

**RALPH WALDO EMERSON**

**Visit to Mount Mansfield  
August 1868**

Emerson in His Journals

Sol. & Ed. Joel Porte  
Harvard UP 1982

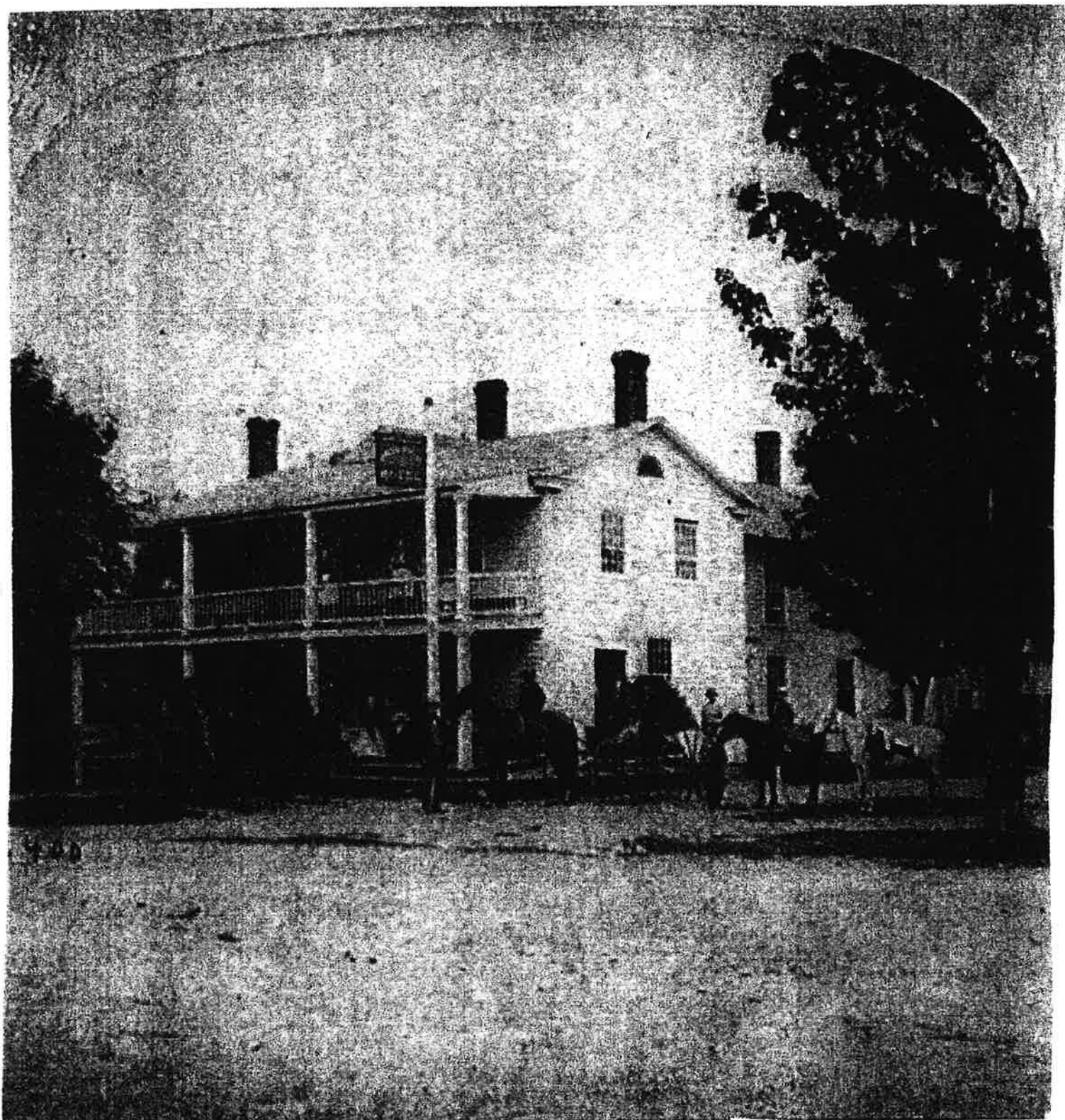
pp. 551-553

Aug. 16, 1862

Came home last night from Vermont with Ellen. Stopped at Middlebury on the 11th, Tuesday, & read my discourse on *Greatness, & the good work & influence of heroic scholars*. On Wednesday, spent the day at Essex Junction, & traversed the banks & much of the bed of the Winooski River, much admiring the falls, & the noble mountain peaks of Mansfield, & Camel's Hump (which there appears to be the highest) & the view of the Adirondacs across the Lake. In the evening, took the stage to Underhill Centre. And, the next morning, in unpromising weather, strolled away with Ellen towards the Mansfield mountain, 4 miles off; & the clouds gradually rising & passing from the summit, we decided to proceed toward the top, which we reached (with many rests at the Half-way House, & at broad stones on the path) a little before 2 o'clock, & found George Bradford at the Mountain House. We were cold & a little wet, but found the house warm with stoves. After dinner, Ellen was thoroughly warmed & recruited lying on a settee by the stove, & meanwhile I went up with Mr Bradford & a party to the top of "the Chin," which is the highest land in the State—4400 feet. I have, later, heard it stated 4380 ft. Lake Champlain lay below us, but was a perpetual illusion, as it would appear a piece of yellow sky, until careful examination of the islands in it, & the Adirondac summits beyond brought it to the earth for a moment; but, if we looked away an instant, & then returned, it was in the sky again. When we reached the summit, we looked down upon the "Lake of the Clouds," & the party which reached the height a few minutes before us, had a raiment cloud which floated by a little below them. This summer, bears & a panther have been seen on the mountain, & we peeped into some rocky caves which might house them. We came, on the way, to the edge of a crag, which we approached carefully, & lying on our bellies; & it was easy to see how dangerous a walk this might be at night, or in a snowstorm. The White Mountains—it was too misty to see; but "Owl's Head," near Lake Memphremagog, was pointed out. Perhaps it was a half mile only from the House to the top of "the Chin," but it was a rough & grand walk. On such occasions, I always return to my fancy that the best use of wealth would be to carry a good professor of Geology, & another of Botany, with you.

In the House were perhaps twenty visitors besides ourselves, a Mr Taylor of Cincinnati—a very intelligent gentleman—with excellent political views, republican & free-trader: George Bartlett was there with a gay company of his friends, who had come up from Stowe, where he had given a theatrical entertainment of amateurs, the night before. In the evening, they amused us mightily with charades of violent fun. The next morning a man went through the house ringing a large bell, & shouting "Sunrise," & every body dressed in haste, & went down to the piazza. Mount Washington & the Franconia mountains were clearly visible, & Ellen & I climbed now the *Nose*, to which the ascent is made easy by means of a stout rope firmly attached near the top, & reaching down to the bottom of the hill, near the House. Twenty people are using it at once at different heights. After many sharp looks at the heavens & the earth, we descended to breakfast. . . .

At 9.30 A.M. Ellen & I, accompanied for some distance by George Bradford, set forth on our descent, in the loveliest of mornings, & parting from Mr B., at one of the galleries, arrived safely at the "Half-Way House"—there to find a troop of our fellow boarders of the "Underhill House," just mounting their horses to climb the Mountain. They advised us to take a little forest path to the "Mossy Glen," before we continued our journey from this point, which we did, & found a pretty fall. Returning to the Half-Way House, which is empty, & only affords at this time a resting place for travellers, & a barn for horses, we resumed our walk, & arrived (without other event than a little delay among the raspberries) at Mr Prouty's Hotel at Underhill, say at 1.30; dined, repacked our trunk, & took a wagon to Stowe, thence the Stage Coach to Essex Junction, & thence the train, which brought us to Burlington where we spent the night; & the next morning, the Rutland & Burlington train, which brought us safely to Westminister, Massachusetts, where Ellen took a wagon for Princeton, & I continued my railroad ride to Concord, arriving at 6.30 P.M.



Pronty's Hotel Underhill Center

c. 1867



HALFWAY HOUSE c.1867

## Chronology of the Hotel in Underhill Center

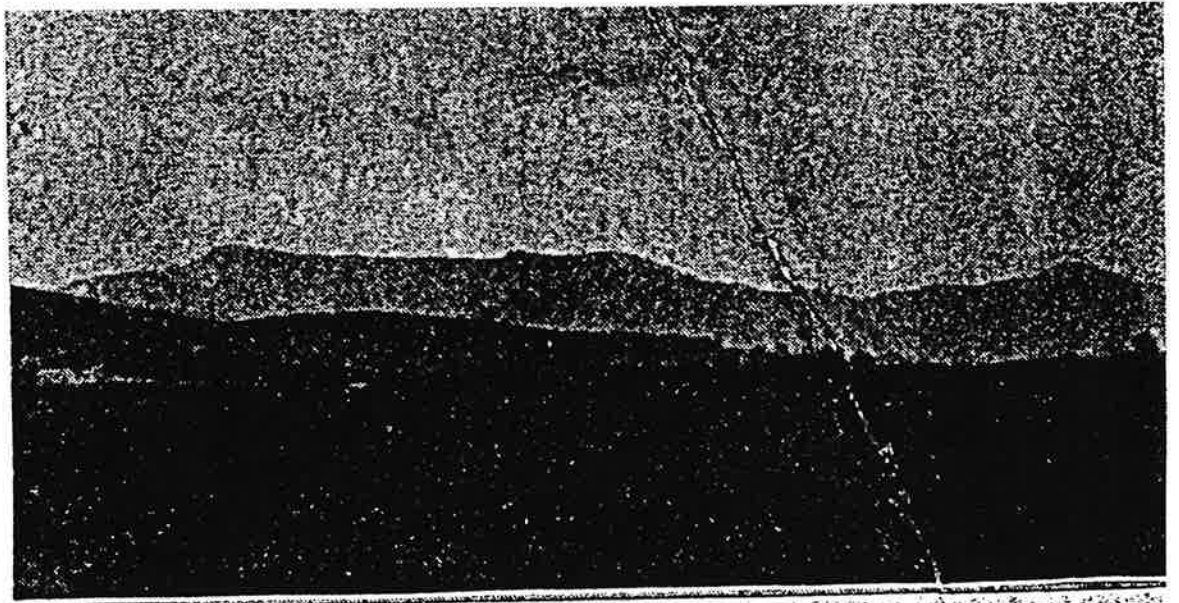
Owned by:

		1990 building demolished		
V60 P380	Lamphere, Patrick and Connell, John	May 22, 1987	rented	
V45 P165	LaCroix, Roger and Thelma	Nov 7, 1975 – May 22 1987	home	12 years
V42 P438	Chicoine, William and Lucille	Aug 3, 1971 – Nov 7, 1975	home	4
V38 P366	Pouliot, Everist and Cordelia	June 23, 1947 – Aug 3, 1971	home	24
V35 P47	<u>Henry, L. Leora</u>	Nov 4, 1919 – June 23 1947	<u>Mansfield Inn</u>	28
V29 P495	Prouty, Fred	Mar 16, 1908 – Nov 4, 1919		11
V27 P286	Horton, Ezra M.	Mar, 1907 – March 16, 1908		1
V27 P286	<u>Prouty, E.H. (foreclosure)</u>	June 28, 1866 – Mar 1907	<u>rented out</u>	41
V18 P321	Fay, Henry and Mary	Nov 26, 1862 – June 28, 1866		4
V17 P430	Dixon, Leonard and Eliza	Apr 25, 1862 – Nov 26, 1862		7mos
V17 P316	<u>Howe, George P. (of Essex)</u>	Oct 1, 1860 – Apr 25, 1862	<u>Mansfield Mountain House</u>	1 ½
V17 P316	Richardson, Martin and Ann	Feb 19, 1852 – Oct 1, 1860	Tavern Stand	7
V14 P374	Wires, Martin	Feb 4, 1853	Tavern Stand	
V13 P518	Woodworth, Ralph and Smith, Joseph	Apr 18, 1850		½ acre
P369	Sept 9, 1826 Noah Chittenden of Jericho, VT deeded to Ralph Woodworth of Underhill VT. Lot 56 in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> division of lots, Underhill VT			

Compiled 6/25/06 by Luella Henry Lamphere



c. 1862



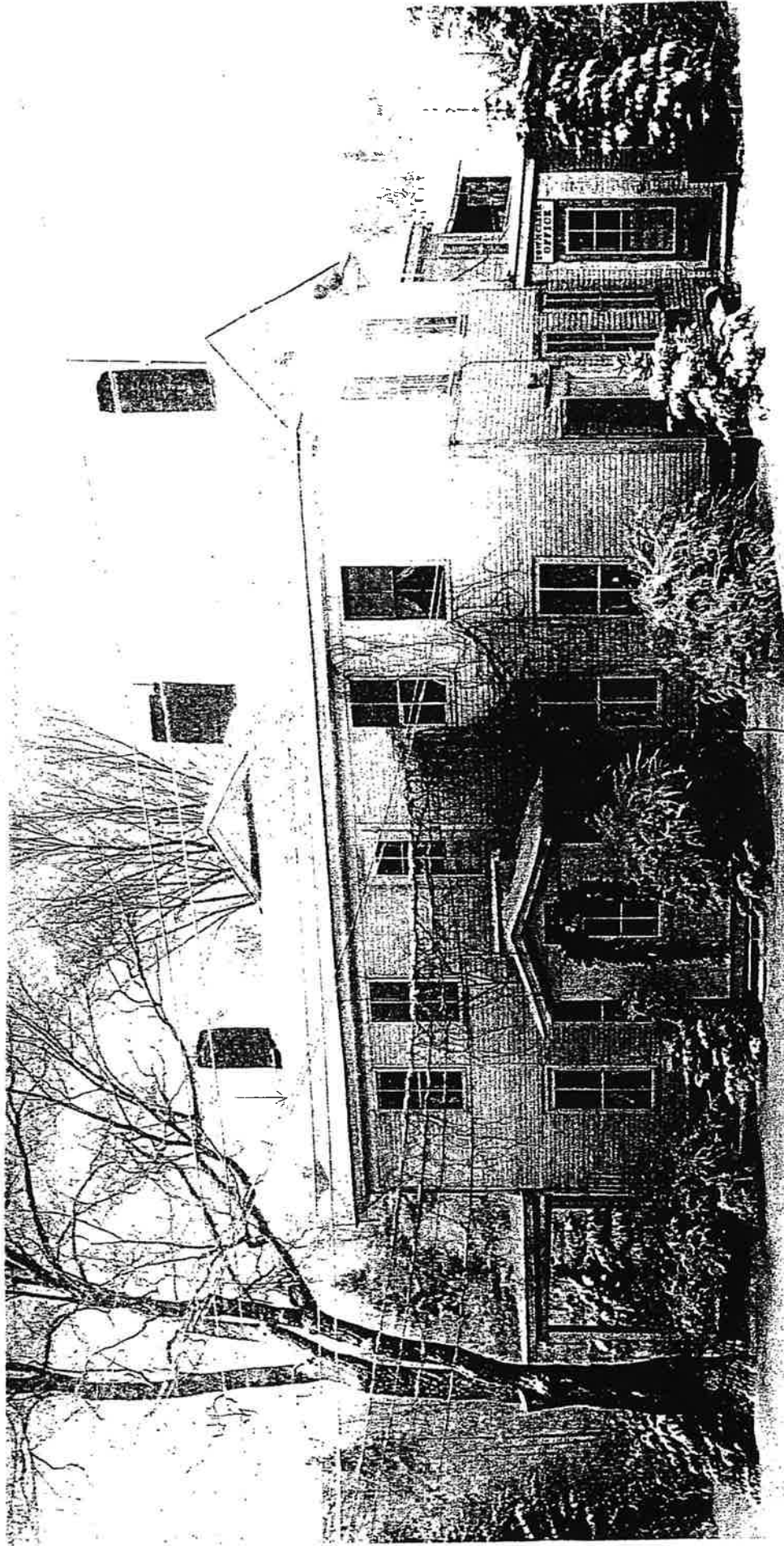
## MANSFIELD INN

### UNDERHILL CENTER, VT.

Mansfield Inn is a remodeled building and a model resort. It is attractive and homelike, and its appointments and furnishings are all in keeping with its general character. It is one day's tramp to the summit of Mt. Mansfield, affords extensive views of the mountain scenery and gives opportunity to the guests to breathe the pure, crisp air for which this section of the Green Mountains is noted.

Mansfield Inn is located in the village of Underhill Center, a quiet New England village nestling among the foot-hills of old Vermont, near Mount Mansfield, eighteen miles from Burlington and on one of the best State roads in New England. The railroad station is Underhill three miles distant and upon notice will meet trains with automobile.

Mansfield Inn is a comfortable and desirable summer home, and every effort is put forth by the management to contribute to the comfort and enjoyment of the guests. Special attention is given to the table and service. The object of the proprietor and attendants is to make the stay of the summer sojourners so pleasurable that they will want to return year after year.



**HENRY Residence and Post Office c.1950  
(formerly MANSFIELD INN)**