlington, Fairfax and Milton.

Cheryl will become the bride of Carl Sibley on June 27th at noon in Holy Angels Church.

## Severe Burns Hospitalize

### Former Fairfax Girl Since 1968

Mrs. Arden Billado has recently returned from North Highland,

Sacramento, California, where she cared for her daughter Mrs. Wayne (Shirley) Schafer, for two months.

Mrs. Schafer received burns over 72% of her body in September 1968, with 50% of them being third degree burns. She was treated for many months at the Brooks Army Hospital in Texas, and later taken to the David Grant Medical Center in San Francisco. While Mrs. Billado could be with her daughter and her husband, Shirley was able to be home.

One foot has been amputated at the ankle but with her courageous outlook on life and the fight to survive for her family, Shirley is able to walk with underarm crutches and assistance. Her many friends in Fairfax wish her continued success in her struggle to good health again.

The Schafers have two young sons that have been cared for by the senior Schafers, and they also visited their parents for a week while their mother was home from the hospital.

Mrs. Vera McNeill, chairman of the Crippled Children's Drive announces that Fairfax residents have contributed the sum of \$102. Many thanks go to everyone who helped in any way.

The members of the Fairfax Extension Homemakers will meet at the home of Mrs. Dora Lunn on Wednesday May 12 at 8 p.m. The topic of the evening will be "Water Pollution."

Michael J. Rooney, son of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Rooney is now stationed at Fort Dix, N.J. He is a member of the Airborne Division of the Army. His address is as follows: Michael J. Rooney 008-32-5513, Company D-5th Bn, 2nd BT, BDE 3rd Platoon, Fort Dix, N.J. Zip 08640.

Mr. Owen Collins has returned to his home after being confined to the Fanny Allen Hospital.

Mrs. Flossie Evans has returned to the home of her daughter and family Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Barkyoub, after being a surgical patient at the Fanny Allen Hospital.

## Mrs. Colleen Blake New

### BFA Club President

Mrs. Colleen Blake was elected President of the BFA Club for the coming year, at the meeting held in the gym on Monday evening May 4. Vice-President is Mrs. Gisele Wolfe; Secretary, Mrs. Yvonne Meunier; and Treasurer, Mrs. Kay A.

It was reported that the Jaycees will be Chairmen of the Country Fair to be held this summer, the time to be announced.

The group voted a sum of \$25.00 for the Fairfax Little League tear a collection was also made and the sum of \$21.75 was also turned in to Mrs. Janice Hoben, Secretary and Treasurer of the L.I. Team.

A vote from the group set aside a sum of \$250.00 for Fiction books for the Elementary grades Library.

The plans for the summer are for the five Cheerleaders to attend a camp for a week.

The girls have raised money for a fund toward this project and the BFA Club voted \$45.00 towards this project. Each girl will pay the balance of their week at camp, if not enough money is realized.

The BFA Club will sponsor the Alumni Banquet again this year. The date has been changed from the past years and the banquet will be held on Friday evening June 12th. Following the meeting the Home Economics classes presented a Fashion Show, with the theme being "Peaceful Peoples Park" with their instructor Mrs. Lois Putnam explaining the theme before the show.

Linda Collins, Donna Braleyand, Donna Conger, modeled bell-bottoms and short top; Melanie Montague; Marlene Naylor and Lou Ann Yandow modeled dresses; Carol Deschamps and Debby Fisher also modeled bell bottoms, Group 4, Sylvia Yandow, Theresa Bates and Mary Shores wore dresses that they had made and Sylvia spoke on what she had learned about sewing, as did some of the other models.

Group 5 and 6 were dress models; being Patricia Bates, France Bouthillette, Betty Collins, Paula Montgomery, Jelfira Benway, and Darlene Murray modeled a pants suit.

Group 7, Helen Prive, Dawn Lefebvre and Lynn Brown modeled skirt and vests. Group 8, Debby Conger and Marlene Minor in maxi-skirts.

The girls were escorted by Eric Shaw, Larry Webb, Bert Broc, Scott Huntley, Mark Rainville, H. Smith, Bruce Maxfield, Brian Mitchell, Steven Maxfield, Herb Huntley and Peter Breen.

Elaine Sweet was Narrator and Conversationalist. Pauline Toof was in charge of the scenery. Fashion coordinators were Denise Lavalée and Lucy Hill; Programs were by Diane Shaw and Pauline Toof with Hal Smith the artist; the Exhibits by the various grades were in charge of Anne Pigeon. The 7th through 12 grades had exhibits on sewing, foods, fabrics, rugs, etc. on display.

Refreshments were served by the Home Economics girls with Carol Lemoine, Sandra King, and Helen Stygles in charge.

## Commencement Program Changed

The schedule of events for Commencement week at Bellows Free Academy in Fairfax has been changed this year, in hopes that more Alumni may attend along with families and friends.

The Junior Prom will be held on Friday evening June 5; Band and Choral Concert, Thursday evening, June 7; Final exams will be held on June 8 through 11.

On Friday evening June 12 the Alumni Banquet and Ball will be held.

Last Chapel Saturday morning June 13; Alumni Baseball game in afternoon June 13; Baccalaureate Saturday night June 13; Class Day exercises will be held on Sunday afternoon and Graduation Sunday evening June 14th.

## Underhill Cemeteries

folks at the end of the road to the University of Vermont Research Farm off the Pleasant Valley Road.

John McNulty, the son of Bernard and Ann, died November 8, 1852, at the age of 2 years. He lived his two years in a log cabin one half mile before the present day State Park, where a green camp now stands. It is believed a relative is living in Winooski. He had two brothers and two sisters. Frank moved to Utah. Mary married Pat Breen and Ann married Mr. Doyle. John's brother, Peter, is said to have gone West.

One finds it difficult to conclude or bring to a close a research paper which records the life and death of twenty-four people so quickly. One feels that one should remember these people, but it is sad to relate that further knowledge, in any detail, of these pioneers has either been lost in fires, or erased from the minds of those who might remember. During my research, I discovered a poem which sums up better than I could the feeling and history that this paper represents. As for my own summary, I think it can be said that they came into life hard and left it early.

"No one sees the moss covered banks, fragrant with birch and rich with foliaged maples and willows, change into black spruce logs and the angel-guarded lakes, into darkened muddy ponds; and their churning cascades into rough stone dams and the dissolving, sky ascending mists into rough, clacking saw-mill, and the polished scholar into a rough Yankee farmer."

The Vacant Grave  
There's a vacant grave where his form was laid  
And the stream giveth forth a mournful note.

And through the boughs where the "soft winds played"  
A wild sad requiem seems to float;  
For there stealthily came a stranger hand  
And bore him away to a stranger land.

Yet why should we mourn that sleeps not here.  
The "ashes to ashes, dust unto dust,"  
We know that his spirit is hovering near  
The objects it cherished, true to its trust;

The monument that forever shall stand,  
Is the good he wrought with a liberal hand.

YOUR WESTFORD NEWS IS  
ON PAGE 10 THIS WEEK

- Bananas, Firm Ripe, 2 lbs. . . . . \$1.09
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- Dark Bread, Tip Top, loaf . . . . .39
- Cube Steak, lb. . . . . .99
- Frankfurts, Green Mt., 2 lb. bag . . . . . \$1.09
- Martha White, Flapstax, Spud Flakes or Bix Mix, pkg. . . . . .10
- Cake Mixes, Duncan Hines, white, yellow or chocolate . . . . . 3.98
- Tomato Soup, Campbells, 6 cans . . . . . .69

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## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: THE DORAN CEMETERY

by Scott A. McLaughlin  
1994

### INTRODUCTION

In Underhill, Vermont, a historic resource is slowly being destroyed. The layout, form, and landscape of a small Irish Catholic cemetery are being transformed by both natural and human events. The headstones, fences, vegetation, and topography of the cemetery are being altered. Without the documentation of these important changes, a phase in the history of the cemetery will be lost. One cannot prevent change; therefore, we must compile historical documents and the visible evidence of the landscape in an effort to better understand the processes that shape our world. Through observations and historical research, we hope to gain a better understanding of how the cemetery came to be, why it has been abandoned, and who is buried there.

### THE FOUNDING AND ABANDONMENT OF THE DORAN CEMETERY

A small Irish-Catholic cemetery often referred to as the "Catholic Cemetery on the Valley Road," the "Pleasant Valley Cemetery," or the "Doran Cemetery" is located on the Pleasant Valley Road in Underhill. According to the headstones, the cemetery served the needs of this small mountainous community from 1847 until 1878. Patrick Doran donated the plot of land, which the cemetery occupies today, to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Fenwick of Boston, Massachusetts. The land was to be used for a Catholic Church and cemetery to serve the needs of the growing Irish-Catholic communities in the Irish Settlement and the Pleasant Valley areas (Luck 1970:15). The date of the transfer was September 1, 1846 (The J. J. Ryder Company 1899:9).

The population of Underhill in 1791 was sixty-five; by 1800, it had reached 212 (Dwyer 76:3); and by 1840, 1441 people lived in town. The steady increase in the number of inhabitants of Underhill continued throughout the early nineteenth century as a result of the thriving local lumber and agricultural industries.

The Irish Settlement Cemetery, located on Irish Settlement Road, was another Catholic cemetery in use at the same time as the Doran Cemetery. The Irish Settlement community also had hoped that a Catholic Church would stand beside their cemetery. Together the cemetery and church would serve the Catholic community of Underhill (Luck 1970:15). From the headstones in the Irish Settlement Cemetery, it appears that it was first used in 1831.<sup>1</sup> A church was never built on the former Doran property or near the Irish Settlement Cemetery.

In 1856, Rt. Rev. Bishop Louis DeGoesbriand of the new diocese of Burlington decided that the St. Thomas Church would be built in "Union Village" or Underhill Center as it is known today (Dwyer 1976:11). In 1873, the land was purchased by the St. Thomas Parish on Range Road to serve as the Catholic cemetery.

Although the St. Thomas and Irish Settlement cemeteries are still in use today, the Doran Cemetery was abandoned after 1878. The soil and topography may have played a part in the

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<sup>1</sup> This is the headstone of James Morris, died March 7, 1831.

narrow valley, Pleasant Valley, which is between the crest of the Green Mountains and a small parallel ridge called "Macomber Mountain." The cemetery is surrounded on the north, south, and east sides by a hay field and a forest on the west. The cemetery is about 3.5 miles from Underhill Center and 2.8 miles from the Underhill/Cambridge town line.

The area does not seem like the best place for a cemetery or a church. The right of way to the lot goes through a low spot in the hay field that is very wet during the spring and fall of the year. The land is very rough with bedrock and boulders penetrating the surface. The surface is covered with small depressions and mounds due to animal burrows, ant hills, decomposed trees, tree throws, cattle grazing in the cemetery, rocks being moved out of the cemetery to make up the stonewalls, and vehicles being driven into the cemetery. It is possible that some of these depressions may be unmarked graves. The trees and brush have been recently cut down on the east side of the lot, but still remain in piles within the cemetery. The west side of the cemetery remains wooded.

### LAYOUT OF THE CEMETERY

The upper terrace has two rows of graves with six headstones each. The lower terrace consists of one row with two standing headstones. All the headstones are facing east toward Mount Mansfield. Thirteen families are represented in the cemetery: Beirne/Burns, Carney, Doran, Duffy, Ellsworth, Gill, Kelley, McGlynn, McMannus, McNulty, Nugant, Wall, and Waugh. At least twenty-four individuals are buried in the cemetery and fourteen of the headstones are still standing. Seven have toppled over or have been moved within the cemetery. Some of the headstones were stacked in a pile, while others were leaning against trees until Mrs. Lamphere moved these headstones to the upper terrace. Each family had their own section or plot in the cemetery. All the headstones are made of marble, except for one, which is made of cast iron.<sup>2</sup>

Fourteen graves are those of children eighteen years old or under.<sup>3</sup> Seven people died between the age of eighteen and forty-five and three people between the age of sixty-five and ninety-five. Eight people buried in the cemetery were victims of typhoid, consumption, or diphtheria epidemics, which spread through the area between 1850 and 1880 (Luck 1970:15). Susan, Edward, and Eliza Doran and Susannah McMannus died during the diphtheria plague of 1866, the effect of which is evident in cemeteries throughout the area. The first person to be buried in the cemetery was Margaret Kelley on July 28, 1847. The last person to be buried in the

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<sup>2</sup> *Bridgett Gill, the wife of James Gill, died July 27, 1854 at the age of forty-five. According to Luella Lamphere, another cast iron headstone is said to have been in the cemetery, but its whereabouts is unknown.*

<sup>3</sup> *Emily A. Doran, Eliza J. Doran, Edward L. Doran, Thomas Doran, James A. Doran, Susan E. Doran, John Carney, John McNulty, Susannah McMannus, Mary Waugh, Annie Waugh, James Waugh, Thomas Burns, and Margaret Kelley*

## IRISH IMMIGRATION

Both the birth and death records demonstrated that most of the adult individuals buried in the Doran Cemetery were born in Ireland. Census records, which are taken every ten years, provided an estimation of when individuals arrived in Underhill. In the 1840 census only three families, with three persons in each household, were represented. They were the families of James Carney, John Doran, and Patrick McMannus. The 1850 census, demonstrating an increase, lists ten heads of households with a total of fifty-nine individuals. All were documented as being born in Ireland.

The headstones support the fact that the majority of people from the Doran cemetery arrived after 1840. The earliest headstone is that of Margaret Kelley, who died July 28, 1847 at the age of four. Due to the fact that Margaret's family is not listed in the 1840 census, we know her family arrived in Underhill between 1840 and 1847. The only other stone from the 1840s is that of an infant, Thomas Doran, who died in September of 1847.

The majority of individuals buried in the cemetery died in the 1850s. The families represented in the 1850 census records were those of Joseph and Michael Burns, James and James (Jr.) Carney, John and Patrick Doran, James Gill, Mary Kelley, and Daniel Wall. Headstones indicate that other families, although not listed in the census, were buried in the Doran Cemetery during the 1850s. This suggests that the families of Peter Duffy, Barnard McMannus, B. McNulty, and Thomas Waugh came from a different town or had immigrated after 1850 but before 1860. Ten of the twenty-three individuals represented on the surviving stones are from this time period. The cemetery records at the Underhill town clerk's office also lists an Elizabeth McGlynn as being buried there in 1852, though no stone remains.

Eleven out of a known twenty-four people were buried in the 1850s. Seven out of the thirteen families buried their relatives in the Doran Cemetery during this decade. Since the cemetery saw its heaviest use during the 1850s, it suggests that these people arrived at some point prior to that time. It seems reasonable to say that most of the people arrived between 1840 and 1850. The late 1840s was a period of intense Irish immigration, due largely to the Irish Potato Famine.<sup>4</sup> Underhill's increase in population could have been a result of this immigration.

## BEIRNE/BURNS

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<sup>4</sup> In 1845, the first cases of *Phytophthora Infestans* or potato blight was recorded. This disease caused the potatoes to rot in the ground, rendering them inedible. Out of nine million people, one million people died during the Famine and about one and a half million people left Ireland between 1845 and 1855 (Grada 1989:55). Many of these new immigrants came to America by way of Canada, since it was the cheapest form of passage (Moody and Martin 1984:272). From Quebec, these people could have traveled southward down the St. Lawrence and Richelieu rivers to Lake Champlain and the Hudson.

In 1840, James Carney<sup>7</sup> lived in Underhill with two other people whose names were not recorded. By 1850, there were two James Carneys, and it seems likely that they were father and son. The elder Carney was a farmer born in Ireland. He and his wife, Sarah, had three children living with them in 1850, Ann age twelve, Mary age eight, and Thomas age fifteen, who helped his father on the farm.

The younger James Carney was also born in Ireland and probably was the third member of his father's 1840 household. James married Jane, a native Vermonter, and had a daughter, Mary, and a son, John, who died at the age of two in 1852. John's grave, marked by a thin white marble headstone bearing an epitaph that time has washed away, is on the upper terrace of the Doran cemetery.

## DORAN

Patrick Doran<sup>8</sup>, the son of Fredrick and Catherine Doran (Luck 1970:15) was a first generation Irish immigrant. He arrived in America with his Irish wife Mary Nugant<sup>9</sup> and their children, Mary and Thomas. Patrick emerged as a successful farmer (\$800 a year in 1850) despite the stony hill country of Underhill. According to the maps of Underhill dating 1858 and 1869, the Doran family lived on the Pleasant Valley Road and the Irish Settlement Road.

Patrick's son, Thomas, married Underhill resident, Emily A. Ellsworth.<sup>10</sup> "As was the practice in those days, he [Thomas] spent many winters in Worcester, Massachusetts working in the textile factories. It is said that most of the men left on Labor Day and returned on Decoration Day, and the wife was left to take care of the" winter farm chores (Luck 1970:15). Thomas and Emily had seven children, none of whom reached adulthood. A son named James, whose cause of death was recorded as "died of disease in head" in 1858 at the age of two months, was their first child to die. "Disease in head" may be a form of diphtheria<sup>11</sup> where the toxins produced by

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<sup>7</sup> Carney is an alternate spelling for the Gaelic Irish surname O'Kearey. Carney is almost confined to the territory of Connacht, Ireland, and particularly County Mayo (MacLysaght 1985:110).

<sup>8</sup> Doran is short for O'Doran who are from the provinces of Ulster and Leinster (MacLysaght 1985:77).

<sup>9</sup> Nugant is a version of the Anglo-Norman surname Nugent, which is found in all the Irish provinces except Connacht, Ireland (MacLysaght 1985:137).

<sup>10</sup> Ellsworth is not an Irish surname.

<sup>11</sup> Diphtheria is an acute infectious disease caused by a toxin producing bacteria called *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, primarily affecting the nose, throat, or larynx, and characterized by the formation of a gray white pseudomembrane. It is attended by fever and pain of varying degree and respiratory obstruction.

four other children, all born in Vermont by the time the 1850 census was compiled: Patrick (twelve years old), Nancy (seven years old), Catherine (four years old), and Celia (one year old). No headstone has been found for these children in the three local Catholic cemeteries. Perhaps as adults, they moved out of Underhill. John was a prosperous farmer in Underhill, making \$600 a year in 1850. By the time the 1860 census was taken, only John, Mary, and Patrick were living in their household. John (1797-1870) and Mary (1818-1903) were buried in the Irish Settlement Cemetery. Mary's family, the Barrett's, is one of the major families represented at the Irish Settlement Cemetery. She may have chosen to bury her husband in the Irish Settlement Cemetery as opposed to the Doran Cemetery, so she would be buried with her family.

## DUFFY

Peter Duffy<sup>16</sup> is the only individual representing the Duffy family in the Doran Cemetery. He died June 5, 1851 at the age of sixty-five. "He was the most prosperous of the farmers in the area and owned a great deal of land" (Luck 1970:15). He owed his prosperity to his land and the Seymour River, which flows through it. The periodic floods which occurred over his fields helped to rejuvenate the rocky acidic soil. John Duffy, Peter's brother, also lived in town with his family.

## GILL

Sometime between 1840 and 1850, Bridgett and James Gill<sup>17</sup> left their home in Ireland to settle in Vermont. They brought with them their son Patrick. Their daughter, Margaret, was born in Vermont. The year of 1850 must have been a difficult one; for all of James' hard work as a laborer only resulted in \$40. Perhaps the strain of such a hard life eventually weakened Bridgett; she died in 1854 at the age of forty-five. James was thirty-five at his wife's death. It was not uncommon for a widower to remarry almost immediately after the loss of his wife. In the 1860 census, Thomas was married to an Irish woman, Betsey. Their children are not mentioned in the census of 1860. By that time, James was farming and had managed to acquire \$2000 worth of real estate. Betsey received help with her household duties from two people living with them, Mary E. Burn<sup>18</sup> and Maria King<sup>19</sup>. In 1880 James, sixty-five, and Betsey, sixty, were living alone.

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<sup>16</sup> The name Duffy or O'Duffy is found throughout Ireland (MacLysaght 1985:80).

<sup>17</sup> Gill is an indigenous and common surname found in Britain which is used as an anglicized abbreviation of many Irish Gil-names (MacLysaght 1985:199).

<sup>18</sup> Burn may be a shortened version of Burns. Burns is an indigenous and common surname found in Britain which is used as an anglicized form of the Gaelic Irish surnames O'Beirne, Birrane, and Byrne (MacLysaght 1985:199).

## McNULTY

Bernard and Ann McNulty<sup>23</sup> had four children, John, Frank, Mary and Ann. John died on November 8, 1851 at the age of two years. His grave is in the Doran Cemetery.

## WALL

Daniel Wall<sup>24</sup> was born in Ireland and settled in Underhill before 1850. He married Bridgett, a native Vermonter. The span of time between 1850 and 1860 was surely an emotionally difficult one for the Wall family. Their six-year-old son, James, died in 1853. Six years later, their seven-year-old daughter, Annie, died. Mary died the following year at eighteen.

The 1850 census lists Robert, six years old; however, he does not appear in any later records. By 1870, the Walls had a house on the Notch Road in Underhill. Their children, Daniel Jr., Ellen, Margaret and James<sup>25</sup> attended school to learn reading and writing, an ability they did not share with their parents. Town reports for Underhill in the 1870s and 1880s frequently mention Daniel Wall as having worked on town roads and bridges. Since the elder Wall was in his seventies by 1880, it seems probable that these reports refer to his son who was in his thirties. Daniel and Bridget are buried in the Irish Settlement Cemetery, as is their son, Daniel.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> McNulty is a shortened version of the Irish Gaelic surname MacNulty, which means son to the Ulsterman. The MacNulty's belong to the northwestern section of the province of Ulster (MacLysaght 1985:137).

<sup>24</sup> Wall is Norman name that is common both in Britain and in the provinces of Munster and Limerick, Ireland (MacLysaght 1985:154).

<sup>25</sup> It was not uncommon to name a child after a previous child that had passed away. This seems to be the case with the two James Walls, one born in 1847 (who died in 1853) and the other in 1861. This is seen elsewhere in the cemetery within the Doran Family. The gravestone of Edward L. Doran, the son of Thomas and Emily A., tells us that he died at nine years old during the diphtheria epidemic of 1866. The death records list a second Edward Doran being born on May 20, 1868 and dying the next day. He too was the son of T. and E. Doran.

<sup>26</sup> Daniel Wall (Senior) died August 25, 1881 at 76 years; Bridget Wall, wife of Daniel Wall, died October 3, 1885 at 63 years; and Daniel Wall (Junior) was born November 16, 1849 and died October 8, 1929. This information was recorded from their headstones.

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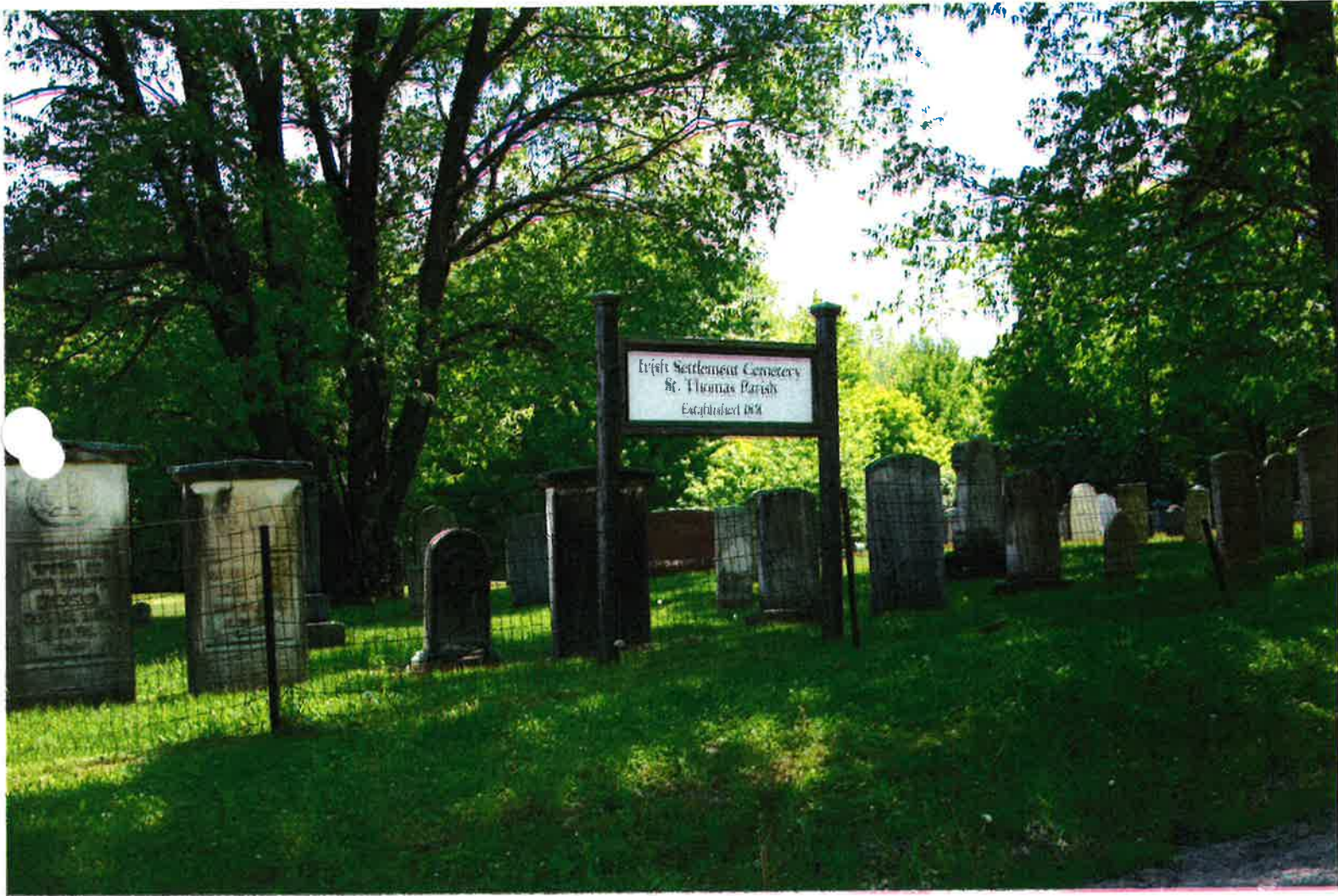
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Kika McArthur 2010

**IRISH SETTLEMENT CEMETERY**  
**Irish Settlement Road**  
**1851**



Kika McArthur 2010

**ST. THOMAS CEMETERY**  
**Range Road**  
**1873**