

CAMP MANSFIELD

By Betty Moore

From 1946 through 1963 Mrs Helene Durbrow operated Camp Mansfield in Underhill Center, where thirty young students, age seven through twelve years, were given individual remedial academic training for an eight-week summer period. Helene Durbrow was a pioneer, working with children who had dyslexia or other learning disabilities. As a kindergarten and primary teacher, she had become interested in children with specific language difficulties. She studied and trained at Columbia, New York and Johns Hopkins Universities, while serving on the faculties of several schools, both public and private. Camp Mansfield in Underhill Center was established to provide a full camping program for a small group of healthy, intelligent children who needed to continue academic training through the summer months. Special attention was given students on an individual basis toward developing good work habits and better language skills, along with training in speech, reading, vocabulary building, spelling and writing.

The studies were combined with enjoyment of the beautiful countryside, with swimming, nature study, mountain climbing, archery, overnight camping and horseback riding. (Some students brought their own horses.) Over the years, students came from many different states and countries, including Canada, Bermuda, and even Brazil.

Local residents participated in the operation of the camp, helping to maintain the facilities and prepare the meals for students and staff. For seventeen years, Camp Mansfield was a special part of the summer community.

Source: Durbrow Family