

SOME HISTORY of the TOWN of UNDERHILL and RIVERSIDE, VERMONT

Compiled by
Elizabeth Weichel Moore

2015

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Preface

In writing a history of Underhill, it is impossible to leave out the section of Jericho known as Riverside, which is so intimately associated physically, economically and socially with the area of Underhill referred to as Underhill Flats. Riverside is a small area adjacent to the Town of Underhill and separated from larger Jericho by a curve in the Browns River.

Here were located the Methodist and Episcopal churches, the Waters Library, a major sawmill, a creamery, the Dixon House Hotel which was the social hub of the region for so many years, and a stagecoach stop along the major highway north to Cambridge, the pharmacy, the GAR Hall, a movie theater, the Mansfield Women's Club, the B&L Railroad line from Burlington, several stores and craft businesses and more. While most of the historical enterprises are gone, Riverside is still closely associated with Underhill Flats, sharing a water district and a school district. The two towns share the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department, the new Deborah Rawson Library, and the Jericho Underhill Boy Scouts. The ID (Incorporated District) School, the Chittenden East District's Browns River Middle School, the Rawson Library and much of Mills Riverside Park also serve both towns but are actually located in Riverside.

When Underhill and Jericho were chartered within a day of each other in 1763, little attention was paid to the nature of the land which was subdivided. As Underhill and Jericho grew into real towns, it was the local topography that was important to the residents, not the boundary that separated them for the purposes of municipal governance. Buildings and a park came to straddle the town line and no on in Underhill Flats or Riverside paid much attention. No one knew how Underhill Flats, the economic and social focus of the town of Underhill, was municipally related to the Riverside area of Jericho – or cared.

The differences became noticeable only as land grew in value, taxes escalated, and the two towns began Planning and Zoning, wherein the municipal governance in the two towns was not always the same and when larger, modern school districts were created which encompassed both towns. The differences in listing and taxation and zoning became problems. The ID School created problems for both towns as to which resident could vote on which issues at town meeting.

The historical ignorance of the Town boundary which essentially merged Riverside with Underhill Flats seem to remain, even though the map boundary separating Underhill and Jericho has been well established.

UNDERHILL

Physiography
Geology
Natural Resources
Scenery

Elizabeth Weichel Moore

THE GEOLOGY

The Geographic Setting *

One factor that makes Underhill unique is its geographic setting. The town is situated in the Green Mountain Range, the "rock rib" of Vermont, and the town boundary includes the undeveloped western slope of Mount Mansfield, at an elevation of 4,393 feet above sea level, the highest mountain in the state.

The Physical Geography **

The physical geography distinguishes Underhill from other towns in the county and neighboring communities. The layout of parallel north-south trending mountains and valleys has severely limited the development of roads, particularly those suitable for modern automobile traffic. In the days of travel by horse and wagon when people stayed home during winter snows and mud season and there were no school buses, there were some seasonal connecting roads across the mountains which not only linked different parts of Underhill, but provided access to the neighboring towns of Westford, Bolton and Stowe, as well. Not only is there now no direct highway between Underhill and Stowe or Bolton or Westford, but the eastern part of town paralleling Mount Mansfield and known as Underhill Center is connected to the western part of town by a single east-west road. The two parts of Underhill are almost like separate towns. In the western part of town, VT 15 does provide a transportation artery both for through traffic and for the Underhill roads which feed into it, but the feeder roads are defined by parallel hills which separate them from each other and there is limited interconnection.
Historically, Underhill never grew around a single town center as its civic focus. From the beginning of settlement the population ranged out through the isolated valleys along the rivers and streams.

In contrast, the neighboring town of Jericho has a broad area of shallow, rolling topography and neighboring Westford is largely a dissected upland. These towns and the Chittenden County towns in the flat-lying Champlain Valley developed interconnecting road networks which provided community cohesion. Though neighboring Bolton, Cambridge and Stowe share with Underhill a geographic setting in the Green Mountains, Cambridge includes the agriculturally rich and unifying floodplain of the Lamoille River. Bolton and Richmond share the Winooski River floodplain; Stowe has the Waterbury River floodplain. None of the other Green Mountain towns in Chittenden County have quite the limiting physiography of Underhill.

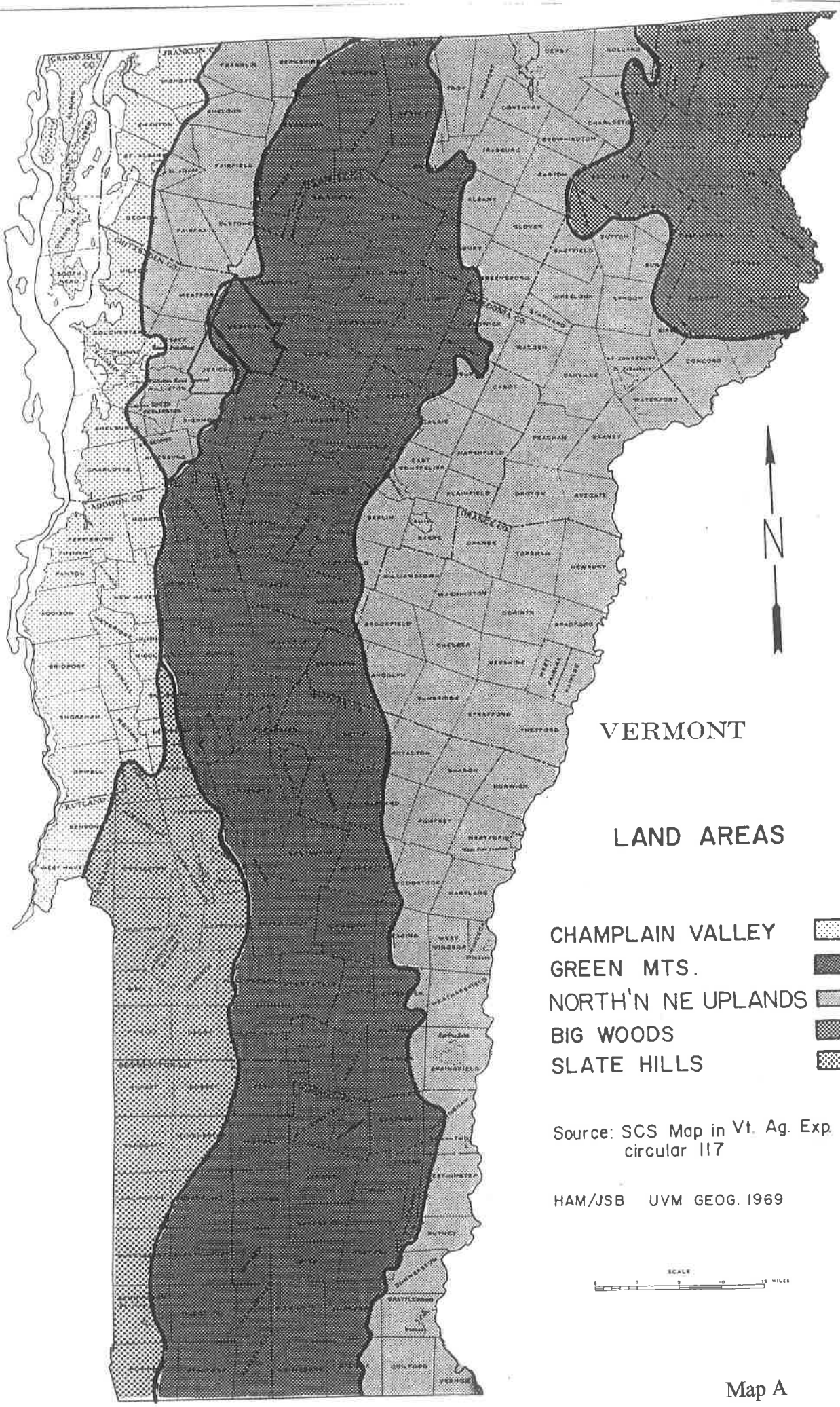
The parallel mountain and valley system of Underhill Center can be spectacularly viewed from neighboring Cambridge on the hill by the Bassett Farm on Bryce Road. Looking south, Pleasant Valley is bounded by Mount Mansfield and Macomber Mountain; the valley view sweeps down to the profile of Camels Hump in the distance. The Irish Settlement valley is bounded by Macomber Mountain and Flynn Hill. It is easy to see why these valleys are wind tunnels, subject to serious snow drifting in the winter. (Gales have been clocked as high as 80 mph). The parallel hills and stream valleys that characterize all of Underhill are natural "greenbelts" and wildlife corridors.

Formation of the Green Mountains

The underlying bedrock in Underhill is also a limiting factor in the development of the town. In order to understand the nature of the problem, it is necessary to realize how the rock was formed and how the Green Mountains were created. The contours of the Green Mountains have been determined by the nature of the folds and fractures which developed as the mountains were

*Map A

**Map B


VERMONT
LAND AREAS
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY
GREEN MTS.
NORTH'N NE UPLANDS
BIG WOODS
SLATE HILLS
N
Source: SCS Map in Vt. Ag. Exp. St. circular 117
HAM/JSB UVM GEOG. 1969
SCALE

Map A

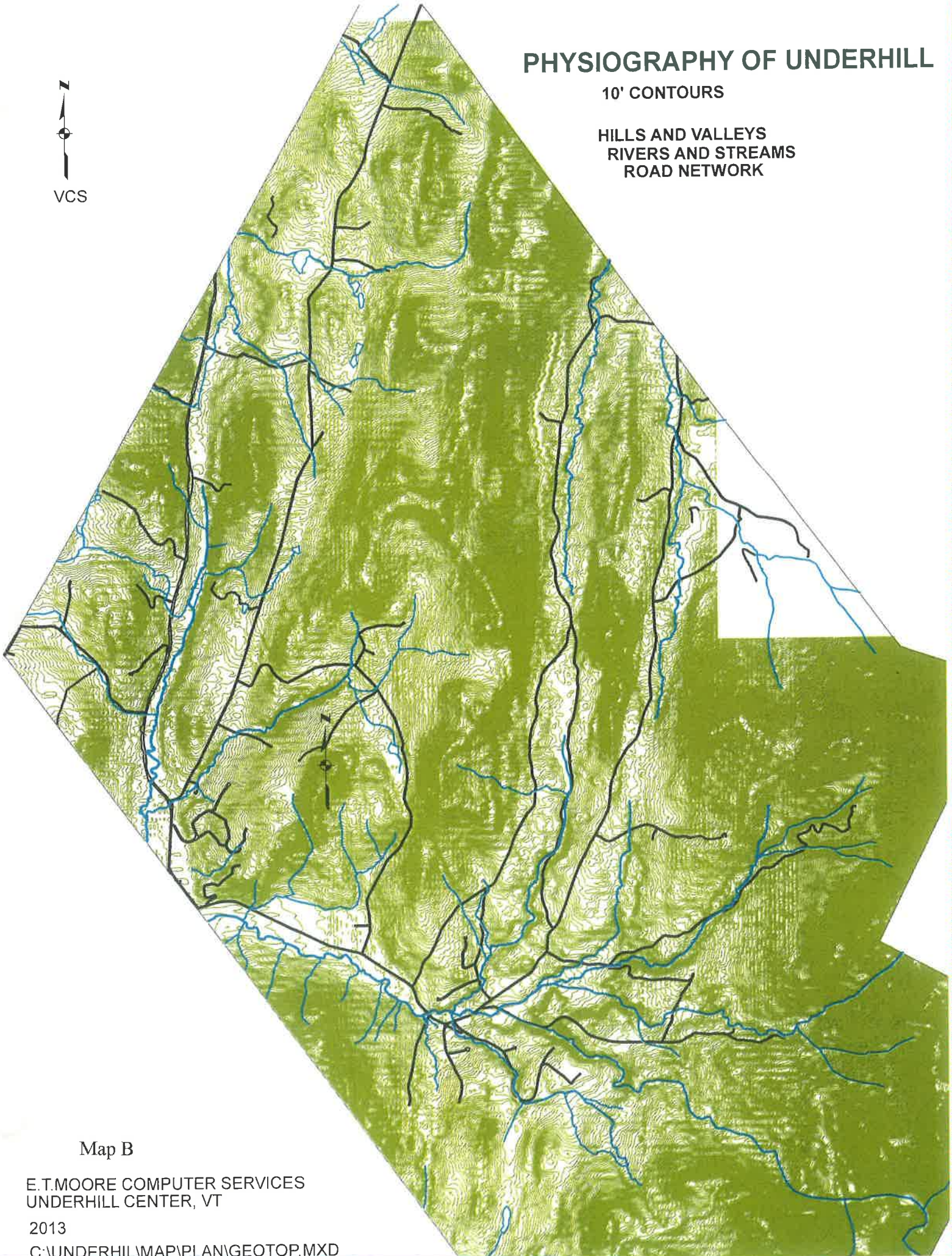
PHYSIOGRAPHY OF UNDERHILL

10' CONTOURS

HILLS AND VALLEYS
RIVERS AND STREAMS
ROAD NETWORK

N

VCS



Map B

E.T.MOORE COMPUTER SERVICES
UNDERHILL CENTER, VT

2013

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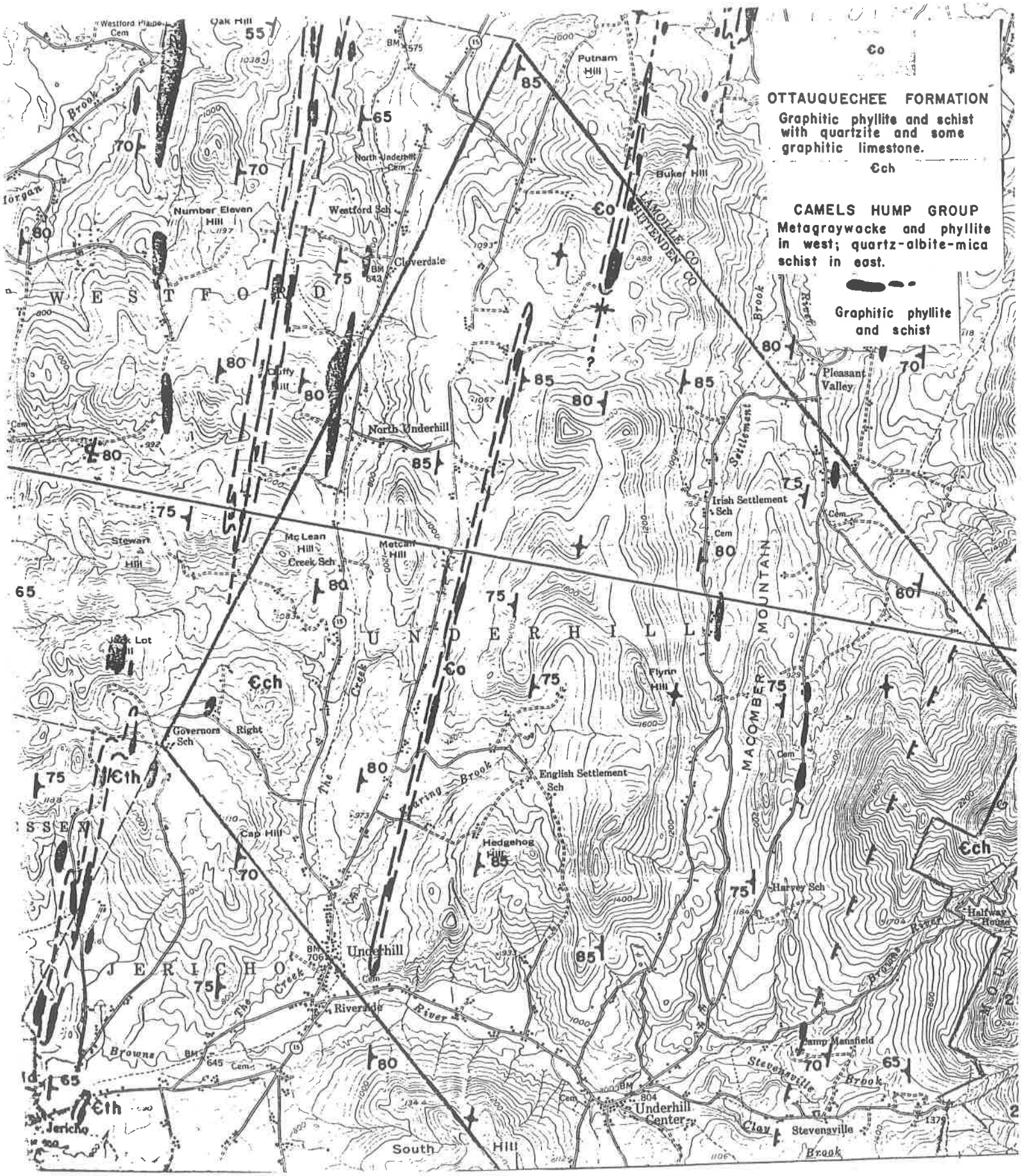
GEOLOGIC MAP OF VERMONT
Charles G. Doll, State Geologist
1961
(metamorphic schist shown as light brown)

Map C



TOPOGRAPHY BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 1948

GEOLOGY BY ROBERT A. CHRISTMA

SCALE 1:62500

CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1948

Map D

BEDROCK GEOLOGY, MOUNT MANSFIELD QUADRANGLE, VERMONT

being formed in ancient geologic times. The mountains are old on the geologic time table, having been created in the Cambrian - Ordovician period of the Paleozoic era. Even millions of years before the Green Mountains were formed there were earlier mountains which were eroded by ancient rivers which carried fine-grained sediments of mud and silt and deposited them in a shallow sea somewhere in the area of what is now eastern Vermont. These sediments accumulated to a thickness of many hundreds of feet and over the millennia consolidated into hard, rather nondescript sedimentary rocks called greywacke, siltstone and shale. Then sometime on the order of 350 million years ago tremendous forces in the earth southeast of the ancient sea began to thrust up the massive layers of sedimentary rocks, crumpling and folding them to form the Green Mountain range.

Unlike volcanic mountains, which can sometimes even be created while men are watching (as in recent times in Mexico and Iceland), folded mountains are formed over long periods of time. The tremendous heat and pressure associated with the mountain-building forces which created the Green Mountains caused the sedimentary rocks of which they were being formed to become plastic. The chemical elements in the particles of mud and clay of the sedimentary rocks became rearranged and re-crystallized as new minerals, mostly platy types, such as mica and chlorite, with some associated quartz and feldspar. The great pressures forced the mineral platelets parallel to each other, giving the newly formed rocks a layered appearance and an easy direction of splitting. The rocks are called schist, from a word which means splitting. (Generically they are metamorphic rocks, a term coined from the words "meta", meaning change, and "morph" or form.) Unlike sedimentary rocks or igneous rocks such as granite, which are formed by cooling from a molten state, metamorphic rocks are dense and non-porous. They are also characterized by the presence of many fine cracks and larger fractures. *

The mineral content and appearance of the metamorphic schist which forms the Green Mountains varies somewhat along the length of the range and various names have been given to the rock in different places. In Underhill, the schist is aptly called the Underhill Formation. It forms the cliffs at Smuggler's Notch and the bare rock faces along the crests of the mountains. Huge fractures in the schist have formed the cliffs which created the contour of Mt Mansfield, known as " The Sleeping Giant". (The forehead, nose and chin of the giant are more distinct when viewed from the aspect in Stowe than on the Underhill side.) Other fractures in the rock formation are subject to weathering, especially frost action, which periodically causes massive sections to break off and create terrifying rock slides. (As recently as 1983 such a slide closed the road through Smuggler's Notch. A jogger observed the crash and was miraculously spared.) The Underhill Formation is a shiny, blue-green platy rock, sometimes sprinkled with dark red garnets. It weathers into flat stones which are valued for use as steps, walks and patios. Unexposed to the weather the schist is dense and hard, as anyone who has had to blast through it will attest, but when it is subject to weathering, water can infiltrate the cleavage in the platy minerals and the tiny cracks in the rock, leading eventually to crumbling of the material into particles.

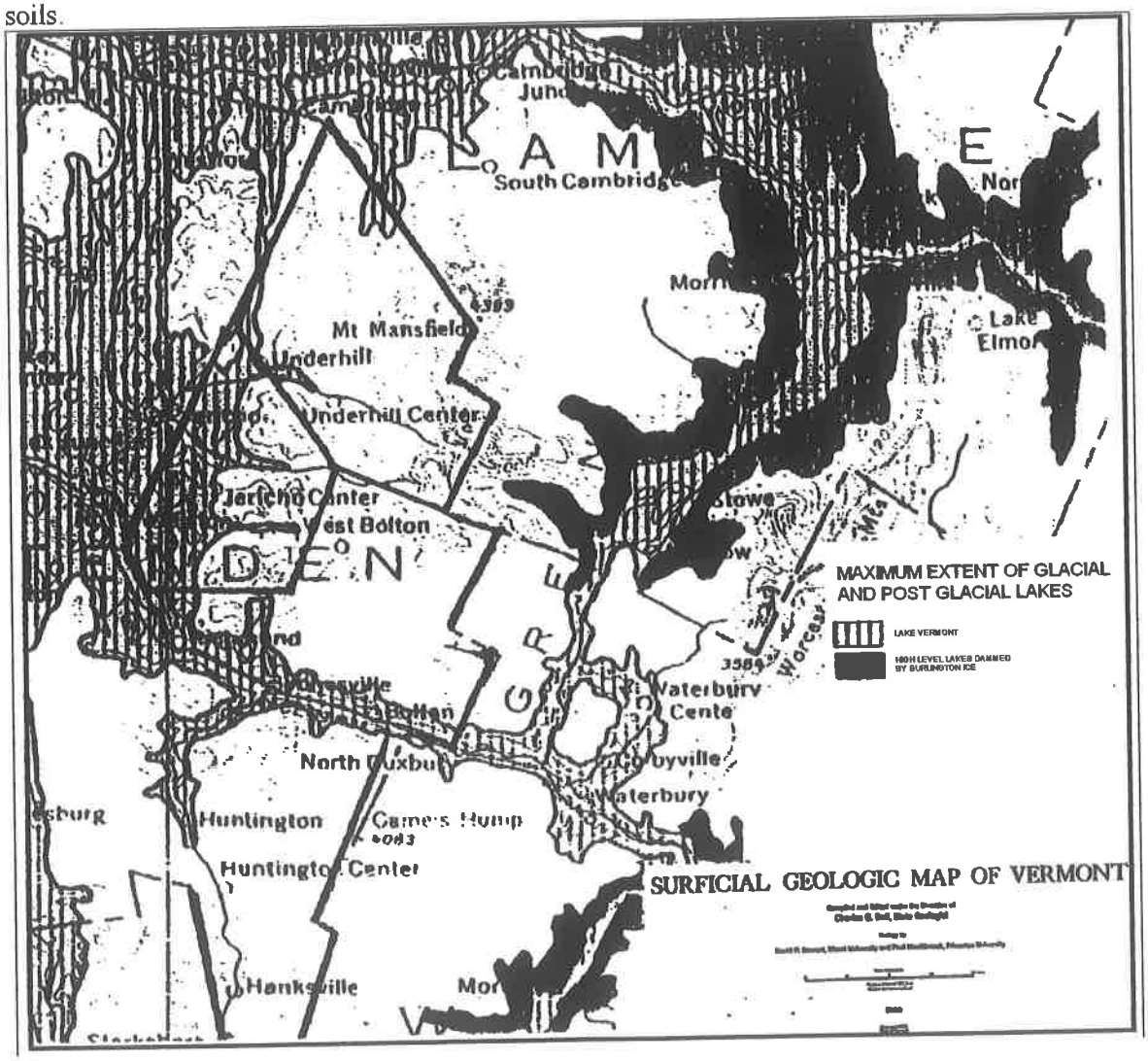
On Metcalf and Hedgehog Hill and toward VT 15 in Underhill the rocks show some traces of their original sedimentary layering and texture. Narrow lenses or "inliers" of other formations which are found in larger amounts north of Underhill, in particular, a dark, platy metamorphic rock called phyllite, can be observed along Poker Hill Road and Pleasant Valley Road. **

Surficial geology

The physical geography of Underhill, created by the mountain formation and subsequent erosion was also influential in the development of the surficial geology, or soil cover. The most

*Map C
**Map D

important geologic event in Vermont since the creation of the Green Mountains, among the oldest mountains in the world, was the Pleistocene ice age. The thick mantle of ice, miles high, covered all of the northern part of the continent. As it moved over the landscape it smoothed off mountaintops, scoured the valleys and carried an assortment of rock debris at its base that it compacted as it traveled. The last of the ice age was barely 10,000 years ago, a blink-of-an-eye on the geologic time scale. When the ice melted, it created in the area of northern Vermont an enormous lake, called by geologists, Lake Vermont. (At one stage the lake was connected to the ocean, as the presence of marine fossils indicates.) Sediments became stratified as they settled in the large lake. When the water receded to the level of the present Lake Champlain and the land finally dried out, the fertile Champlain Valley was created. The great river systems and the smaller tributary streams also flooded to high levels and produced rich, stratified agricultural soils.



A map showing the maximum extent of the glacial and postglacial flooding in the area of Chittenden County is shown in the figure above. The map was enlarged from the accessory map on the 1970 Surficial Geologic Map of Vermont. The location of Underhill has been sketched on the map and, for comparison, Jericho is also shown. While most of the towns to the west of Underhill, including Jericho, received the bounty of prime agricultural soils, Underhill with its higher elevations, stood above the flood. Only small areas in the floodplains of the Browns River,

the Creek, Seymour River and Settlement Brook developed fertile agricultural soils.
On the elevations which were above the flood the glacier melted back and left in situ the rock debris which it had gathered as it moved along from the north. This material, called glacial till by geologists and fragipan by soils scientists, is known by the laymen who have had to work it as hardpan. It consists of highly compacted, finely pulverized rock material and includes pebbles, stones and boulders of all sizes. Most of the material is from "away", someplace to the north. (On Stevensville Road in Underhill, across from the former Underhill Ski Bowl, there are elephant-size boulders of pillow basalt, an unusual rock whose parent formation can be found near Lake Memphramagog on the Canadian border. Such free-standing boulders are called glacial erratics.) *

** The Surficial Geologic Map of Vermont shows that most of the state is covered by glacial till. It is certainly the dominating surficial cover in Underhill. Heroic efforts were made by early settlers to clear the rocks from the till, (hence the ubiquitous stone walls), and to cultivate the inhospitable soils. Such farms were not viable and over the years have been abandoned. Fortunately, several of the older farms which are located in the small areas of Underhill which do have prime agricultural soils are still being farmed. (Sugarbush Farm along the Seymour River straddles the Cambridge border and is administered by the American Farmland Trust.) Impermeable glacial till does not lend itself to modern residential development that, unlike earlier times, requires ample running water and elaborate septic disposal systems. On land covered by glacial till the state health regulations require artificial (and expensive) mound or alternative systems for sewage disposal.

Glacial till is an also an unfortunate road base. Except for the River Road, all of the town roads in Underhill are under laid by such material. The impermeability of the till, along with the presence of many underground springs, creates expensive road maintenance problems. Frost heaves in the Underhill section of the paved Pleasant Valley Road are hazardous. (By contrast, when the road reaches Cambridge the underlying stratified soils of the Seymour River floodplain provide an adequate base and the road immediately smoothes out.) The mud season frustrations of the dirt roads are legendary. Replacement or overlayment of the till by an adequate thickness of gravel is costly and the town has to approach mitigation of the problems incrementally.

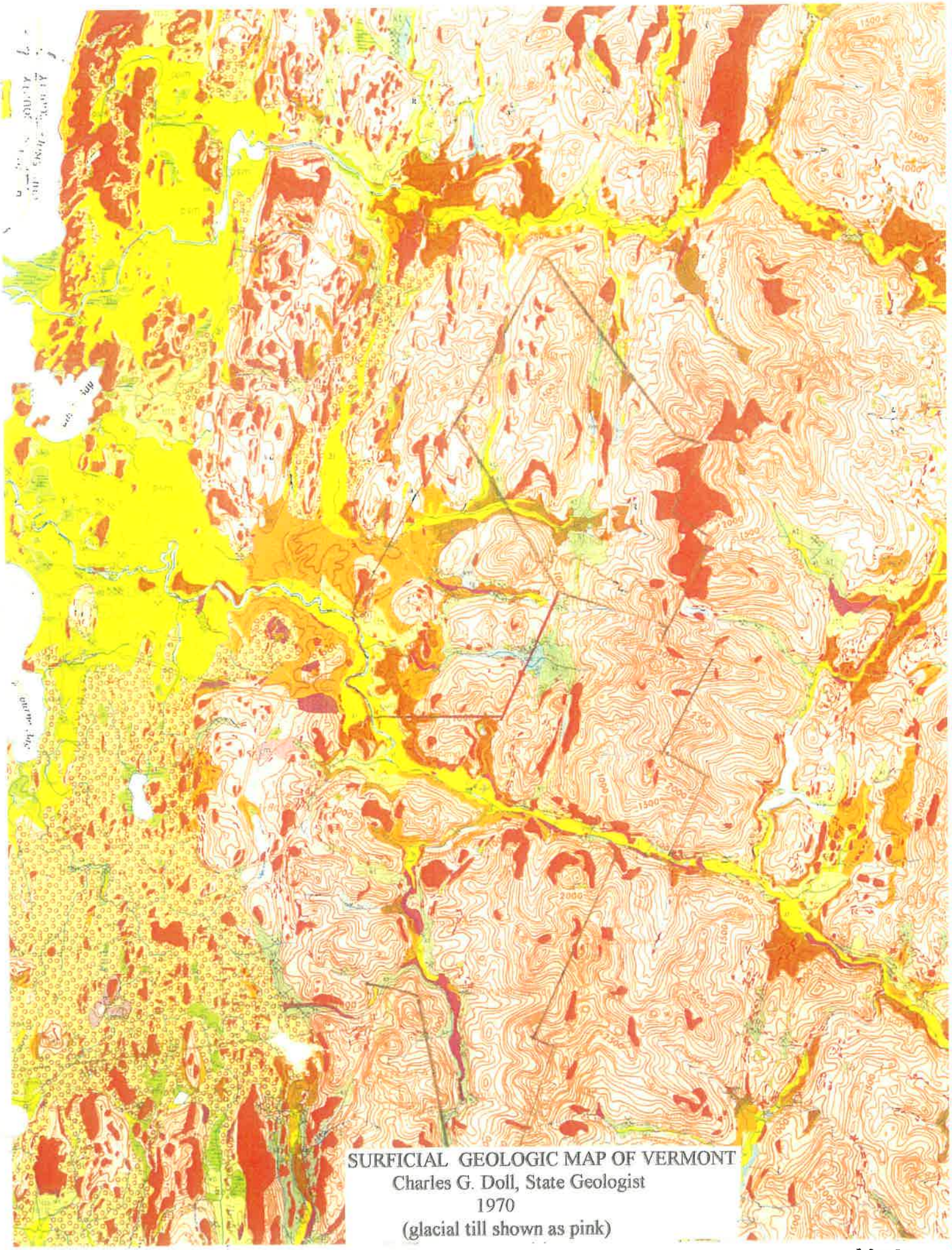
The vulnerable ground water aquifers ***

The metamorphic schist which forms the bedrock of Underhill is an important groundwater recharge aquifer, holding water in the cracks and providing storage which can be tapped for wells. The aquifer is extremely vulnerable to pollution because of the many interconnecting cracks in the rocks. Unlike porous materials, such as sand and gravels, in which bacterial pollution can be filtered over relatively short distances, polluted water can travel for miles through the cracks in the schist, contaminating wells far from the source of the problem. The Soil and Water Conservation Zoning District in Underhill was created to protect this vulnerable ground water environment.

An entirely different kind of ground water aquifer was formed in the area around the village of Underhill Center as the residual glacial ice was retreating from Mount Mansfield. The Browns River originates high on Mt Mansfield. Its tributaries, Stevensville Brook, Clay Brook, Harvey Brook and Mill Brook (called Steinhour Brook in the Vermont Atlas) also form on the mountain and fan down to join the Browns River in the valley of Underhill Center. As the glacial ice melted back, the mountain streams flooded and sediments were relatively stratified along the banks in piles of sand and gravel called "kame terraces". This fan shaped area of softly contoured hills characterizes the lower slopes of Mount Mansfield. The very porous sands and gravels constitute an important ground water aquifer environment and is protected in the Underhill

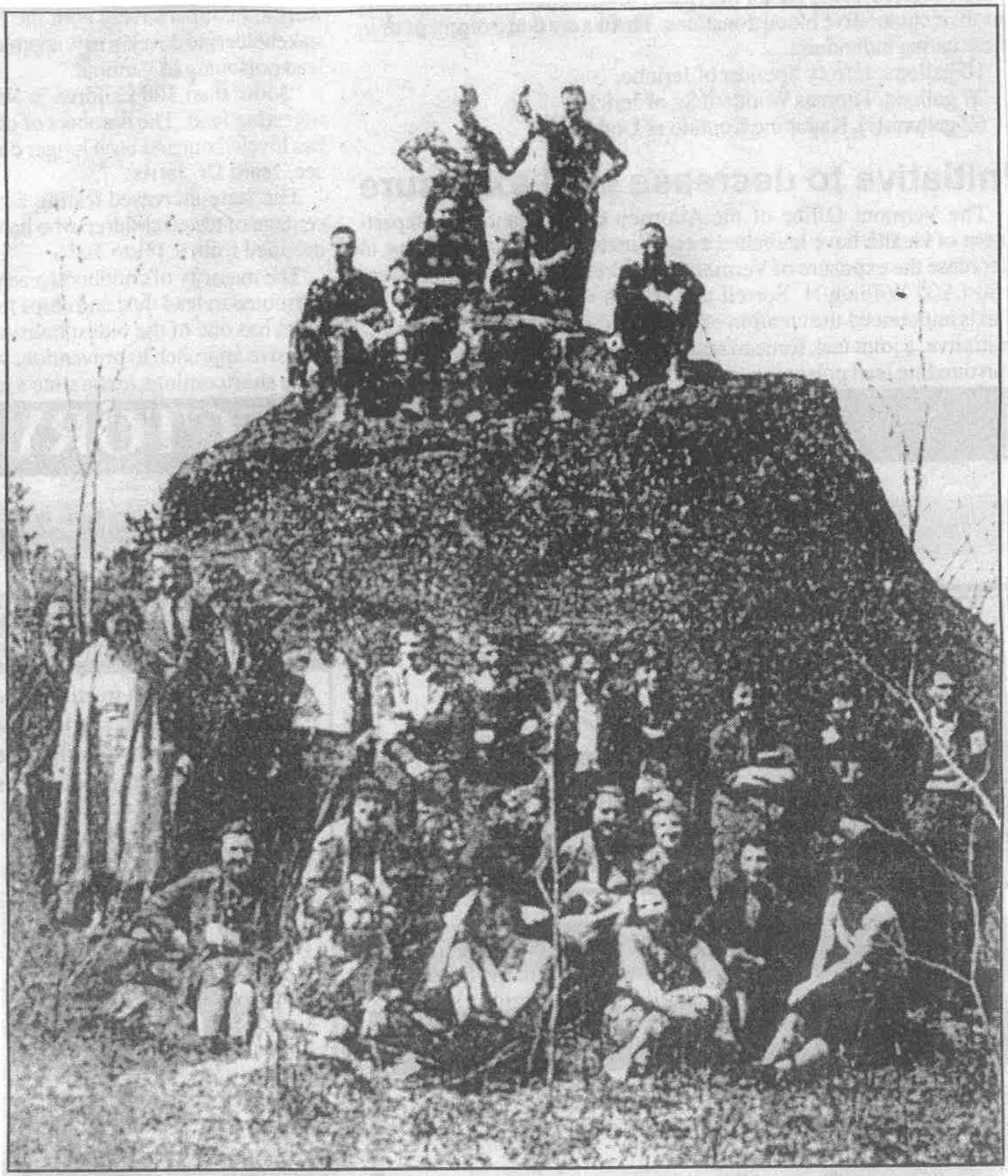
* ***Pleistocene Legacy*** Photos 1-8

**Map E ***Figure 1



SURFICIAL GEOLOGIC MAP OF VERMONT
Charles G. Doll, State Geologist
1970
(glacial till shown as pink)

Map F



UVM Geology students, c.1946, atop a 'glacial erratic' – a boulder of pillow basalt transported by the Pleistocene glacier from the Canadian border to Stevensville hill in Underhill Center.



Photo 1



Photo 2

Glacial ERRATIC

(In Bogue woods on south side of Stevensville Rd, Underhill Center-- across from former Ski Bowl lift.)

Gigantic boulder of volcanic pillow basalt - - note polygonal structure.



Photo 3



Photo 4

Glacial ERRATIC

(In hillside on edge of Stevensville Rd, Underhill Center --south side across from Nugent)

Large boulder of volcanic pillow basalt - - note polygonal structure .

Photo 5



Photo 6



Glacial KAME
(In meadow across from Underhill Central School)
Note gentle even slope.

KAME:

Low lying hill of stratified sand and gravel with gentle contours.
Created by ice melt forming short streams formed in cracks in the ice.

Photo 7



Photo 8

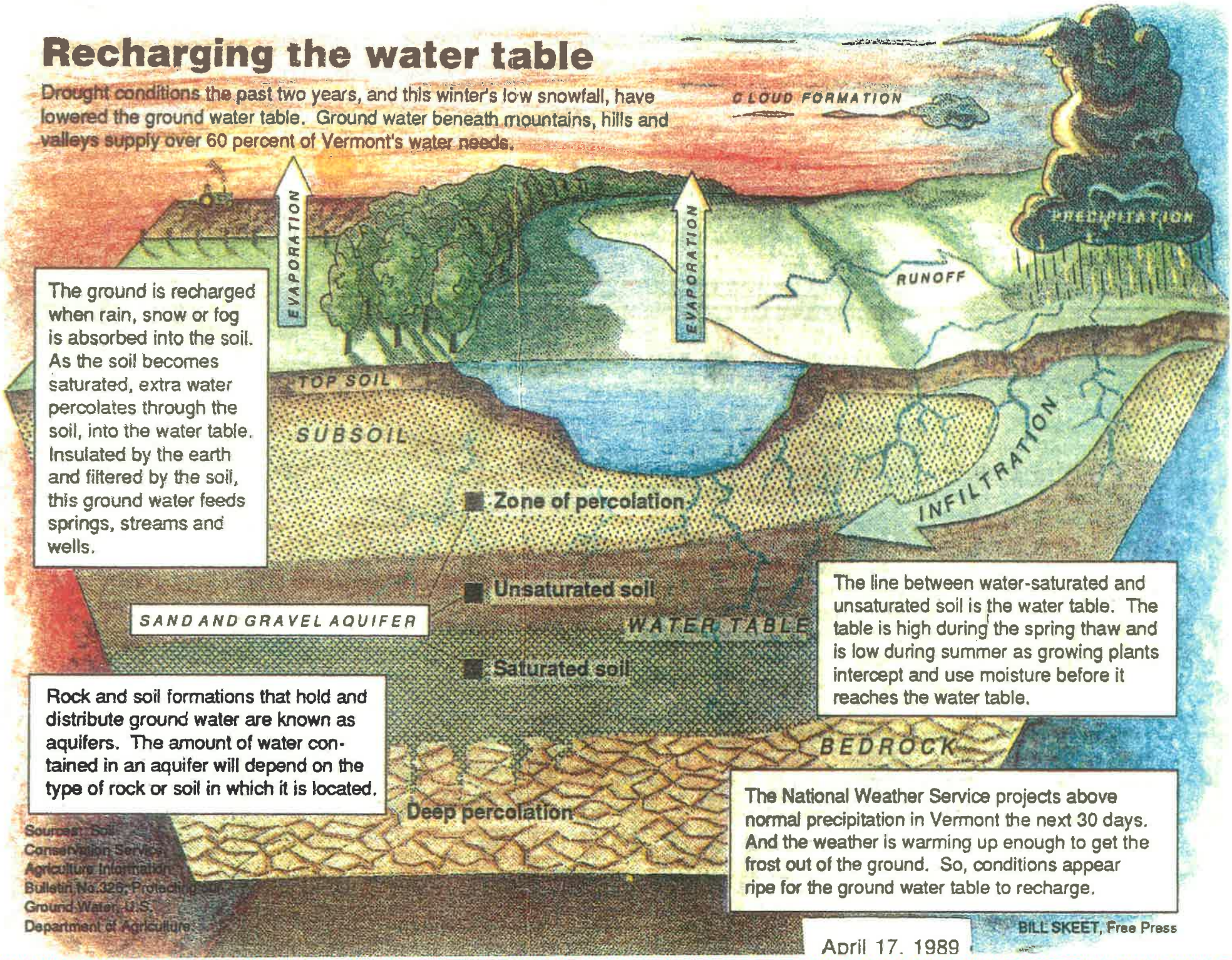


Glacial KETTLE
(Meadow on Browns Trace-- opposite Nashville Rd, Jericho)
Note gently sloping contours of bowl.

KETTLE :
A large block of ice becomes detached from the glacier and covered by outwash materials which delay the melting of the block. Eventually the ice melts, the covering materials collapse and a depression results.

Recharging the water table

Drought conditions the past two years, and this winter's low snowfall, have lowered the ground water table. Ground water beneath mountains, hills and valleys supply over 60 percent of Vermont's water needs.



The ground is recharged when rain, snow or fog is absorbed into the soil. As the soil becomes saturated, extra water percolates through the soil, into the water table. Insulated by the earth and filtered by the soil, this ground water feeds springs, streams and wells.

The line between water-saturated and unsaturated soil is the water table. The table is high during the spring thaw and is low during summer as growing plants intercept and use moisture before it reaches the water table.

Rock and soil formations that hold and distribute ground water are known as aquifers. The amount of water contained in an aquifer will depend on the type of rock or soil in which it is located.

The National Weather Service projects above normal precipitation in Vermont the next 30 days. And the weather is warming up enough to get the frost out of the ground. So, conditions appear ripe for the ground water table to recharge.

Sources: Soil Conservation Service, Agriculture Information Bulletin No.326, Protecting your Ground Water, U.S. Department of Agriculture

BILL SKEET, Free Press

April 17, 1989

Zoning by-laws as the Water Conservation District. Although the gravel environment has better purifying characteristics than the bedrock, it is so porous that the Soil Conservation Service now describes the soils as "flashy" and recommends care in the installation of septic systems.

The Scenery

Nebraska Notch, south of Mount Mansfield, was carved by the erosive action of an ancient stream between Mount Dewey and Mount Clark. When the Town of Mansfield existed, encompassing the upper elevations on both sides of the mountain, a road was cut through the gap in the mountains to provide access between the two parts of the town. When the unmanageable arrangement was dissolved, the unused road became a trail, much used today by hikers and skiers. Trees grow almost to the summit of the mountains, which are green much of the year. They are "comfortable mountains" which can be enjoyed by hikers; no elaborate mountaineering equipment is required. The "Long Trail" traverses the Green Mountains and continues southward along the greater Appalachian chain of which they are a part.

In difficult times one often hears the remark, "You can't eat the scenery." Yet, despite the hardships encountered in the early days in Underhill, the settlers must have appreciated the scenic beauty around them, for many of the oldest farmsteads were sited to capture the most spectacular panoramic views. Underhill abounds not only in scenic vistas, but in isolated ravines and gorges where the brooks have sculptured the easily eroded schists and only the gurgling of the water is heard. On the eastern side of town nearly every road provides its own special view of Mount Mansfield. On the western side of town the view sweeps across Lake Champlain to the Adirondacks in the distance. An understanding of the special combination of geologic factors that have created the scenic features in Underhill can enhance appreciation for the uniqueness of the legacy we enjoy.

THE LANDSCAPE *

The geologic history, natural history and social history of Underhill are interrelated. The parallel hills and valleys were developed during the folding of the mountains, carved by the rivers and sculpted by the glacier. This physiography, along with the marked variations in elevation and the heritage of glacial deposits, have determined the plant life, wildlife and mineral resources of the town.

Rivers, Streams and Wetlands **

The major stream in Underhill is the Browns River, a tributary of the Lamoille River. It begins on Mount Mansfield and is joined in the valley of Underhill Center by Stevensville Brook and Clay Brook, which also begin their journey high on the mountain. The three streams form a fan-shaped watershed. Harvey Brook, Cranes Brook and Mill Brook, which drain the lower hillsides, also join the Browns River in the village of Underhill Center, creating special problems in the population center, due to a high ground water level and vulnerability to flooding. It then flows parallel to South Hill and is joined in Jericho by the Creek, a slow flowing stream paralleling VT 15 which drains the slopes of Metcalfe and McLean hills on the western side of Underhill. The Browns River swings north through Essex and Westford and drains into the Lamoille River at Fairfax. Thus, the water that collects on Mount Mansfield eventually flows into Lake Champlain.

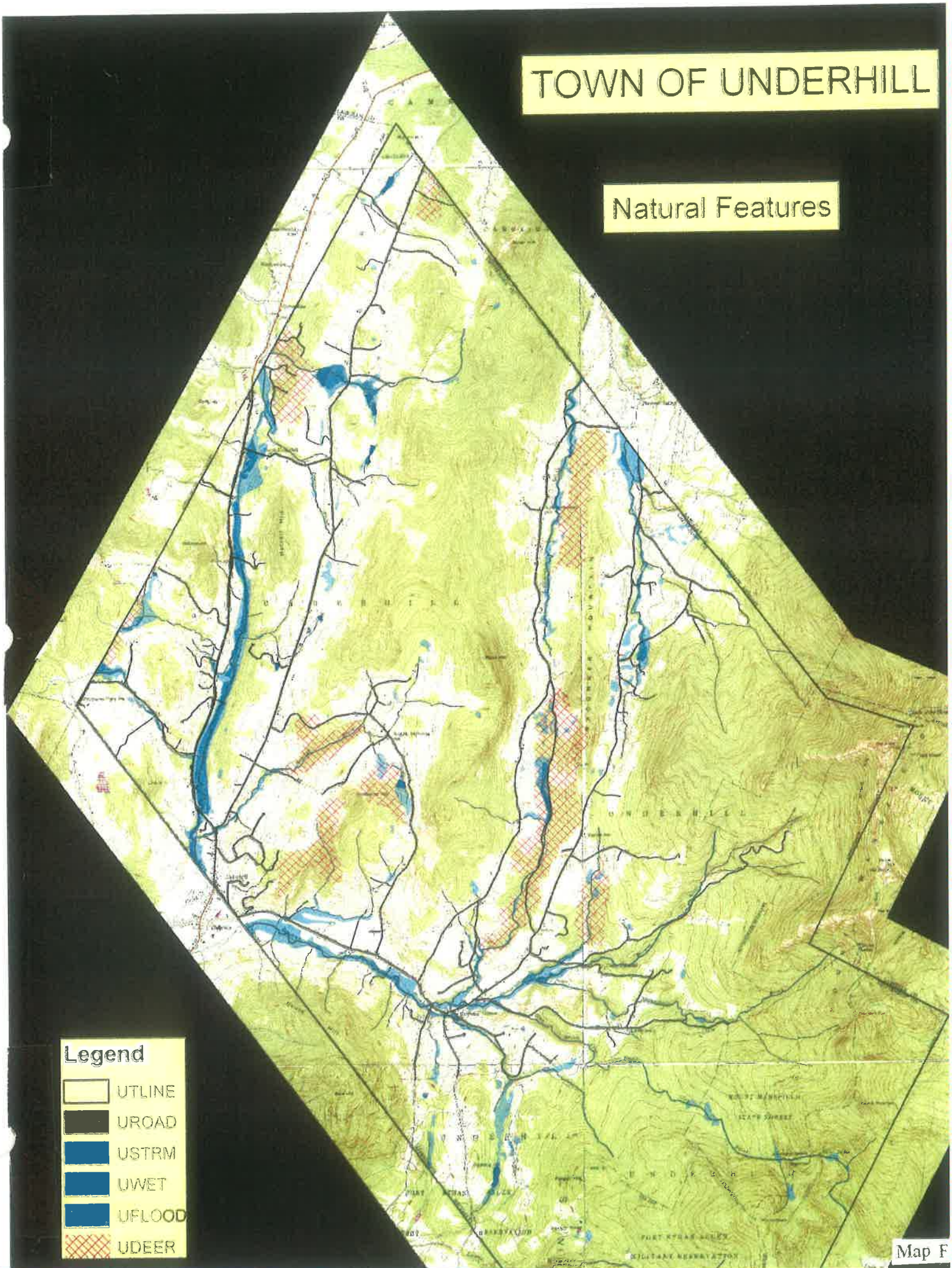
At one time there was a small settlement called Stevensville on Mount Mansfield which grew up at falls in the Stevensville Brook where there was a cheesebox factory. Traces of the factory foundation remain, but few of the houses are standing and the handsome schoolhouse was

*Map F

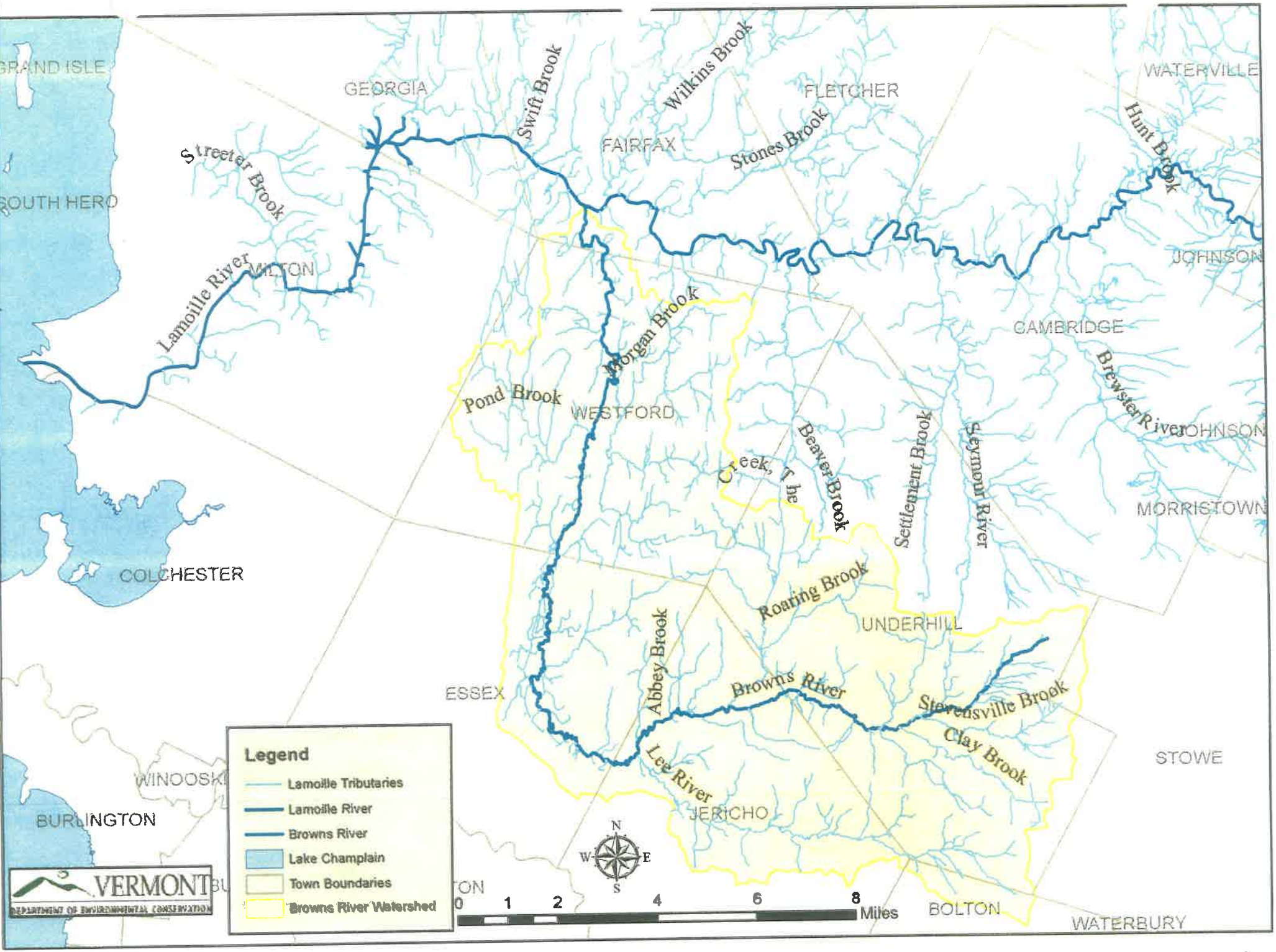
**Map G

TOWN OF UNDERHILL

Natural Features



Map F


GRAND ISLE
SOUTH HERO
GEORGIA
Swift Brook
Wilkins Brook
FLETCHER
WATERVILLE
Streeter Brook
FAIRFAX
Stones Brook
Hunt Brook
Lamoille River
MILTON
JOHNSON
Morgan Brook
CAMBRIDGE
Brewster River
Pond Brook
WESTFORD
Beaver Brook
Creek, The
Settlement Brook
Seymour River
JOHNSON
MORRISTOWN
COLCHESTER
Roaring Brook
UNDERHILL
Abbey Brook
ESSEX
Browns River
Stevensville Brook
Clay Brook
Lee River
STOWE
WINOOSKI
JERICHO
BURLINGTON
BOLTON
WATERBURY
Legend
Lamoille Tributaries
Lamoille River
Browns River
Lake Champlain
Town Boundaries
Browns River Watershed
N
W
E
S
0 1 2 4 6 8
Miles
VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Map G

destroyed by an arsonist. Higher up, Stevensville Brook supported a seasonal sawmill; Browns River, Crane Brook and Mill Brook also had sawmills. Clay Brook is aptly named, for it has formed a steep ravine through a deep stratification of clay. The banks are unstable and slippery and often give way, carrying huge trees that fall across the brook.

The Seymour River, which flows directly into the Lamoille River in Cambridge, created the rich agricultural Pleasant Valley, mostly in Cambridge, partly in Underhill. In North Underhill the Beaver Brook drains Metcalfe Hill and flows across Westford into the Lamoille River. When viewed from the air, a dominating feature of the landscape is the broad wetland of the Creek, which flows south along VT 15 through Underhill. It joins the Browns River in Jericho and is an important floodway for the Browns River watershed. The Browns River meanders through a broad floodplain along the River Road, often changing its course during spring floods. The small farming area along the River Road is the major heritage of the post glacial flooding in Underhill, the only concentrated area of prime agricultural soils in town, a heritage which should be preserved.

Wetlands are areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support significant vegetation or aquatic life that depend on saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.
Wetlands are now recognized as serving important functions:

- They protect waterways and water quality by providing water storage for floodwater and storm runoff, thus reducing the severity of flooding;
- They protect surface and ground water resources through chemical reactions, nutrient uptake and sediment filtration;
- They control erosion with a protective cover of vegetation.
- They provide habitat for wildlife, including rare animals, migratory waterfowl and songbirds.
- They provide economic benefits by providing cover or feeding, spawning and nursery habitat for deer, bear and many species of game birds and fish.

There are many kinds of wetlands in Underhill, including the rare habitat at the crest of Mount Mansfield. Protection of wetlands and their functions, including National Wetlands Inventory mapped wetlands, is a major thrust of town regulations. (See map F)

The Woodlands

The virgin forests on Mount Mansfield and its foothills were cleared to fuel shipping on Lake Champlain; the logs were cut at the sawmills that dotted almost every mountain stream. When the trees were gone the stumped land was sold to hardy immigrants who established farms on the hillsides and amazingly far up on Mount Mansfield. Wildlife that depended upon forest cover became scarce. Beavers especially declined in numbers due to trapping and loss of habitat. Most of the small hillside farms failed to prosper and in the early 1900's many were bought for vacation homes. Caught up in the conservation ethic, the seasonal residents planted stands of trees, mostly pines and spruces. The State of Vermont participated by donating seedlings. Photographs of Mount Mansfield taken in the late forties show small trees beginning to green up the slopes that had been cleared. Unfortunately, monocultural planting is vulnerable and during the 1950's stand after stand of white pines in the northeast were lost to the blight of blister rust, carried on currant and gooseberry bushes. Underhill lost many white pines. The mature white pine stands seen today actually date from more recent plantings in the fifties after the blight had passed. In addition, many of the non-indigenous red pines were plagued by "ring rot".

The natural reforestation was more successful. Today Mount Mansfield and the Town of

Underhill, in spite of residential development, look much more like the territory that greeted the early settlers. When viewed from the air, there is a stark contrast between the appearance of Mount Mansfield on the Stowe and Underhill sides. The Underhill slope is undeveloped and no building is allowed above 1500 feet.

The variation in elevation (from about 500' to 4200') results in a wide range of climate zones and plant communities. The classic Northern Hardwood Forest predominates: maples, beech, birch, hemlock and white pine. At about 2500' on Mount Mansfield and on the tops of higher foothills transitional forest, which includes yellow birch and painted trillium, can be found. At higher elevations is the spruce fir forest community, which has figured in the acid rain research conducted by the University of Vermont. The forests of Underhill are again being logged, this time under the oversight of careful forest management. At upper elevations, The Mount Mansfield State Forest is logged under management of the State Department of Forests and Parks. Some private lands in Underhill are logged commercially; many are under forest management in one of the Town or State current use programs. In addition, there are many stands of sugar maples, planted and managed over the years in conjunction with farming operations, which still provide income for maple syrup producers.

In addition to the many smaller privately owned plots, Underhill has three publicly owned forests:

Underhill State Park
Part of the 34,000-acre Vermont State Forest system, the park is open from mid-May through Columbus Day and provides access to the recreational facilities of the forest.

UVM's Mount Mansfield Natural Area
This area has the largest alpine tundra in Vermont as well as sub-alpine areas and alpine bogs. It contains some of the rarest and fragile plants in Vermont.

UVM's Proctor Research Center
Maple research at UVM began in the 1890s and has centered on the sugar maple tree. The sugar bush at Proctor has about 1800 taps as well as thousands of young trees. It is used as a classroom for scientists, students and maple sugar producers.

Wildlife Habitats

Reforestation has influenced the return of wildlife to Underhill and protection of the habitats is a significant aspect of town regulations. Beavers are again common. The moose population has increased and the shy black bear den along the higher ridges, on Flynn Hill in particular. Fishers were introduced in the early 70s to control a burgeoning porcupine population, which especially enjoyed the glue used in exterior plywood and were becoming a menace. The fishers have thrived and porcupines are rarely seen. Otters and even bobcats have been observed, in addition to the more common white tailed deer, fox, raccoon, coyotes, weasel (ermine) and mink. There have been rare sightings of the elusive catamount, although the Fish and Wildlife Dept does not believe that there are any mating pairs in Vermont.

The system of parallel hills in Underhill constitutes natural greenbelts. Large sections of land reach from Cambridge to Jericho, providing unhindered movement of animals along the ridgeline travel corridors. Steep, inaccessible ravines and gorges in the easily weathered bedrock are also important wildlife sanctuaries. Map F shows critical deeryards identified by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. These are largely stands of conifers that provide winter habitat, often found on south facing or protected hillsides. Deer are sensitive to disturbance by dogs and vehicles and the deeryards require a buffer zone.

Floodplains

A Flood Hazard Area is an area that is statistically likely to be inundated by a flood every 100 years. A floodway is the channel of a river and the adjacent land area that must be reserved to discharge the 100 year flood without accumulatively increasing the water elevation more than one foot. Vegetation in the floodway helps protect the riverbanks from erosion during floods, slows the movement of water, filters sediment and debris and provides important wildlife habitat throughout the year. Maps showing the Flood Hazard Areas as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are on file at town hall. Building is severely restricted in these areas and Flood Hazard insurance is required for all buildings.

Fragile areas

The remnants of tundra and associated flora found at the summit of Mount Mansfield are a heritage of the Pleistocene glacier. Robert Hagerman has described this special and fragile habitat in his book, "Mansfield, The Story of Vermont's Loftiest Mountain". There are at least 40 species of plant life in the area, some very rare. The tundra is extremely vulnerable and if disturbed or compacted will never recover; the special plant life will be destroyed. Unfortunately, some has already been ruined by hikers and by motorized vehicles. Elsewhere on the summit are several small peat bogs where some of the rarest plants in the state are found. One bog is 40 inches deep and is so acid that organic matter that has fallen in does not decompose. It provides a fossil record of everything that has grown there since the bog was formed about 3000 years ago. Several of these areas have been designated critical sites by the Vermont Natural Heritage program.



Photo 9

Courtesy, Prof. H. Vogelmann

Diaspora lapponica, one of the rarest Alpine- Arctic species
(Mt Mansfield tundra at the 'chin'.)

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This introduction to the geology of Underhill is the result of the kindness and generosity of the late Prof. Charles H. Doll, former State Geologist and former chairman of the UVM Department of Geology. He personally introduced me to the special geological features of Underhill and made available the best references on the local geology. The early surficial and bedrock geology maps of the State of Vermont are the result of his work. Several maps in this presentation have been excerpted from those State maps.

HISTORY
of
THE TOWN of UNDERHILL

J. J. MONAHAN
1886

Original Subdivision Map

JOHN JAMES MONAHAN

J.J. Monahan was born in Rutland of Irish immigrant parents. He served in Civil War and was wounded at Chamcellorville,VA . Ater the War he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1866. He lived in Underhill from 1873-1900, and was active in civil affairs, many years as Town Clerk; as Postmaster (1885- 1896); Superintendent of Schools for eleven years. He also served as Town Representative to the State Legislature in 1878 and 1900 and was active in the local Bostwick Post of the G.A.R.

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Township Information



CHAPTER XXX
HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF UNDERHILL

Prepared by J. J. Monahan

THIS is a mountainous town situated in the northeastern corner of Chittenden county. It is bounded north by Cambridge, east by Stowe, the boundary line being the highest elevation of land on Mount Mansfield, on the south by Bolton and Jericho, and west by Jericho and Westford. It was

originally granted by the governor of New Hampshire to Joseph SACKETT, jr., James SACKETT, Peter SACKETT, Joseph SACKETT, Edward EARLE, James JAMISON, Com. LAW, jr., esq., Jonathan DAYTON, jr., Jonathan HAZZARD, Andrew ANDERSON, James ANDERSON, John YEATS, James SACKETT, Tertius, Samuel SACKETT, John SACKETT, David MATHEWS, Andrew TEN EIKE, William SACKETT, Joseph SAVAGE, Daniel VOORHIS, Michael BUTLER, Samuel WALL, Joseph BULL, Jeremiah ALLEN, John FREEBORN, Peter ALLEN, William ALLEN, Robert FREEBORN, Samuel BROWN, Carey DUNN, William SANDS, Benjamin UNDERHILL, Henry FRANKLIN, Bishop HADLEY, James HORTON, sen., Sylvanus HORTON, Maurice SALTS, Louis RIELEY, James REED, Peter TEN EIKE, jr., Isaac ADOLPHUS, Samuel JUDEA, Myer MYERS, Solomon MARACHE, Jacob WATSON, Joshua WATSON, Sylvanus DILLINGHAM, John DILLINGHAM, William BUTLER, Robert MIDWINTER, John MIDWINTER, Darrick AMBERMAN, Joseph HOLMES, John COCKLE, Jonathan COPELAND, Uriah WOOLMAN, John SEARS, Hon. John TEMPLE, Theodore ATKINSON, esq., Mark H. G. WENTWORTH, Dr. John HALE, Maj. Samuel HALE. The charter was dated June 8, 1765*, for which the sum of $230.40 was paid. The original township contained thirty-six square miles, to which was annexed in November, 1839, about twelve square miles from the town of Mansfield. The original proprietors were warned to meet at the dwelling house of Captain Abraham UNDERHILL, at Dorset, then in the county of Bennington, on the 12th day of September, 1785. The warning was issued by John SHUMWAY, justice of the peace. Major Gideon ORMSBY was chosen moderator, and Timothy BLISS clerk. It was voted to make a division of the township in lots of one hundred acres to each right, with an allowance of four acres to each lot for highways, and the lots to be 160 rods long and 104 rods wide. Nathaniel MALLARY, Augustin UNDERHILL, and Captain Thomas BARNEY were appointed a committee for that purpose, with power to select a suitable surveyor. On the 11th of November, 1785, the committee made a report which was accepted, and that survey constituted the first division of town lots.

On the 13th day of January, 1790, a second meeting of the proprietors was held at the house of Thaddeus Munson, of Manchester, in the county of Bennington. Augustin UNDERHILL was elected moderator and Daniel ORMSBY clerk. It was voted to make a second division of lots of one hundred acres each in said township, from the best part of the undivided land, and Major Gideon ORMSBY, Augustin

*1763

UNDERHILL and Captain Thomas BARNEY were appointed a committee for that purpose. This committee reported on the 9th day of November, 1790. On the 14th of February, 1803, a meeting of the proprietors was held at the dwelling house of David BIRGE, on the premises now owned by John WOODRUFF, in Underhill. Captain Daniel CLARK was elected moderator, and Barnard WARD clerk, and Luther DIX collector. At this meeting William BARNEY was chosen to run out the third division of town lots, and on the fourth Monday of December, 1803, the survey made by him was adopted.

The first settlers in this town were Elijah BENEDICT and Abner EATON in 1786. Mr. EATON located in North Underhill and resided there to the time of his death. The first deed executed in town was from Thomas BARNEY to Caleb SHELDON, and dated August 25, 1789. The first child born in town was Nancy SHELDON, daughter of Caleb SHELDON, on the 10th of September, 1787. Town meetings were held in North Underhill from 1794 to 1832. Here were located a church, tavern, store, and school-house. The school-house was built in 1787, and the church in 1804. William BARNEY was elected the first town representative in 1794. Colonel Udney HAY represented the town from 1798 to 1804, and was one of the Council of Censors in 1806, at the time of his death. He was a Scotchman, and was highly educated; whether he resided in Vermont prior to settling in this town is unknown. It appears from the State papers of 1780 that Colonel Udney HAY, then department commissary-general for the Northern Department of the Continental army, had made application to Governor Chittenden to obtain supplies for the troops of this department.

His communications were submitted by the governor to a committee of the council, and after the same were fully considered the committee made a report on the 2d of November, 1780, by its chairman, Matthew LYON, stating "that they have examined said papers, and also conferred with Colonel HAY thereon, and find that he is appointed by the Continental commissary-general to purchase provisions in the New Hampshire grants;" "and that it is the opinion of your committee, that Colonel HAY by coming to this State and making application to the Legislature thereof, has missed his instructions;" "and that it is further the opinion of your committee that (considering the embarrassment the State lies under), with regard to the claims of other States, and the jurisdiction assumed over it; considering also the large supply

of provisions already granted for the troops to be in the service of the State the year ensuing; should we suppose this State could be called the New Hampshire grants (which is by no means admissible), the Legislature of this State ought not to undertake to supply Colonel HAY with the beef required. Signed, M. LYON, Chairman."

Nevertheless Colonel HAY was not prevented from buying beef and other supplies. He is described in Vol. II, "overnor and Council,"as a "gentleman and imposing man, rather of the Matthew LYON cast." "He was opposed to the constitution and to the administration of Washington and John Adams, and continued to the end a politician." He settled in this town at the close of the Revolutionary War, on the farm now owned by Thomas Jackson. His last resting place is unknown, but is supposed to be in the cemetery at North Underhill.

George OLDS, Caleb SHELDON, Barnard WARD, David BIRGE, Oliver WELLS, and Chauncey GRAVES were Revolutionary soldiers. Elijah BIRGE was a captain of a militia company raised here, that formed a part of the regiment commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Luther Dixon at Plattsburgh in 1813. Colonel DIXON was one of the early settlers. He possessed great strength physically, and was noted as a brave and resolute man. While his command was at Plattsburgh, Governor Martin CHITTENDEN issued a proclamation ordering the militia back to Vermont, which was dated at Montpelier, November 10, 1813, and dispatched an agent to the camp at Plattsburgh to distribute the same. Colonel DIXON looked upon it as an attempt to incite insubordination in the camp, and ordered that the agent be flogged, which was properly done by a detail from Captain BIRGE's company. On the 15th of November an answer was drawn up and signed by Colonel DIXON and all of the officers in his command, and duly forwarded to the governor. Coming from troops in the service, in the history of that war cannot be found a similar communication to the governor of any other State. [The extracts from this answer, given by Mr. Monahan, we take the liberty of omitting, as both documents appear in full in previous pages.-ED.)

Colonel DIXON, after his return home, was sued for causing the arrest of the governor's agent at Plattsburgh on that occasion, and was compelled to pay $1,000 in settlement of the matter. Afterward two or three attempts were made in

the Legislature to reimburse him, but without success. George MARSH had the matter before Congress at the time of Colonel DIXON's death, but no definite action was taken on it. He held many important offices in this town, and was liked by all who knew him. He went to live in Milton in 1834, and died there in December, 1846, at which place he was buried. Three of his sons are now living, L. M. DIXON, proprietor of the Dixon House at Underhill, a noted summer resort, Dr. L. J. DIXON, of Milton, one of the most prominent physicians of Northern Vermont, and Judge L. S. DIXON, of Madison, Wis., one of the judges of the Supreme Court of that State for sixteen years; and one daughter, Susan BOSTWICK, of Jericho, wife of I. C. BOSTWICK.

Elijah BENEDICT, born in New Bedford, Conn., in 1741, came to Pawlet before the Revolution, but, sympathizing with the king, his property was confiscated, and he was obliged to flee to Canada, where he remained until after peace was declared, and in 1786 came to Underhill, and located on the farm now owned by George H. BENEDICT.

Jonas HUMPHREY came from Genesee county, N. Y., at an early day, and settled upon the farm lately owned by N. STORY. He married Caroline DIXON, daughter of Captain Jared DIXON, one of the first settlers in town. His son, D. C. HUMPHREY, still resides here, and is eighty-two years old.

Adam HURLBUT, from Roxbury, Conn., settled upon the farm now owned by Charles Prior and C. L. Graver, in 1789. He subsequently made the first settlement on the farm lately owned by his grandson, Wait HURLBURT.

Eli HURLBURT, a veteran of the War of 1812, was one of the first settlers in Westford. Afterward he removed to this town and located on the farm now owned by his son, J. R. WOODRUFF. The deed to him was from Abner EATON, and dated June 13, 1791. He died, aged seventy-nine, on the farm now owned by his daughter, Mary A. WOODRUFF.

Caleb SHELDON was born at East Hartford, Conn., in 1756, came to Underhill in 1788, located on a farm now owned by his daughter, Mary S. SHELDON, where he died about 1800.

Jason ROGERS, born in Connecticut, came to Underhill

in 1800, and settled on the farm now owned by Charles E. TRUELL, and lived there until his death. His son, Abial ROGERS, also came from Connecticut and located on the farm now owned by the estate of the late Deacon Z. W. CHURCH, in 1808, where he carried on the business of saddler for several years, at which place he died, aged eighty-four. H. A. ROGERS, son of Abial, now resides on the farm formerly owned by John STORY, at which place he is doing business as a harness-maker.

Chauncey GRAVES came from Salisbury and made the first settlement on the farm now owned by his grandson, Tyler M. GRAVES. Ira, son of Chauncey and father of Tyler M., was five years old when he came here, and remained on this farm until his death, May 8, 1877, aged eighty-two years.

Isaac J. BOURN came to Underhill from Jericho in 1816, and purchased the farm now owned by Alvah MARTIN at Underhill Center, and lived there until he died.

Captain N. M. HANAFORD was born at Enfield, N. H., in 1791, and moved to this town at an early date, and always lived near Underhill Center up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1862, aged seventy-one years. He served as fifer and also as drum-major in the War of 1812.

Martin MEAD came from Rutland in 1807, and located on the farm now owned by Seth W. MEAD. He had a family of ten children, three of whom are now living here,-Martin, Seth W., and Simeon M. MEAD.

Asa CHURCH came from Vershire in 1808 and located on the farm now owned by Thomas REEVES. After subsequent changes he finally located on the farm now owned by Cyrus Prior at Underhill Center, where he died at the age of eighty-four years. He had a family of twelve children, but none of them is now living.

Joshua MARTIN was born in Goffstown, N. H., and came here in 1819, locating on the farm now owned by James SHEEHY, at Underhill Center.

Timothy BURDICK came from Rhode Island, enlisted in the regular army in 1812, served five years, and after he was

discharged located in Underhill, clearing up the farm now owned by Martin FLYNN, on what is known as the Irish Settlement road, at that time a wilderness. He was a man of energy and determination, for no other would have attacked a wilderness to lay out a farm, and be as successful as he was. He died at Underhill Center in 1875, aged eighty-five years, and was buried in the cemetery at Underhill. Two of his daughters reside at Underhill Center, and a son, Dr. A. F. BURDICK, went to California in 1849, resided there for three years, and returned to Underhill, where he has resided ever since.. He is a successful practitioner, and has administered to the wants of the people in this and adjoining towns about thirty years.

The principal villages sixty years ago were North Underhill, underhill and Underhill Center, and ranked in size in the order named. The oldest person living in town is Ira DICKINSON. He served a term of enlistment in the regular army prior to 1812, and was one of the volunteers from this town who went to Plattsburgh and participated in that battle. He is a pensioner, and is now (1886) ninety-two years of age. He has a splendid memory, and loves to converse and relate incidents which transpired before and during the war.

The manufactures in Underhill in early times were very limited. In 1825 TOWER & OAKS built a starch factory, run by a steam-engine of ten horsepower. From that time to 1850 they manufactured large quantities of starch, and a number of other mills were built, but they have all gone to decay. Several saw-mills have been operated in town, which supplied the wants of the people up to the time of the opening of the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad, which took place in 1877. Five miles of the railroad bed is in this town.

From that time to the present there has been a great demand for lumber here, and, as a consequence, one water-power and three steam mills have been put in operation, requiring a force during the busy part of the season of about 250 men to supply and operate them. Three of these mills manufacture clapboards and one shingles. Nearly five millions of feet of lumber were shipped from the railroad station here during the past year. Underhill relies on agriculture more than manufacturing. It is a fine town for dairy purposes, shipping each year about 60,000 pounds of butter. During the last season L. F. TERRILL & Son shipped 15,000 bushels of potatoes from this station. Underhill is not a wealthy town,

but may be classed as a prosperous farming community. It is purely rural, possessing good land and on the whole the finest scenery in Vermont. Two valleys traverse it north and south, and one east and west. It has a natural observatory on Mount Mansfield, the highest point of land in Vermont, affording a view that is probably unsurpassed by any in New England. The altitude of Mount Mansfield is 4.389 feet. It exceeds the highest of the Catskills. Imagination has pictured out the upturned face of a giant, showing the forehead, nose, lips and chin. About one-third of the distance from the nose to the chin may be seen drift scratches upon the rocks, and the identical rock that formed them – two bowlders of about thirty and forty feet in circumference, lying near by, deposited there from icebergs that passed over when the lofty peaks of Mansfield were beneath the ocean; Brown's River rises on the side of Mount Mansfield, flowing in a westerly direction through Underhill and Jericho, uniting with Winooski River in Essex.

The schools of this town are managed on the district system and divided into fourteen districts, having an attendance of about four hundred pupils and at an average yearly cost of about $1,600. There were two academies, the Bell Institute, located at Underhill,* and the Green Mountain Academy, located at Underhill Center, that were once flourishing schools, each having about one hundred scholars; but the old-fashioned Vermont academy has gone. It evidently received its death-blow from the State Normal Schools, in other words, the old academies, scattered all over Vermont, have been legislated out of existence. So to-day a person so poor that he cannot afford to send his children away to school must be contented with what little can be learned in the district schools. Education cannot be as good in general as it was when nearly every town had its old-fashioned academy. Vermont now enjoys the privilege of class education; that is, those who can maintain their children away at school have an advantage they did not possess in the old academy. It is true the education of to-day is more aristocratic, but is the State as well off as when children all stood equal as far as opportunity went, in the old academy?

The following were college graduates from Underhill: Elon O. MARTIN, who settled as a Presbyterian minister in Lowndes county, Ala., at which place he died; Charles PARKER, Congregational minister, who died a few years ago at Waterbury; Wm. RICHMOND, for several years principal of

*Also Underhill Academy

the High School at St. Albans; Henry THORP, a teacher in California the last fifteen years; Ebin BIRGE, Congregational minister, who has recently died in Chicago; Gay H. NARAMORE is a lawyer in New York city; Frank FARRELL is a lawyer at Fort Dodge, Iowa; Seneca HASELTON, lawyer, and has been city judge at Burlington for ten years; Frank WOODRUFF, Congregational minister, and now professor at Andover Theological Seminary; Charles DUNTON, Methodist Episcopal clergyman, now principal of the Troy Conference Academy at Poultney; E. H. LANE, lawyer at Mamatte, Minn.; C. G. CHURCH, real estate agency at Watertown, Dakota.

Lawyers have never succeeded in this community. In 1821 a young man named BACON tried to practice law here for a short time, but gave it up and left the town. SAWYER & BEARDSLEY stayed longer, but were not successful. Others have located here, but have not found it a good place to practice. The people of Underhill never had much litigation. Physicians have had better success. Among the physicians who lived in this town, now dead, were Hiram G. BENEDICT, A. C. WELCH, H. BURROUGHS, Samuel DOW, Jesse MAY, and G. W. ROBERTS, at Underhill Center. A. Y. BURDICK and W. S. NAY are the physicians who are now in practice here.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY

The Congregational Church was organized in the town in December, 1801, by Rev. Ebenezer KINGSBURY, of Jericho. The original members were Adam HURLBURT, James DIXON, George OLDS, Carey MEAD, Herman PRIOR, John COLEMAN, Daniel CLARK, Eleanor DIXON, Judette MEAD, Abigail BIRGE, Rachel WARD, Lydia DIXON, Permit PRIOR, and Veelea MEAD. Rev. James Parker, who was ordained in 1803, was the first settled minister. Rev. Simeon PARMELEE, who died at Oswego, N. Y., aged one hundred years and six months, officiated in this church for many years. Its membership now numbers about one hundred. Rev. J. K. WILLIAMS is the present pastor.

St. Thomas (Roman Catholic) Church is located at Underhill Center. The church edifice was built in 1856. Rev.

Thomas LYNCH was the first, and Rev. J. GALIGAN is the present pastor. Its dimensions are thirty-two feet by ninety feet. The organization has about one thousand members.

The Freewill Baptist Church, located at Underhill Center, was organized in 1836 by Elders S. D. KENESTON, and J. E. DAVIS, with twenty members, Elder DAVIS acting as their pastor. The church has a seating capacity for 250 persons, and was built in union with the Methodist Society in 1850. It has no settled pastor at present.

There are two stores at Underhill Center, one owned by D. L. TERRILL, and the other by G. A. TERRILL; and two stores at Underhill, both owned and managed by L. F. and George E. TERRILL, under the firm name of L. F. TERRILL & Son. All of these stores are doing a flourishing business.

The Custar House at Underhill, T. S. WHIPPLE, proprietor, and the Mountain House at Underhill Center, G. W. WOODRUFF, proprietor, are model hotels, and furnish the best of accommodations to the traveling public.

Cyrus BIRGE was the first postmaster, receiving his appointment in 1825. The office was then at North Underhill. There are now three post-offices, with the following postmasters: North Underhill, F. J. ROBINSON; Underhill, J. J. MONAHAN; Underhill Center, Samuel DAVITT.

The town has no organized fire department.

In the War of the Rebellion 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, in this town. Soldiers from here served in nearly all the Vermont regiments, batteries and companies of sharpshooters. Twenty-one went in the Thirteenth Vermont Volunteers – all in Company F. Of the one hundred and fifty-seven men twenty-four now live in the town. Those of the rest who are not dead are scattered, many far away. In a few years all will be gone.

L.H. BOSTWICK Post No. 69, G. A. R., was organized December 12, 1883, by the old soldiers from this town, Jericho and Westford. The post was named after Lieutenant Lucius H.

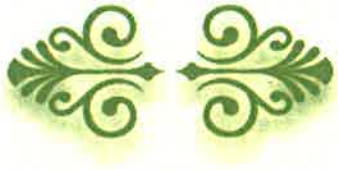
BOSTWICK, of Company F, Thirteenth Regiment Vermont Volunteers, who died in Washington, D. C., in 1863, and has on its rolls the names of seventy-eight men. The first officers were L. F. TERRILL, P. C.; J. J. Monahan, S. V.; W. W. WHEELER, J. V.; A. C. HUMPHREY, adj.; A. W. TERRILL, Q.-M.; A. F. BURDICK, surg.; F. D. GILSON, chap.; W. H. HILTON, O. D.; William BURROUGHS, O. G. The present officers are J. J. MONAHAN,. P. C.; F. D. GILSON, S. D.; William BURROUGHS, J. D.; P. D. MATHEWS, adj.; S. M. PALMER, Q. M.; S. A. WRIGHT, chap.; A. F. BURDICK, surg.; J. LESSOR, O. D.; A. H. SHERMAN, O. G.

Custer Camp No. 7, Vermont Division, Sons of Veterans, was mustered here February 7, 1884, and the first officers were George E. TERRILL, captain; H. L. COLGROVE, first lieutenant; F. S. PALMER, second lieutenant The present officers are H. L. COLGROVE, captain; H. H. HALE, first lieutenant; F. S. PALMER, second lieutenant. There are fifty-seven members, all uniformed and armed the same as the National Guard, and well drilled. The headquarters Vermont Division Sons of Veterans are in this town, having the following division officers: Colonel, George E. TERRILL, Underhill; lieutenant-colonel, John E. FOX, Burlington; major, Orvice B. LEONARD, Brattleboro; chaplain, E. T. GRISWOLD, Bennington; adjutant, Fred E. TERRILL, Underhill; Q. M., H. L. COLGROVE, Underhill; insp., P. C. ABBOTT, St. Johnsbury; must. officer, J. M. NASH, Middlebury; judge advocate, Henry BARROWS, Brandon.

L.H. BOSTWICK, W. R. C. No. 19, was organized March 15, 1886, with Susie A. TERRILL, president; Mary C. BURDICK, S. V.; Helen HUMPHREY, J. V.; Hattie L. PALMER, secretary; Maria C. LUSELLE, treasurer; Helen WRIGHT, chap.; Lucy J. PRIOR, con.; Estelle MOREHOUSE, ass't.; Amanda McDANIELS, guard; Mary LESSOR, ass't; with some twenty members. Thus it will be seen that the soldier element of Underhill, while enjoying the blessings of peace, has every means of enjoyment, as well as the opportunity of recalling the stirring memories of days long gone.

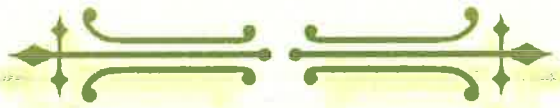
In conclusion, many things could have been said of as much interest to our people, for the subject cannot be exhausted, as what I have already written; but time and space forbid. It is a very difficult thing to always procure accurate information on the subjects embraced where records are defective, and errors may appear in what I have written. If so,

I hope the same will be overlooked, for they are not intentional.



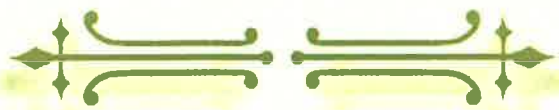
History of Chittenden County, Vermont
With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches
of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers
Edited By W. S. Rann, Syracuse, N. Y.
D. Mason & Co., Publishers, 1886
Page 687-695.

Transcribed by Karima Allison ~ 2004



Links

- **Doran Cemetery, Underhill, VT**
- **St. Thomas Cemetery, Underhill, VT**
- **Irish Settlement Cemetery, Underhill, VT**
- **North Underhill Cemetery, Underhill, VT**



ORIGINAL LOTS OF UNDERHILL
and part of MANSFIELD, VT c. 1786



UNDERHILL LOT DISTRIBUTION			
DIV1	DIV2	DIV3	PROPRIETOR
1-12	2-27	3-28	Adolphus, Isaac
1-46	2-59	3-24	Allen, Henry
1-50	2-17	3-60	Allen, Jeremiah
1-29	2-34	3-48	Allen, Peter
1-45	2-68	3-68	Allen, William
1-23	2-44	3-16	Amberman, Derrick
1-65	2-16	3-18	Anderson, Andrew
1-25	2-53	3-49	Anderson, James
1-41	2-33	3-62	Atkinson, Theodore
1-1	2-15	3-2	Brown, Samuel
1-8	2-48	3-40	Bull, Joseph
1-39	2-4	3-51	Butler, Michael
1-21	2-8	3-65	Butler, William
1-15	2-56	3-66	Cockle, John
1-9	2-45	3-39	Copland, Jonathan
1-42	2-39	3-3	Dayton, Jonathan, Jr
1-26	2-1	3-29	Dillingham, John
1-47	2-22	3-37	Dillingham, Silvanus
1-18	2-54	3-17	Dunn, Cary
1-38	2-5	3-35	Earle, Edward
1-32	2-19	3-30	Earle, Marmaduke
1-64	2-28	3-31	Franklin, Henry
1-53	2-55	3-47	Freeborn, John
1-54	2-49	3-11	Freeborn, Robert
1-27	2-3	3-19	Hadley, Bishop
1-19	2-67	3-25	Hale, John, Dr
1-52	2-65	3-21	Hale, Samuel, Maj
1-62	2-58	3-64	Hazzard, Jonathan
1-2	2-51	3-38	Holmes, Joseph
1-17	2-12	3-50	Horton, James, Sr
1-11	2-50	3-52	Horton, Silvanus
1-4	2-20	3-53	Horton, Underhill
1-24	2-46	3-4	Jamesson, James
1-3	2-37	3-63	Judea, Samuel
1-31	2-63	3-44	Law, Cornelius, Jr
1-40	2-38	3-46	Marche, Solomon
1-33	2-64	3-33	Mathews, David
1-59	2-35	3-55	Midwinter, John
1-14	2-31	3-54	Midwinter, Robert
1-28	2-24	3-45	Myers, Myer
1-49	2-2	3-61	Reed, James
1-48	2-52	3-8	Reliz, Lewis
1-69	2-69	3-1	Right, Corporation
1-20	2-41	3-34	Right, Glebe
1-44	2-10	3-23	Right, Ministers
1-58	2-36	3-57	Right, School
1-68	2-60	3-12	Sackett, James
1-43	2-25	3-6	Sackett, James, III
1-7	2-6	3-27	Sackett, John
1-34	2-62	3-15	Sackett, Joseph
1-63	2-43	3-14	Sackett, Jr
1-36	2-18	3-20	Sackett, Peter
1-37	2-61	3-69	Sackett, Samuel
1-35	2-21	3-41	Sackett, William
1-13	2-32	3-67	Salts, Maurice
1-56	2-40	3-22	Sands, William
1-61	2-7	3-56	Savage, Joseph
1-60	2-42	3-32	Sears, John
1-55	2-9	3-7	Temple, John, Hon
1-5	2-14	3-9	Teneike, Andrew, Jr
1-16	2-29	3-13	Teneike, Peter, Jr
1-57	2-26	3-42	Underhill, Benjamin
1-66	2-47	3-26	Voorhis, Daniel
1-67	2-23	3-36	Wall, Samuel
1-30	2-30	3-5	Watson, Jacob
1-22	2-11	3-43	Watson, Joshua
1-6	2-66	3-58	Wentworth, Mark H G
1-10	2-13	3-59	Woolman, Uriah
1-51	2-57	3-10	Yeates, John

M2-139	M3-7	Drake, Joshua
	M3-9	Drake, Samuel
	M3-33	Foster, William
	M3-20	Frost, George
M2-116		Glebe
M2-59	M3-35	Guion, David
M2-12		Halfway House
	M3-10	Horton, William
M2-119		Ketchour, Benjamin
	M3-62	Lord, B
M2-131		Maybee, Frederick
	M3-3	Maybee, Jacob
M2-123		Maybee, Jeremiah
M2-57	M3-55a	Nelson, John
M2-124		Plamer, William
M2-118		Platt, Rogers
M2-133		Rogers, Annanias
	M3-12	Sackett, Nathan
M2-138		Sherwood, D
M2-136		Sherwood, Joseph Jr
	M3-21	Sherwood, Samuel
M2-120		Society
M2-132		Stevens, Johathan
	M3-31	Stevens, Jonathan
M2-134	M3-11	Stevery, John
	M3-34	Strang, Joseph
M2-122		Temple, William Esq
	M3-30	Thompkins, Amos
M2-121	M3-56	Thompkins, Enoch
M2-127	M3-36	Tompkins, Thomas
M2-125		Townsend, Robert
M2-135	M3-54	Veale, John
M2-130	M3-66	Veille, Jason
M2-117	M3-8	Ward, Walter
M2-129	M3-53	White, William
M2-115		Whitney, Nathan

Names of Underhill lot owners taken from Underhill Surveys (1785-1804) in the Underhill Town Office.

Mansfield lots taken from map titled "Plan of Mansfield Chartered June 8, 1763".

Names of Mansfield Owners taken from "Plan of Stowe" drawn by F.H Dewart (1913) located in Stowe Town Office.

Underhill lots traced by Harris Abbott (1968) from map of James Thorp (c.1900).

1000 500 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
SCALE in FEET

Map adjusted to NAD83 Vermont Coordinate System in feet, to conform to 1/5000 Digital Orthophotos, USGS 7 1/2' quad maps.

Prepared by ET MOORE Computer Services with assistance from Harris Abbott, Irene Linde and Tom Woodard, September 2002.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN of UNDERHILL

Emily A. Flynn

1941

(unpublished)

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 north-eastern 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 Cambridge-boro. 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.

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.

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 ~~1862,~~ 1839 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 ~~western~~ eastern 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 ~~east~~ west ? 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, 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 west of Macomber Mountain and running parallel to the preceeding sections is Pleasant Valley, a somewhat wider valley than the one directly east. The River extends from Underhill Flatts to Underhill Center, the widest valley in the town.

Beartown is in the southwestern 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 Browns River near the village on the Bicknell Place.

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

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 kingneed 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." Neverthless, 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 as 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) Eccelesiastical 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, Peelonnet Bay 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

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.

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 Rhinebeck-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.

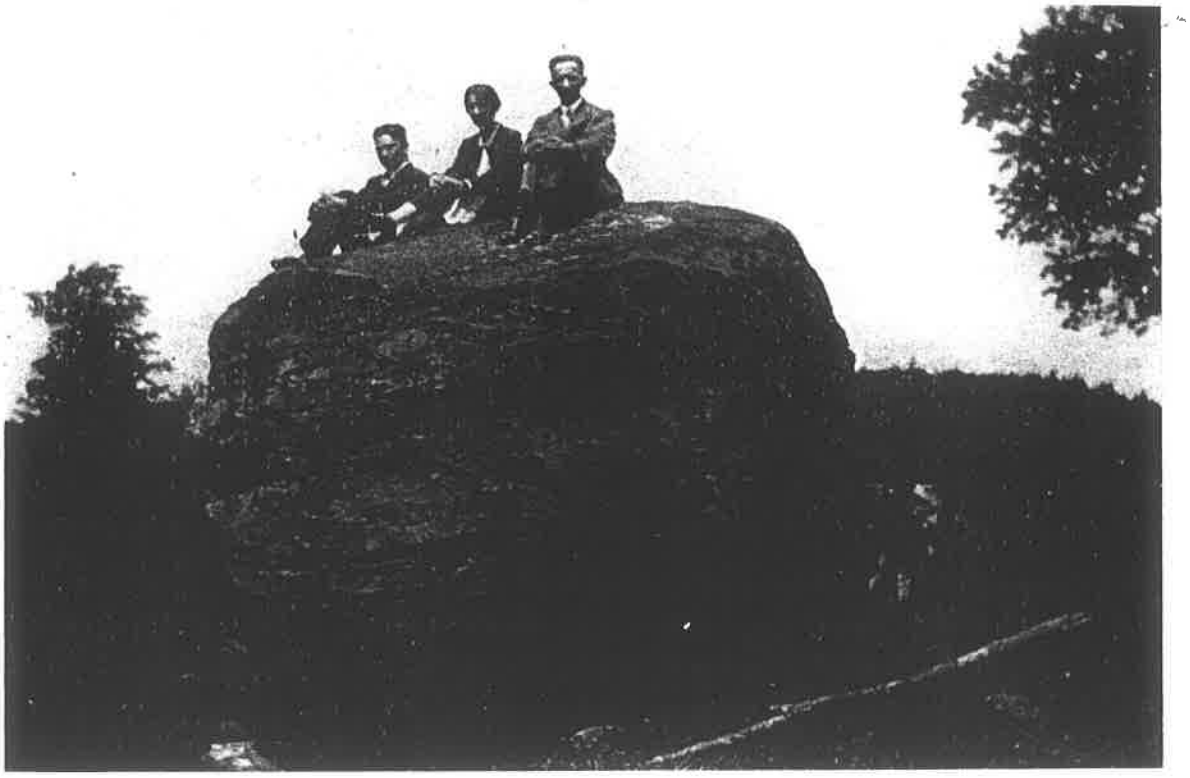
The Prouty House at Underhill Center did a thriving hotel business especially during the summer months. They were followed by George W. Woodruff as proprietor and he too seemed to prosper. Later Edgar Blakely took over the management of this hostelry and whether due to poor management, the stopping of 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 Meteroric 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 Johne 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.

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 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 chiefist 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 an 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 interpersed 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 precipitious 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 it 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?"

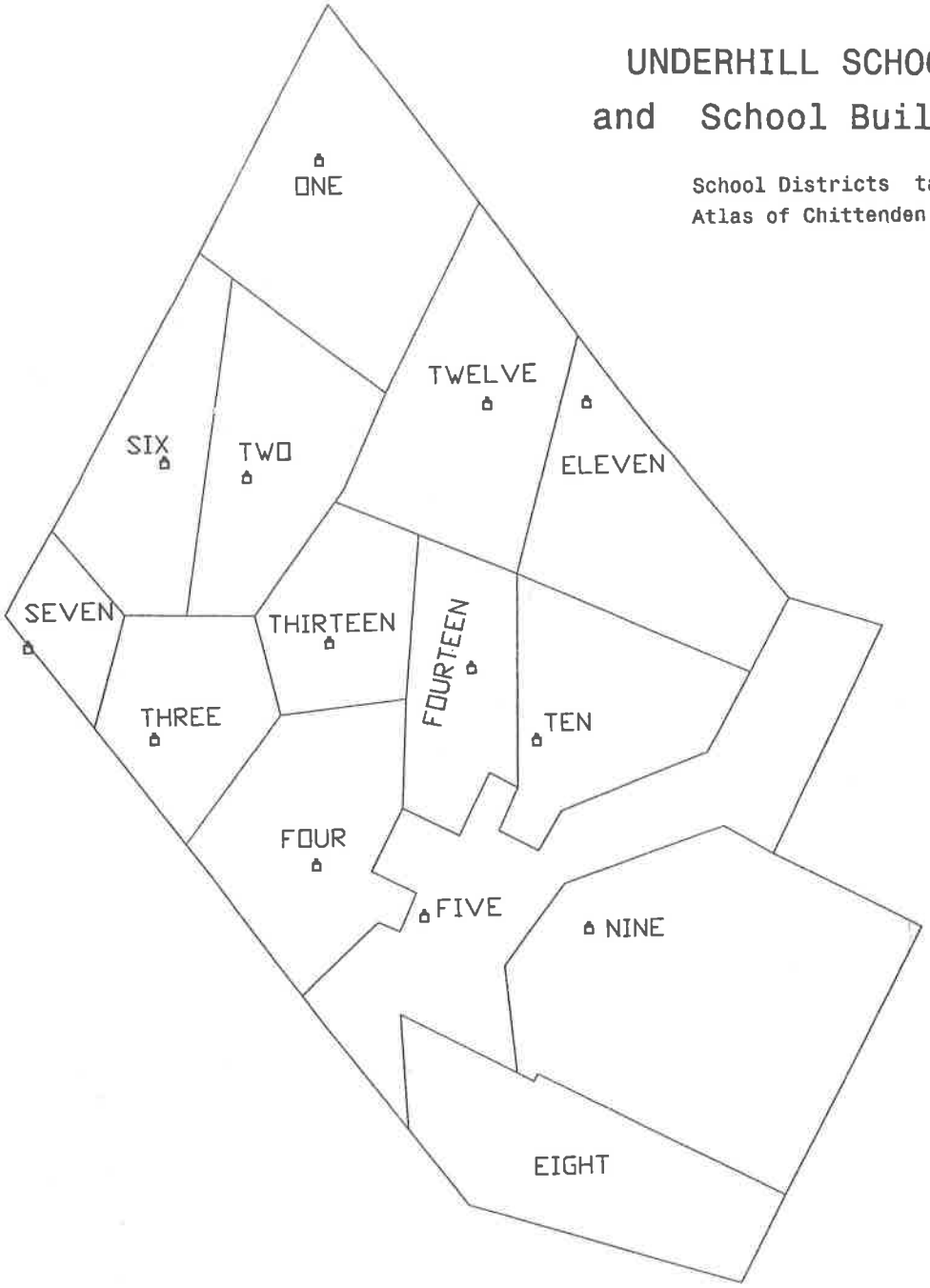
If you are for the song of a bird, or the scent of a flower,

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 diptheria 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

Before settlement

In 1741 George III of England established the crown colony of New Hampshire, fixed its present-day boundaries and installed one Benning Wentworth at its head. Wentworth, as governor, was put in charge of Fort Dummer, then a remote outpost planted on the opposite (west) bank of the Connecticut River. Using this miniscule toehold, Wentworth proclaimed jurisdiction over the vast, largely unexplored "no man's land" beyond the Connecticut recently gained in the historic ceding of French Canada to Britain. Actually, New York was first promised this territory. But Wentworth embarked upon an aggressive campaign, chartering townships from Massachusetts northward, thereby sowing an enduring legacy of land-grabbing and real estate controversies that would characterize the original settlement of Vermont, known then as the Hampshire Grants.

Within twenty years all the prime agricultural soils right up through the Champlain Valley were bought up by wholesale land developers (Ira and Ethan Allen, notably, among them) looking for a tidy return off a burgeoning colonial population. Remaining marginal farmland lay in hill country. Records show that on June 8, 1763, Wentworth issued a charter containing thirty-six square miles (23,040 acres) of virgin wilderness to a group of sixty-five investors, one of whom was named Benjamin Underhill. This land went for exactly one cent per acre. On this same day Westford, Stowe and the now extinct township of Mansfield were chartered in different syndicates comprising many of the same shareholders. Jericho had been born the day before. These original owners never intended personally to clear this frontier. They were land speculators. Most joined several standard sixty-five-member coalitions purchasing thirty-six square miles at a penny an acre. Likely none ever physically visited their holdings any more than a contemporary market trader would bother inspecting some corporate plant. In this New World exploitable wilderness was everywhere just over the perceived horizon. It was a brisk commodity—parcelled up, shuffled about and horse-traded off to young, hardy, gullible frontierspeople desperate for a new beginning someplace.

In the following year of 1764 the Hampshire Grants, now a gridwork of 131 separate townships, were mostly all sold off, though few settlers had actually arrived. But by year's end, following decades of dispute, King George himself finally ruled that this whole (literal) shooting match west of the Connecticut River had all along belonged to New York, not New Hampshire. Benning Wentworth's scheme swiftly unravelled and he eventually resigned under scandal. New York began selling its own charters directly adverse to the so-called "Wentworthless" claims. In fact, in 1776 New York sold a tract of land to one Frederick Rhinelander of New York City, which included parts of Milton, Westford and Underhill. But in the tempestuous months preceding the outbreak of revolution, entrenched Hampshire Grantees in first-settled areas like Guilford and Bennington (named after you-know-who) fended off arriving homesteaders armed under New York authority. In fact, the Green Mountain Boys of Revolutionary legend originally banded to fight not British soldiers, but Yorkers—fellow settlers.

Thus, for pioneers contemplating "going into the Grants" during the 1760s and 1770s migration north offered the terrifying prospect of colonizing territory ravaged by dispute and revolution. A breed apart, those lost souls who dared stepping into this wilderness faced a pantheon of nemeses: native Abnaki, French trappers, British soldiers, New York militia, Green Mountain vigilantes, not to mention starvation, wild animals and brutal cold. [1] Needless to say, Benjamin Underhill and his peers never saw much quick profit. It would take decades more for this hill country to start populating.

On September 12, 1785, a group of landed gentry gathered at the home of one Abraham Underhill (presumably a relative of Benjamin) in Dorset, Vermont. This was the first formal meeting of these sixty-five original shareholders—or their survivors—who twenty-two years earlier had speculated, sight unseen, on a chunk of uninhabited wilderness lying somewhere nine days' walk north of them. Much had transpired over those intervening years. New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire were now constituents in the new, thirteen-member federation. Although the Green Mountain Boys had valiantly supported the War of Independence, the Continental Congress snubbed their membership mainly out of deference to the powerful New York delegation still smarting from rivalry and the loss of substantial charter fees to Wentworth. But residents of the Grants stood defiant, proclaimed themselves a sovereign nation, drafted their own Declaration of Independence and Constitution, and even minted their own currency. Eventually they adopted the name: Vermont. Finally, in 1785 they laid to rest the quarter-century of antagonism by paying off New York and legitimizing Wentworth's

originally bogus charters. In that year the ruggedly self-reliant Republic of Vermont was finally poised for prosperity—and for inevitable admission, six years later, into the Union as the fourteenth State.
There was certainly some urgency to the 1785 shareholders meeting at Mr. Underhill's home in Dorset. Now that the great feud was finally over, a land rush was on and civilization was swiftly pushing back the frontier. Pioneers had already settled on the Browns and Lamoille River flatlands. So a committee of three was appointed to dispatch a surveyor posthaste. "Surveying" the Vermont wilderness in 1785 entailed nothing of today's professionalism. It was a combination of bush-whacking, dead reckoning, eye-balling and much bare-fisted negotiation with sundry squatters, neighbors and adverse claimants in a conspicuous grab for the best cropland. By the time this surveying team arrived, the choicest alluvial pickings had already been staked by surrounding townships.[2]

Early settlement

The earliest settlers in Underhill proper arrived the following spring of 1786. Their lots encompassed the gateway area we now call the Flats. More folks gradually filtered in and cleared along the foot trail to Cambridge. This path became a wagon road following the line of least resistance up the route we now call Poker Hill Road. In 1791 Vermont became a State, and the first official U.S. Census records Vermont as having a population of 85,000. Guilford, the largest town, had 2,400; Underhill had 65. By the next census of 1800, nine years later, Underhill's population nearly quadrupled.
From the turn of the nineteenth century onward the stream of homesteaders to Underhill increased. From the start the primary industry was logging.[3] The virgin forest was cleared, lumber was cut for homes, schools, churches, taverns, barns, fences, etc. Saw mills clustered around every available stream site and ran day and night during Spring thaw. People were dispersed across a multitude of logging camps and small, subsistence farms. Travel was minimal and always on foot; life was mind-numbingly parochial. These scattered homesteads typically revolved around a local neighborhood or "settlement," featuring a meeting house with shipping post and cemetery, perhaps a mill, store, or tavern, always a one-room schoolhouse.
Potato starch and potash refineries, grain mills, tanneries, stores and blacksmiths sprang up, first along Poker Hill, then up the Browns River and Pleasant Valley. In 1839 the sparsely inhabited logging township of Mansfield straddling the mountain was dissolved by State legislation, and the summit with the entire western slope (12 square miles or exactly one-third) was given to Underhill, the eastern two-thirds to Stowe.

The Civil War

The war between the States was a cataclysmic event in the history of Vermont and Underhill. Chroniclers agree the most rabid abolitionism flourished in the deep north. Vermonters enlisted in droves to eradicate Southern slavery and preserve the Union. More men and resources per capita were expended from Vermont than any other State. Families of twenty children were not uncommon back then; the population base was exploding. But by that time Vermont was nearly devoid of its forests; the wilderness gone, available decent farmland confining. The Civil War accelerated the opening of the American West, like a huge plug releasing restless masses out across the fruited plain toward the next expanse of wilderness and the distant lure of gold. One local yarn explains how Nebraska Notch was named: residents of parts east streaming through the pass would announce their destination, Nebrasky.
We look back upon our forbears with nostalgia. But in reality scratching out a hardscrabble existence during those times was insufferable, especially for the upland inhabitants of Underhill. Though by the 1860s seventy-five per cent of Vermont was treeless, logging was still underway on the less accessible slopes of Mansfield and her foothills. Once the timber fell, the rough ground was left for recent arrivals to work. Today, in the remotest backwoods of Underhill we are amazed to discover rock piles, stone walls, cellar holes and other evidence of unimaginable labor. Sheep-raising was the dominant agricultural industry of the Civil War period, and Vermont was regarded as the wool capital of the world. But from that very first survey a hundred years earlier, Underhill was somehow muscled out of its proportion of rich bottomland. The remaining thin, stony, sloped, poor-draining soils were never meant for efficient production. From its inception, Underhill had always been—relative to other towns—an unwealthy and rather itinerant place. Many, many families simply gave up, gathered everything and

headed west. The Census of 1870 records Underhill's highest pre-modern population at 1,655 residents. From then on it was all downhill.

A village across towns

At this population crest came an event which would influence the modern predicament of Underhill. 1877 saw the coming of the Burlington-and-Lamoille Railway, from Essex to Cambridge. Railroads are not particular respecters of town lines, and back then, municipal boundaries had not the significance of today. So, to no one's concern at the time, this station was positioned almost directly on the Underhill-Jericho town line. Though another station was built at the opposite end of Underhill, it was the Flatts depot which germinated and took on a life of its own. Here a true "population center"—a mini-metropolis! -- spread out right across the town boundary. So while the population of Underhill township as a whole declined, the Flatts on both sides of the dividing line ballooned. Churches, stores of every variety, mills, hotels, taverns, a theater, a private boarding school, stockyards, livery stables, paved streets and a public common arose just west of the train stop. Blacksmiths, barbers, wheelwrights, a doctor, a druggist and a lawyer set up shop. As the far-flung upland settlements were losing people and importance as social, residential and economic nuclei, Underhill Flatts as the focal point of local life grew. Fifteen years after the coming of the B & L Railway the Vermont legislature granted this boomtown unique authorization to unify into one single school district the Flatts settlement on the Underhill side with the adjacent Riverside Settlement on the Jericho side. Thus was born the Underhill Incorporated District (Underhill I. D.) straddling parts of Jericho and Underhill and the source of so much frustration today.
Underhill at the turn of the century was a transforming place. As the hillside populations drained, farms and logging businesses consolidated into bigger, intensive, more efficient operations. Dairy cows supplanted sheep as Vermont soon became (and remains) the Holstein capital of the world. B & L boxcars carried in fertilizer, grain and manufactured goods and carried out lumber, leather, maple sugar, potatoes, butter and cheese.

A place for recreation

The railway helped to make Underhill an attractive vacation destination. The Halfway House, a hotel built near the current site of Underhill State Park camping area, cultivated a flourishing business. From there guests would often hike or wagon-ride up a narrow road for an overnight at the Summit House Hotel situated on the nose of Mt. Mansfield. Several other resort hotels existed in Underhill Center. In the early part of the century many of the small mountain farms were purchased for vacation homes and Underhill Center was for many decades essentially a 'summer colony'. The 19th century grand hotels with ballrooms went into decline, replaced by simpler summer 'boarding houses'. In 1924 the first alpine ski trail on Mt. Mansfield (The Teardrop) was cleared on the Underhill side. In 1935 the Underhill Ski Bowl was started on the Egan farm with a primitive rope tow and was used by the newly formed Winter Sports Club. The ski operation thrived from 1946- 1982 under the ownership of the Dubrow family and the Underhill Ski Bowl was shown on all the maps of Vermont. It certainly was the place for the children in Underhill to enjoy the cold winters and become expert skiers - - and with an improved ski tow and lighted night skiing, it became popular with the Burlington crowd, too. It was a great community loss when the facility closed (largely due to exorbitant increases in the cost of insurance.)
The sport of cross country skiing in Vermont actually began in Underhill Center. A group of enthusiasts started clearing trails in the mid '60s and the Edgemont races were popular for many years. A longer trail was cleared all the way to Smugglers' Notch and was used for the annual 'Madonna Vasa' race. The races were discontinued in late '70s because of excess popularity; they became just too big to handle. Meanwhile, many local trails have been cleared and the sport is now highly popular all over Underhill.
From the mid '40s to the mid '60s Underhill Center was a mecca for country dances held Saturday nights at the 'Hen House' (now Wells apartments) in Underhill Center. It was entertainment for all ages and was popular with dancers from all around the area.
In the early '70s the Town bought land in Underhill Center for a recreation area and with the help of a State grant established tennis courts and a small swimming pond. A volunteer Recreation Committee was formed to oversee

the facility and there are annual tennis and swimming lessons. From 1982-1998 the Connells operated an international youth hostel in their handsome barn in Underhill Center, attracting visitors from many countries. In 1970, the time of the first Town Plan, vacation property accounted for nearly 13% of the Grand List. Over the last 30 years nearly all the seasonal homes have been converted to year- round residences. Now only 2.4% of houses is listed as vacation house.

Population decline

The flush of prosperity lasted two generations before competition from America's heartland ushered the agricultural economy of the Northeast into decline. Inexorably, from the hilly regions, dairy farm after farm fell out of production. And Vermont's worked-over timber stands could scarcely vie with the expansive virgin resources of the great Northwest.

Loss of land

Two factors exacerbated the population decline in Underhill as the 20th century unfolded: the establishment of the Mt Mansfield State Forest and Park and the Federal Underhill Artillery Range. As early as 1859 UVM had acquired stewardship of the crest of Mt Mansfield with its unique glacial leftover of tundra. In 1914, with the logging of the mountain virtually complete, Vermont began the acquisition of land on Mount Mansfield for a State Forest and Park and the initiation of programs for reforestation and recreation, absorbing some homesteads in the process. Expansion of the State Forest has continued throughout the years as land has become available through purchase from lumber companies and private gifts. In 1926 the Federal government purchased land in Underhill, Jericho and Bolton to use as an artillery range for the Fort Ethan Allen military base in Essex Junction and summer training for college reserve officers. 1153 acres of Underhill were taken off of the tax rolls; the neighborhood called 'Hutchville' disappeared. In 1946 more land was added to the 'Range' bringing the Underhill total to 3,292 acres.

Loss of income

When the Depression hit, commercial rail evaporated, and by 1939 the B & L stopped running. Farms were abandoned or sold off as vacation homes or hunting camps to cityfolk attracted by firesale prices, the unspoiled environment and the absence of people. Underhill became a second-home haven. The 1950 census recorded Underhill's lowest population since 1820 at less than 700 residents.

By the 50s Underhill's fifteen separate "settlement" school districts had dwindled to five, apart from the "I.D." With so few inhabitants, even five was too much. So in 1953 the five remaining districts consolidated into one, which headquartered itself in Underhill Center, thus completing the current school district configuration that some residents now regard as geographically absurd.

As the town population declined, the many churches in town were hard pressed to maintain viable congregations and began to share facilities with churches in Jericho. The 'Union Church' in Underhill Center, shared by Methodist and Baptist denominations, was given up and in 1950 the building was purchased by the town of Underhill for use as a Town Hall and renovated by civic volunteers. (The new facility replaced the former Green Mountain Academy in Underhill Center, which had served as Town Hall for many years.)

Meanwhile, Chittenden County's population had been growing all the time; between 1850 and 1940 at a steady rate of 1% per year and after World War 2 at 2% per year. Between 1940 and 1980 the population doubled. Moreover, the freedom of transportation provided by the automobile liberated people from the need to build close to railroads where real estate prices were high. Dirt roads became paved highways. Renewed prosperity was around the corner.

Life in the early 20th century

Although a telephone exchange had been started in the 1890s, electricity was not introduced until 1933. Many country homes were connected much later. A trip to Burlington was an excursion and not everyone made it that far. People made their own entertainment and classic Vermont humor is evident in the chronicle of events. For many years The Mansfield Women's Club provided intellectual stimulus for the ladies with book reviews and special reports. It was responsible for the Waters Library and made many other contributions to the civic life of

the community. 4H was popular with the young people providing domestic and farm-life skills. Exchange of services was the rule and most civic needs were addressed by volunteers.

The Civilian Conservation Corps

During the depression years of 1933- 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)[4] was active in Underhill. From their camp on Range Road, the young men were driven to the mountain where they built a campsite for the Underhill State Park and created more hiking trails. (A large segment of the Appalachian Long Trail passes through Underhill and had been cleared earlier.) During the historic blizzard of 1940, their camp almost blew away, but they turned out to help people all over town. When the program ended with the advent of WWII, the Corps was in the process of constructing a road across the Underhill side of the mountain, destination Nebraska Notch; traces of the road can still be seen on the mountainside. (The young men had created quite a social stir in the area, competing with local boys for the attention of the girls; the situation was not without some interaction…)

The Firing Range

In 1948 the General Electric Company in Burlington began the manufacture of armaments and used the Range to test large guns. The whooping noise of the high tech artillery became a familiar sound in Underhill. Part of the Range was set up for training of the Vermont National Guard and units from other states as well. The sounds of small arms fire, 155mm howitzers and helicopter observation planes also became familiar. As the role of the Guard and Reserves has become more important in military strategy, the use of the range for training activities has expanded year round.

Renewed prosperity

In 1957 IBM set up a manufacturing plant in Essex Junction with tenuous roots. The venture turned out to be successful and as the years went by the commitment became more resolute. By 1968, with the expansion of manufacturing and the opening of a new engineering building, the company had completely changed the economic landscape of Chittenden County.

The completion of Interstate 89 further fueled an upturn in the economy. High-tech manufacturing and service industries blossomed, and the population suddenly soared. In the mid 60s Underhill started to grow again and to grow fast. Open land subdivided into house sites; summer homes and hunting camps converted into year-round residences.

Town Planning started

Although Underhill lay on the outskirts of the immediate effected area, some of the far- sighted town citizens saw the future coming and took steps to try to control possible ill-planned housing developments. In 1961, the town authorized the appointment of a Zoning Board to write a zoning ordinance; the minimal regulations were adopted in 1963. The following year a Planning Commission was appointed. The VT Planning and Development Act (Act 250) was passed in 1968 in response to the disastrous consequences of unregulated development in the state. The legislation required the writing of a Town Plan on which to base zoning ordinances. In preparation the Underhill Planning Commission initiated a ‘land use’ study by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Essex Junction and were fortunate to have the expertise of soil scientist , Robert Towne, to do the work. The first Underhill Town Plan was adopted in 1970 , along with subdivision regulations to curb the proliferation of poorly planned housing developments , which the early zoning regulations had not been able to prevent.

(Some of the early subdivisions established in the late ‘60s had road problems which became historical legacies).

In 1973 the revised Zoning Ordinance was passed, based upon the SCCS Land Use Map using ‘Critical Area Zoning’ criteria. The fundamental, unchanging natural basis for the regulations has stood for 30 years, so far.

Town Hall was renovated

In 1967 the population of Underhill still hovered around 700, but rapid change was coming. The Town Hall had suffered structural damage from an untended roof leak and the Town Office in the basement was woefully inadequate. A bond vote to pay for remodeling of the building was first passed and then rescinded. In desperation the Selectboard even contemplated the possibility of sharing a Town Hall and Town Manager with Jericho. Then a project to renovate the building with volunteer workers emerged and the newly formed Historical Society undertook fund raising projects to pay for the materials. It was a two- year project of Saturday workdays with

citizens of all ages participating. The project was highly successful and even received recognition from the State Historical Society. In 1970 a grand town party celebrated the building rejuvenation.

Property taxes soared

About the same time as the passage of Act 250, the VT Supreme Court decreed that the historical basis for tax appraisal which evaluated land use for agricultural usefulness was now unfair and appraisal would henceforth be based upon something called "Fair Market Value". This was an average number derived from recent property sales and was used to evaluate land by total acreage. In 1970 the Underhill Town listers reappraised land on this basis and the result was disastrous. Land appraisals soared, some even quadrupling. The Civil Board was overwhelmed by appraisal challenges and just about every lawyer in Burlington had a job in Underhill…. The Board revoked many of the changes and the listers took the Town to court. (The Town taxpayers had to pay for legal costs on both sides of the issue.) The upshot was that the court threw the challenge into the hands of the State Board of Appraisal, which had pressured the listers in the first place. A compromise was finally reached which allowed modifying factors to be applied to the land values, depending on location and viability for housing. But lasting damage had been done. Underhill was essentially up for sale. The Selectboard responded by setting up the first town 'Land Use Contract' , which abated taxes on lands which were set aside from development for 10 years. (Although an important purpose was to protect some of the few remaining farmers from excessive taxation, several independents refused to participate.) Subsequently the State set up similar contracts. The huge pressure on land sales somewhat diminished, but the pressure of population growth in Chittenden county spread inexorably to Underhill, with a rapid expansion of housing and the need for one school addition after another.

The 21st century

As we enter the new century, the population of Underhill is about 3000, five times more than its lowest number of 600 in the early '60s. But the population is no longer rapidly growing and the school population has experienced decline. With excess school facilities in both Underhill and Jericho, the opportunity to redress the historical legacy of the Underhill ID school problem may be at hand.

Meanwhile, Underhill enters the new era with a refurbished Town Hall, a new Town Garage, a new Town Park, a Conservation District, many fine new bridges and improved roads. It shares with Jericho a thriving new memorial library and a new, well-appointed building for the Underhill-Jericho Volunteer Fire Department (which celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2003) . The Mills Riverside Park , also shared by the two towns, is a splendid addition to the communities and is used for all manner of activities: picnicking ,camping, concerts, sports practice, farmers' market , bird watching. It is soon to have a useful covered pavilion, courtesy of the local Lions Club. In spite of the great increase in town population, the pressures of commuting and the social draw of Burlington, Underhill has managed to preserve a sense of community. There is good attendance at Town Meeting and volunteer service, long a town tradition, continues to thrive. The projections for future population growth in the county are alarming for Underhill as it carries its role as steward of the gateway to Mt Mansfield. Needless to say, the challenges ahead are many.

Town of UNDERHILL Important Dates

1763 - Town of UNDERHILL charter deed - - Gov. Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire. ~23,000 A. "Well set about by mountains." (New Hampshire Grants.)
(65 original charter members, paid $230.40 for 70 shares--one cent per acre) Map?

1777 - Declaration of Independence; 'Independent Commonwealth of Vermont' established.; Constitution adopted.

1785 - 1st meeting of proprietors at home of Abraham Underhill in Dorset, Vt. Hired surveyors.

1786- Subdivision maps: 1st: Area - - present Underhill Flats, Poker Hill, River Rd, Irish Settlement 100A lots; 2nd Area - - present English Settlement , far Irish Settlement, Pleasant Valley. 100A lots; 3rd 100A lots; 4th 22A woodlots on Mt Mansfield.
(Each proprietor got a lot in each subdivision. Gov. Wentworth got 500 A in each township. "Governor's Rights" sold by Wentworth's wife, but history remains at Rawson Farm)
- 1st settlers Elijah Benedict, Abner Eaton

1789 - 1st topographical map of VT -- shows townships. (cf. Mansfield)

1791 - Vermont becomes 14th State; pays New York $30,000 to settle land grant dispute.
- Hill Road (Poker Hill) laid out, surveyed

1795 - 1st Underhill Town Meeting ; home of George Olds; population 65

1800 - Town population up to 212

1820 - Pleasant Valley Rd laid out to Cambridge and surveyed.

1827 - Underhill Center emerging as village with meeting house, cemetery.
- Creek Rd (rte 15) surveyed.

1832 - Underhill Flatts growing; Town Meeting moved to Barney's Tavern.

1839 - VT legislature divides Town of Mansfield between Underhill and Stowe.
Underhill gets 12 sq.miles -- western side Mt Mansfield, including 'chin', the highest point in VT at 4393'. Also mts later named Dewey, Mayo, Clark.

1839- Subdivsion lots officially surveyed

1840- Creek Rd replaces Hill Rd as County Road.

1850 - Freewill Baptist/ ME Church, Underhill Center (1950 bought for Town Hall)

1855 - 1st Catholic Church in Center (later burned; present rebuilt in 1881)
- Town map (hand drawn) names & location of property owners, schools, mills, businesses

1858 - Summit House Hotel ; 1st Halfway House Hotel built on Mt Mansfield.

1859 - UVM acquires land on top of Mt Mansfield

1869 - Town map --Beer's Atlas Shows locations of residences and businesses, names of proprietors ; mills, churches, cemeteries, schools and school districts, original subdivisions.

1870 - Underhill population peaks at 1655.

1877 - Burlington & Lamoille RR to Underhill (Last train 1938)

1890s - Local telephone service.

1914 - Vermont starts land acquisition for State Forest on Mt Mansfield

1926 - Federal Gov. Purchases 1153 A of Underhill for Artillery Range.

1933 - 1st electrical service in Underhll

1933-1942 - CCC camp ; Underhill State Park facilities; CCC road

1938 - REA sets up VELCO.

1945 - USGS topographical map of Vermont.

1946 - More acreage added to Range - -Underhill total ~ 3,292.
1940-1967 - USDA SCCS 'Soil Survey of Chittenden County' pub. 1969.
1950 - New location for Town Hall ; former Baptist/ME Church renovated
1957 - IBM in Essex Junction.
1959- 'Geology of the Mt Mansfield Quadrangle' USGS
1961 - 1st Underhill Zoning Board authorized.
State of VT bedrock geology map published. (Charles Doll, State Geologist)
1963- 1st Underhill Zoning Ordinance adopted.
1964 - 1st Underhill Planning Commission appointed.
1966 - Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission established (CCRPC)
1968 - VT Act 250 -Municipal Planning & Development Act
1969 - Underhill Historical Society organized.
- Underhill Land Use Study with Robert Towne of SCCS, VT Dept of Water Resources,
- Town Hall renovation begun
1970 - 1st Underhill Comprehensive Town Plan, Subdivision Regulations, Transportation Plan.
- Change in appraisal for land from use value to acreage.
- VT State surficial geology map published. (Charles Doll, State Geologist)
- Town voted to change from yearly to to quarterly tax payments.
1971 - Town dump closed and covered. Land on New Road leased from Dr Shera for new landfill
1972 - Revised Underhill Comprehensive Town Plan, Land Use Map adopted.
1974 - Underhill Land Use Contract adopted. (tax relief for farmers, large land owners).
- Revised Zoning Regulations adopted. (5 districts based on Land Use Map- - 'Critical Area Zoning')
- Land next to old schoolhouse purchased for recreation area, pool and tennis courts
1975 - Recreation Committee organized.
1978 - Land on New Road purchased for Landfill
1979 -New flyover for orthophotomaps.
1983 - Town office accounting computerization started.
1984 - New landfill certified. Recycling established.
1984 - 1988 - Parcel maps on orthophoto base drawn by Jim Nassau.
1986 - Selectmen adopt Road Policy
1987 - Revised Land Use Plan - - Zoning District Boundaries straightened and defined by road locations (CCRPC) Revised Zoning regulations adopted.
1988- MAPINFO computer mapping introduced for Underhill
- Vermont ACT 200 planning legislation ; State GIS established.
- FEMA Flood Plain maps.
- Solid waste management plan; commission appointed
1989 - Revised Town Plan published with MAPINFO computer maps ; Act 200 approval.
- Conservation Commission established.
1991 - GIS contracts for Town parcel data
1992 - Landfill closed ; Septic Regulations adopted.
1994 - Completely rewritten Town Plan; computer maps
1997 - Vermont Act 60 -change in school tax allocation .
- Deborah Rawson Memorial Library opened.
- New Firehouse built

1998 - Solid Waste Plan adopted by Selectboard., roadside collection
1999 - Property next to Town Hall purchased, house removed.
- Mills Riverside Park established.
2000 - Town Hall addition built , offices renovated.
- New Town Garage built, dedicated to George Bradford, former Selectboard Chair.
2001- New Underhill Center Bridge built, dedicated to Margaret Hummel, former Selectboard Chair.
2002 - Volunteers create new park across from Town Hall.
2003 - Vermont ACT 69 - changes in school tax collection
2004 - New park named MOORE PARK, dedicated to Edwin T. Moore, former Selectboard Chair.
2006 - Development Review Board (DRB) replaces Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA)
2007 - State takes over septic system designs.
2008 - Constable duties redefined. .
2010 - Town Officer duties redefined.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL OFFICERS

YEAR	TOWN CLERK	TOWN TREASURER	MODERATOR	SELECTMAN	SELECTMAN	SELECTMAN
1794						
1795	BARNEY, William			EATON, Abner	DIXON, Archibald	STEVENS, Cyrus
1796	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Benjamin	HAY, Udney	EATON, Abner	DIXON, Archibald	STEVENS, Cyrus
1797	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Benjamin		HAY, Udney	MEADE, Ezra	STEVENS, Cyrus
1798	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Benjamin	HAY, Udney			
1799	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Benjamin	HAY, Udney	HAY, Udney	MARTIN, Peter	DIXON, Luther
1800	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Benjamin	HAY, Udney	HAY, Udney	CLARK, Daniel	SHELDON, Caleb
1801	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Benjamin	DIXON, Luther	CLARK, Daniel	SHELDON, Caleb	BIRGE, David
1802	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Benjamin	SHELDON, Caleb	CLARK, Daniel	SHELDON, Caleb	BIRGE, David
1803	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Benjamin	WARD, Bernard	SHEPARD, Sylvanus	SHELDON, Caleb	DIXON, Luther
1804	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Benjamin	WARD, Bernard	SHEPARD, Sylvanus	SHELDON, Caleb	DIXON, Luther
1805	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Benjamin	MARTIN, Peter	THRALL, Eliphas	SHELDON, Caleb	MARTIN, Peter
1806	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Benjamin	MARTIN, James	SHEPARD, Sylvanus	SHELDON, Caleb	MARTIN, Peter
1807	BARNEY, William	BIRGE, Elijah	SHELDON, Caleb	SHEPARD, Sylvanus	SHELDON, Caleb	MARTIN, Peter
1808	BARNEY, William	WARD, Bernard	MARTIN, Peter	SHEPARD, Sylvanus	SHELDON, Caleb	MARTIN, Peter
1809	BARNEY, William	BIRGE, David	SHELDON, Caleb	SHELDON, Caleb	MARTIN, James	ROGERS, Jason
1810	BARNEY, William	BIRGE, David	SHELDON, Caleb	ATWOOD, William	MARTIN, James	ROGERS, Jason
1811	WARD, William Jr	PARKER, Benjamin	THRALL, Eliphas	EATON, Abner	MARTIN, Peter	NARAMORE, Justin
1812	MARTIN, Peter	PARKER, Benjamin	THRALL, Eliphas	EATON, Abner	DIXON, Luther	WARD, Bernard
1813	MARTIN, Peter	BIRGE, Elijah	BARNEY, William	SHELDON, Caleb	THRALL, Eliphas	BIRGE, David
1814	MARTIN, Peter	BIRGE, David		SHELDON, Caleb	THRALL, Eliphas	WARD, Bernard
1815	MARTIN, Peter	PARKER, Benjamin		SHELDON, Caleb	GOODHUE, David	SMITH, John
1816	MARTIN, Peter	PARKER, Benjamin		DIXON, Luther	NARAMORE, Justin	WARD, Bernard
1817	MARTIN, Peter	PARKER, Benjamin	SHELDON, Caleb	DIXON, Luther	NARAMORE, Justin	WARD, Bernard
1818	MARTIN, Peter	DIXON, Luther		SHELDON, Caleb	NARAMORE, Justin	ROGERS, Abial
1819	MARTIN, Peter	DIXON, Luther		SHELDON, Caleb	GOODHUE, David	RICHARDSON, Elijah
1820	MARTIN, Peter	DIXON, Luther	SHELDON, Caleb	DIXON, Luther	RICHARDSON, Elijah	PRIOR, Daniel
1821	MARTIN, Peter	DIXON, Luther	DIXON, Luther	DIXON, Luther	SHELDON, Caleb	GOODHUE, David
1822	MARTIN, Peter	DIXON, Luther	DIXON, Luther	WELLS, Joseph	SHELDON, Caleb	PARKER, Benjamin
1823	MARTIN, Peter	PARKER, Ruben	BARNEY, William	WELLS, Joseph	NARAMORE, Justin	PARKER, Benjamin
1824	TOWER, John H	PARKER, Ruben	BARNEY, William	BOURN, Isaac J	PALMER, Cornelius	EATON, Jonathan
1825	TOWER, John H	TOWER, John H		WELLS, Samuel	WILDER, Oliver	NARAMORE, Justin
1826	TOWER, John H	TOWER, John H		BOURN, Isaac J	PALMER, Cornelius	EATON, Jonathan
1827	TOWER, John H	TOWER, John H	RICHARDSON, Elijah	NARAMORE, Justin	WELLS, Samuel	WILDER, Oliver
1828	TOWER, John H	TOWER, John H	DIXON, Luther	WELLS, Joseph	BARNEY, Albert	SMITH, Augustus
1829	TOWER, John H	TOWER, John H	RICHARDSON, Elijah	STORY, John	BARNEY, Albert	SMITH, Augustus
1830	TOWER, John H	OAKES, Henry	DAY, Edward	STORY, John	DAY, Edward	NARAMORE, Hawley A
1831	TOWER, John H	OAKES, Henry	BARNEY, William	SHELDON, Truman	DAY, Edward	BIRGE, Elijah
1832	TOWER, John H	OAKES, Henry	BARNEY, William	DAY, Edward	BIRGE, Elijah	SHELDON, Truman
1833	TOWER, John H	OAKES, Henry	BARNEY, William	GILE, Peter	QUINCY, Samuel	STORY, John
1834	TOWER, John H	OAKES, Henry	MARTIN, Peter	GILE, Peter	QUINCY, Samuel	STORY, John
1835	BARTON, Leonard	GOODHUE, David	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Ruben	EATON, Alpheus	STORY, John

YEAR	TOWN CLERK	TOWN TREASURER	MODERATOR	SELECTMAN	SELECTMAN	SELECTMAN
1836	BARTON, Leonard	GOODHUE, David	BARNEY, William	WELLS, Joseph	PARKER, Ruben	STORY, John
1837	DIXON, Leonard M	CHAMBERLIN, Beuff	BARNEY, William	WELLS, Joseph	PARKER, Ruben	SMITH, Harry
1838	DIXON, Leonard M	WELLS, Samuel	BARNEY, William	WELLS, Joseph	BICKNELL, Alfred	SMITH, Harry
1839	DIXON, Leonard M	DIXON, Leonard M	BARNEY, William	PARKER, Ruben	NARAMORE, Hawley A	BICKNELL, Alfred
1840	DIXON, Leonard M	DIXON, Leonard M	MARTIN, Peter	PARKER, Ruben	NARAMORE, Hawley A	MEAD, Seth W
1841	DIXON, Leonard M	DIXON, Leonard M	HANAFORD, N M	HUTCHINS, E F	MEAD, Seth W	WOODRUFF, Eli
1842	TOWER, John H Jr	FLETCHER, Frederick	HANAFORD, N M	HUTCHINS, E F	STORY, John	WOODRUFF, Eli
1843	TOWER, John H Jr	FLETCHER, Frederick	BURBANK, B M	STEVENS, Luther M	FLETCHER, F	QUINCY, Samuel
1844	TOWER, John H Jr	FLETCHER, Frederick	BURBANK, B M	STEVENS, Luther M	FLETCHER, F	QUINCY, Samuel
1845	NARAMORE, Hawley A	STORY, John	HANAFORD, N M	FLETCHER, F	WHITTON, Eli	BIRGE, Elijah
1846	NARAMORE, Hawley A	WELLS, Samuel	DIXON, Leonard M	FLETCHER, F	WHITTON, Eli	BIRGE, Elijah
1847	BURBANK, B M	TOWER, John H Jr	STORY, John	NARAMORE, Hawley A	WHITTON, Eli	THORPE, George
1848	BURBANK, B M	TOWER, John H Jr	DIXON, Leonard M	NARAMORE, Hawley A	WHITTON, Eli	THORPE, George
1849	BURBANK, B M	TOWER, John H Jr	STORY, John	NARAMORE, Hawley A	WHITTON, Eli	DIXON, Hiram H
1850	BURBANK, B M	TOWER, John H Jr	WIRES, Martin	NARAMORE, Hawley A	WIRES, Martin	TERRILL, Asaph L
1851	BURBANK, B M	TOWER, John H Jr	SAWYER, Daniel G	NARAMORE, Hawley A	TOWER, John H Jr	TERRILL, Asaph L
1852	BURBANK, B M	TOWER, John H Jr	SAWYER, Daniel G	CHAMBERLIN, F G	TOWER, John H Jr	TERRILL, Asaph L
1853	BURBANK, B M	TOWER, John H Jr	HANAFORD, Edward	WIRES, Martin	TOWER, John H Jr	DEWING, Samuel
1854	BURBANK, B M	BUTTS, Albert	WELLS, William	WIRES, Martin	STORY, John	DEWING, Samuel
1855	BURBANK, B M	EATON, Alphonse	HANAFORD, Edward	NARAMORE, Hawley A	TERRILL, John	STORY, John
1856	BURBANK, B M	BUTTS, Albert	HANAFORD, Edward	TERRILL, Asaph L	ROBINSON, Joseph	WIRES, Martin
1857	BURBANK, B M	STORY, John	HANAFORD, Edward	ROBINSON, Joseph	TERRILL, Asaph L	WIRES, Martin
1858	BURBANK, B M	STORY, John	WIRES, Martin	CILLEY, Walter H	STORY, John	WIRES, Martin
1859	BURBANK, B M	STORY, John	WIRES, Martin	CILLEY, Walter H	WIRES, Martin	STORY, John
1860	BURBANK, B M	STORY, John	HANAFORD, Edward	DEWING, Jonathan	WAIT, Hurlbert	HANAFORD, Edward
1861	BURBANK, B M	STORY, John	HANAFORD, Edward	HURLBURT, Wart	MEAD, Seth W	HANAFORD, Edward
1862	BURBANK, B M	STORY, John	HANAFORD, Edward	HURLBURT, Wart	MEAD, Seth W	HAPGOOD, Martin E
1863	REYNOLDS, Clark W	FRENCH, Levi	HANAFORD, Edward	MARTIN, H P	MEAD, Seth W	WIRES, Martin
1864	REYNOLDS, Clark W	FRENCH, Levi	NICHOLS, James	HAPGOOD, Martin E	GRAVES, Tyler M	WIRES, Martin
1865	REYNOLDS, Clark W	REYNOLDS, Clark W	WELLS, William	HAPGOOD, Martin E	GRAVES, Tyler M	WIRES, Martin
1866	HANAFORD, Edward	REYNOLDS, Clark W	MEAD, Simon M	BOURN, Lysander	LANE, Asa L	MEAD, Simeon M
1867	REYNOLDS, Clark W	REYNOLDS, Clark W	MEAD, Simon M	HAPGOOD, Martin E	BOURN, Lysander	MEAD, Simeon M
1868	REYNOLDS, Clark W	REYNOLDS, Clark W	NICHOLS, James	WOODRUFF, John	MARTIN, H P	BARRETT, Patrick
1869	REYNOLDS, Clark W	HANAFORD, Edward	HANAFORD, Edward	WOODRUFF, John	MARTIN, H P	BARRETT, Patrick
1870	TERRILL, William	MEAD, Seth W	NICHOLS, James	WOODRUFF, John	MARLOW, Abraham	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J
1871	TERRILL, William	HANAFORD, Edward	HANAFORD, Edward	DICKINSON, Luther	HUMPHREY, A O	HALE, Samuel A
1872	WOODWORTH, George W Jr	BOURN, Lysander	NICHOLS, James	MEAD, Seth W	MARLOW, Abraham	GAFFNEY, Michael Jr
1873	WOODWORTH, George W Jr	HANAFORD, Edward		HOLMES, S W	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J	HAPGOOD, Martin E
1874	WOODWORTH, George W Jr	HANAFORD, Edward		HOLMES, S W	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J	HAPGOOD, Martin E
1875	WOODWORTH, George W Jr	HANAFORD, Edward		HOLMES, S W	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J	GAFFNEY, Michael Jr
1876	WOODWORTH, George W Jr	HANAFORD, Edward		ROGERS, H A	HAPGOOD, Martin E	BARRETT, Francis
1877	MONAHAN, J J	HANAFORD, Edward		ROGERS, H A	SMITH, P B	BARRETT, Francis
1878	MONAHAN, J J	LANE, Asa L		ROGERS, H A	SMITH, P B	SHANLEY, James
1879	MONAHAN, J J	HANAFORD, Edward		GRAVES, Tyler M	SMITH, P B	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J
1880	MONAHAN, J J	HANAFORD, Edward		GRAVES, Tyler M	MEAD, Seth M	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J

YEAR	TOWN CLERK	TOWN TREASURER	MODERATOR	SELECTMAN	SELECTMAN	SELECTMAN
1881	MONAHAN, J J	HANAFORD, Edward		GRAVES, Tyler M	MEAD, Seth M	BARRETT, Francis
1882	MONAHAN, J J	HANAFORD, Edward		TRUELL, Charles E	MEAD, Seth M	BARRETT, Francis
1883	MONAHAN, J J	BOURN, Lysander		TRUELL, Charles E	PORTER, E	BARRETT, Francis
1884	MONAHAN, J J	BOURN, Lysander		TRUELL, Charles E	PORTER, E	TERRILL, D L
1885	MONAHAN, J J	BOURN, Lysander		MEAD, C M	PORTER, E	TERRILL, D L
1886	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		MEAD, C M	PALMER, S M	TERRILL, D L
1887	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		PORTER, E	PALMER, S M	BARRETT, Patrick
1888	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		PORTER, E	PALMER, S M	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J
1889	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		HUMPHREY, A C	MEAD, C M	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J
1890	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		HUMPHREY, A C	MEAD, C M	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J
1891	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		HUMPHREY, A C	MEAD, C M	LEDDY, M
1892	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		LEDDY, M	MEAD, C M	METCALF, L P
1893	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		LEDDY, M	DUNTON, George C	METCALF, L P
1894	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		CAVANAUGH, Arthur J	DUNTON, George C	METCALF, L P
1895	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		CAVANAUGH, Arthur J	DUNTON, George C	BURROUGHS, William
1896	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		CAVANAUGH, Arthur J	DUNTON, George C	BURROUGHS, William
1897	MONAHAN, J J	TERRILL, Geo E		CAVANAUGH, Arthur J	DUNTON, George C	BURROUGHS, William
1898	MONAHAN, J J	HENRY, Edwin W		BARRETT, Francis	DUNTON, George C	DAVIS, J C
1899	MONAHAN, J J	HENRY, Edwin W		BARRETT, Francis	KIRBY, Robert	DAVIS, J C
1900	MONAHAN, J J	HENRY, Edwin W		TILLISON, F P	KIRBY, Robert	DAVIS, J C
1901	MONAHAN, J J	HENRY, Edwin W		TILLISON, F P	KIRBY, Robert	BRUSH, L O
1902	MONAHAN, J J	HENRY, Edwin W		TILLISON, F P	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J	BRUSH, L O
1903	MONAHAN, J J	HENRY, Edwin W		COLEGROVE, H L	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J	BRUSH, L O
1904	MONAHAN, J J	HENRY, Edwin W		RAWSON, S B	CAVANAUGH, Arthur J	HUMPHREY, A C
1905	MONAHAN, J J	HENRY, Edwin W		RAWSON, S B	BARRETT, W J	HUMPHREY, A C
1906	MONAHAN, J J	HENRY, Edwin W		RAWSON, S B	BARRETT, W J	FITZSIMONDS, J T
1907	MONAHAN, J J	HENRY, Edwin W		METCALF, H J	BARRETT, W J	FITZSIMONDS, J T
1908	MONAHAN, J J	HENRY, Edwin W		METCALF, H J	PAPINEAU, Oliver	FITZSIMONDS, J T
1909	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	METCALF, H J	PAPINEAU, Oliver	BREEN, John W
1910	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	ELLSWORTH, H J	PAPINEAU, Oliver	FITZGERALD, R B
1911	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	ELLSWORTH, H J	BICKNELL, A P	FITZGERALD, R B
1912	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	ELLSWORTH, H J	BICKNELL, A P	FITZGERALD, R B
1913	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	ELLSWORTH, H J	BICKNELL, A P	BARRETT, Thomas J
1914	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	ELLSWORTH, H J	EGAN, Lawrence A	BARRETT, Thomas J
1915	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	QUINN, E W	EGAN, Lawrence A	BARRETT, Thomas J
1916	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	QUINN, E W	EGAN, Lawrence A	MABLE, John H
1917	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	QUINN, E W	FITZSIMONDS, George W	MABLE, John H
1918	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	CHASE, Moses E	FITZSIMONDS, George W	MABLE, John H
1919	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	CHASE, Moses E	FITZSIMONDS, George W	BURNETT, B S
1920	HUMPHREY, A C	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	CHASE, Moses E	MARLOW, E F	BARRETT, Thomas J
1921	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	DOON, F J	MARLOW, E F	BARRETT, Thomas J
1922	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	COLEGROVE, H L	DOON, F J	BALLARD, George	BARRETT, Thomas J
1923	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	THORP, Ira W	MAGUIRE, T J	BALLARD, George	BARTLETT, A N
1924	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	THORP, Ira W	MAGUIRE, T J	BALLARD, George	BARTLETT, A N
1925	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	THORP, Ira W	MAGUIRE, T J	PETTIT, W M	BARTLETT, A N

YEAR	TOWN CLERK	TOWN TREASURER	MODERATOR	SELECTMAN	SELECTMAN	SELECTMAN
1926	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	THORP, Ira W			
1927	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	THORP, Ira W	MAGUIRE, T J	PETTIT, W M	BARTLETT, A N
1928	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	THORP, Ira W	MAGUIRE, T J	PETTIT, W M	BARRETT, George A
1929	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	THORP, Ira W	MAGUIRE, T J	KIRBY, C F	BARRETT, George A
1930	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	THORP, Ira W	CHASE, Moses E	KIRBY, C F	BARRETT, George A
1931	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	BARRETT, Thomas J	EGAN, Lawrence A	KIRBY, C F	BARRETT, George A
1932	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	BARRETT, Thomas J	EGAN, Lawrence A	KIRBY, C F	BARRETT, George A
1933	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	BARRETT, Thomas J	MEAD, C H	MORSE, Julius	BARRETT, George A
1934	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	BARRETT, Thomas J	MEAD, C H	MORSE, Julius	EGAN, Lawrence A
1935	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	BARRETT, Thomas J	MEAD, C H	MORSE, Julius	EGAN, Lawrence A
1936	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	BARRETT, Thomas J	BOGUE, Homer	MORSE, Julius	EGAN, Lawrence A
1937	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	BARRETT, Thomas J	BOGUE, Homer	COOK, William P	EGAN, Lawrence A
1938	HENRY, Edwin W	HENRY, Edwin W	BARRETT, Thomas J	BOGUE, Homer	COOK, William P	EGAN, Lawrence A
1939	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	MABLE, John H	CONNELLY, J J	COOK, William P	KIRBY, Archie T
1940	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	MABLE, John H	MARSHIA, Morton	COOK, William P	KIRBY, Archie T
1941	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	MABLE, John H	MARSHIA, Morton	COOK, William P	KIRBY, Archie T
1942	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	MABLE, John H	MARSHIA, Morton	COOK, William P	KIRBY, Archie T
1943	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	MABLE, John H	MARSHIA, Morton	KIRBY, Archie T	DUFFY, George
1944	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	MABLE, John H	MARSHIA, Morton	KIRBY, Archie T	DUFFY, George
1945	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	ELLSWORTH, R W	MARSHIA, Morton	KIRBY, Archie T	DUFFY, George
1946	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	POLLARD, Arthur	FULLER, Elbridge	TERRILL, C G	EGAN, Lawrence A
1947	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	MEAD, Marian E	KIRBY, Archie T	WRISLEY, Orville	METCALF, Neil
1948	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	HATCH, Walter B	MCCLLELAN, Carl	WRISLEY, Orville	WALKER, Christian L
1949	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	COOK, William P	MCCLLELAN, Carl	WRISLEY, Orville	WALKER, Christian L
1950	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	COOK, William P	MCCLLELAN, Carl	WRISLEY, Orville	WALKER, Christian L
1951	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	COOK, William P	MCCLLELAN, Carl	WRISLEY, Orville	WALKER, Christian L
1952	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	COOK, William P	TOWLE, Glen	VILLENEUVE, Richard	DURBROW, William
1953	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	COOK, William P	TOWLE, Glen	VILLENEUVE, Richard	DURBROW, William
1954	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	DURBROW, William	EGAN, Lawrence A	VILLENEUVE, Richard	DURBROW, William
1955	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	RUSSELL, Robert A	EGAN, Lawrence A	WALKER, Christian L	TOBIN, Harlie
1956	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	WOODWARD, Lloyd	MCCLLELAN, Carl	WALKER, Christian L	TOBIN, Harlie
1957	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	WOODWARD, Lloyd	FULLER, Richard	WALKER, Christian L	TOBIN, Harlie
1958	LAMPHERE, Luella H	LAMPHERE, Luella H	WOODWARD, Lloyd	FULLER, Richard	WALKER, Christian L	TOBIN, Harlie
1959	BREEN, Donald	BREEN, Donald	WOODWARD, Lloyd	FULLER, Richard	FAY, Marion	LAMPHERE, Luella H
1960	BREEN, Donald	BREEN, Donald	WOODWARD, Lloyd	FULLER, Richard	FAY, Marion	LAMPHERE, Luella H
1961	BREEN, Donald	BREEN, Donald	WOODWARD, Lloyd	FULLER, Richard	FAY, Marion	PARISI, Matthew
1962	BREEN, Donald	BREEN, Donald	WOODWARD, Lloyd	FULLER, Richard	FAY, Marion	PARISI, Matthew
1963	BREEN, Donald	BREEN, Donald	WOODWARD, Lloyd	MEAD, William N	FAY, Marion	PARISI, Matthew
1964	BREEN, Donald	BREEN, Donald	WOODWARD, Lloyd	MEAD, William N	FAY, Marion	PARISI, Matthew
1965	BREEN, Donald	BREEN, Donald	WOODWARD, Lloyd	MEAD, William N	METCALF, Wendall	PARISI, Matthew
1966	BOLIO, Zilda	BOLIO, Zilda	WOODWARD, Lloyd	WALKER, Christian L	METCALF, Wendall	MCCLLELAN, Carl
1967	BOLIO, Zilda	BOLIO, Zilda	WOODWARD, Lloyd	WALKER, Christian L	METCALF, Wendall	MCCLLELAN, Carl
1968	BOLIO, Zilda	BOLIO, Zilda	WOODWARD, Lloyd	ALLENDORF, Peter	METCALF, Wendall	HITCHCOCK, Thomas
1969	BOLIO, Zilda	BOLIO, Zilda	DURBROW, William	ALLENDORF, Peter	METCALF, Wendall	HITCHCOCK, Thomas
1970	BOLIO, Zilda	BOLIO, Zilda	DURBROW, William	ALLENDORF, Peter	METCALF, Wendall	MOORE, Edwin T

YEAR	TOWN CLERK	TOWN TREASURER	MODERATOR	SELECTMAN	SELECTMAN	SELECTMAN
1971	METCALF, Zilda	METCALF, Zilda	DURBROW, William	ALLENDORF, Peter	METCALF, Wendall	MOORE, Edwin T
1972	METCALF, Zilda	METCALF, Zilda	BURGESS, Lawrence	FRENCH, John	METCALF, Wendall	MOORE, Edwin T
1973	METCALF, Zilda	TATRO, Eunice	BURGESS, Lawrence	FRENCH, John	METCALF, Wendall	MOORE, Edwin T
1974	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	BURGESS, Lawrence	FRENCH, John	ADAMS, Gerard	MOORE, Edwin T
1975	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	BURGESS, Lawrence	FRENCH, John	ADAMS, Gerard	MOORE, Edwin T
1976	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	BURGESS, Lawrence	FRENCH, John	ADAMS, Gerard	MOORE, Edwin T
1977	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	BURGESS, Lawrence	FRENCH, John	ADAMS, Gerard	MOORE, Edwin T
1978	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	BURGESS, Lawrence	FRENCH, John	ADAMS, Gerard	MOORE, Edwin T
1979	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	BURGESS, Lawrence	FRENCH, John	ADAMS, Gerard	BURGESS, Lawrence
1980	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	ALLENDORF, Peter	FRENCH, John	ADAMS, Gerard	BURGESS, Lawrence
1981	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	ALLENDORF, Peter	FRENCH, John	ADAMS, Gerard	BURGESS, Lawrence
1982	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	BOARDMAN, Gael	FRENCH, John	ADAMS, Gerard	BURGESS, Lawrence
1983	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	BOARDMAN, Gael	FRENCH, John	LAMPHERE, Patrick	BURGESS, Lawrence
1984	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	BOARDMAN, Gael	FRENCH, John	LAMPHERE, Patrick	BURGESS, Lawrence
1985	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	MOORE, Edwin T	FRENCH, John	LAMPHERE, Patrick	BRADFORD, George
1986	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	MOORE, Edwin T	FRENCH, John	LAMPHERE, Patrick	BRADFORD, George
1987	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	MOORE, Edwin T	NILES, Thomas A	LAMPHERE, Patrick	BRADFORD, George
1988	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	MOORE, Edwin T	NILES, Thomas A	LAMPHERE, Patrick	BASSETT, Glenn
1989	METCALF, Zilda	FARMER, Lutherine	MOORE, Edwin T	NILES, Thomas A	LAMPHERE, Patrick	SCUDERO, Robert
1990	FARMER, Lutherine	LEHOULLIER, Joan	MOORE, Edwin T	HILL, Clifford Jr	LAMPHERE, Patrick	SCUDERO, Robert
1991	FARMER, Lutherine	LEHOULLIER, Joan	MOORE, Edwin T	HILL, Clifford Jr	LAMPHERE, Patrick	SCUDERO, Robert
1992	FARMER, Lutherine	LEHOULLIER, Joan	MOORE, Edwin T	HILL, Clifford Jr	LAMPHERE, Patrick	HUMMEL, Margaret
1993	BRADFORD, Nancy	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	BRADFORD, George	LAMPHERE, Patrick	HUMMEL, Margaret
1994	BRADFORD, Nancy	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	BRADFORD, George	GREGSON, Chad	HUMMEL, Margaret
1995	BRADFORD, Nancy	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	BRADFORD, George	GREGSON, Chad	HUMMEL, Margaret
1996	BRADFORD, Nancy	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	GREGSON, Chad	HUMMEL, Margaret	TEDFORD, Walter
1997	BRADFORD, Nancy	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	HAMLET, Stanton	HUMMEL, Margaret	TEDFORD, Walter
1998	BRADFORD, Nancy	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	HAMLET, Stanton	HUMMEL, Margaret	TEDFORD, Walter
1999	BRADFORD, Nancy	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	HAMLET, Stanton	HUMMEL, Margaret	TEDFORD, Walter
2000	BRADFORD, Nancy	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	HUMMEL, Margaret	TEDFORD, Walter	HAMLET, Stanton
2001	BRADFORD, Nancy	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	TEDFORD, Walter	HAMLET, Stanton	BROOKS, Peter
2002	BRADFORD, Nancy	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	PASCO, Robert	HAMLET, Stanton	BROOKS, Peter
2003	MORIN, Sherri A	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	PASCO, Robert	HAMLET, Stanton	TEDFORD, Walter
2004	MORIN, Sherri A	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	SCUDERO, Robert	HAMLET, Stanton	MAHEUX, Marc
2005	MORIN, Sherri A	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	HAMLET, Stanton	MAHEUX, Marc	WALKERMAN, Steven
2006	MORIN, Sherri A	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	MAHEUX, Marc	WALKERMAN, Steven	STEINBAUER, Daniel
2007	MORIN, Sherri A	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	WALKERMAN, Steven	STEINBAUER, Daniel	OWEN, Steven
2008	MORIN, Sherri A	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	WALKERMAN, Steven	STEINBAUER, Daniel	OWEN, Steven
2009	MORIN, Sherri A	LEHOULLIER, Joan	WILSON, William	WALKERMAN, Steven	STEINBAUER, Daniel	OWEN, Steven
2010	MORIN, Sherri A	MORIN, Sherri A	WILSON, William	WALKERMAN, Steven	STEINBAUER, Daniel	OWEN, Steven
2011	MORIN, Sherri A	MORIN, Sherri A	WILSON, William	STEINBAUER, Daniel	HOLDEN, Bradford	OWEN, Steven
2012	MORIN, Sherri A	MORIN, Sherri A	WILSON, William	HOLDEN, Bradford	FREIDMAN, Seth	OWEN, Steven
2013	MORIN, Sherri A	MORIN, Sherri A	WILSON, William	HOLDEN, Bradford	FREIDMAN, Seth	ROGERS David

History of the Underhill Town Hall



Elizabeth Weichel Moore
2014

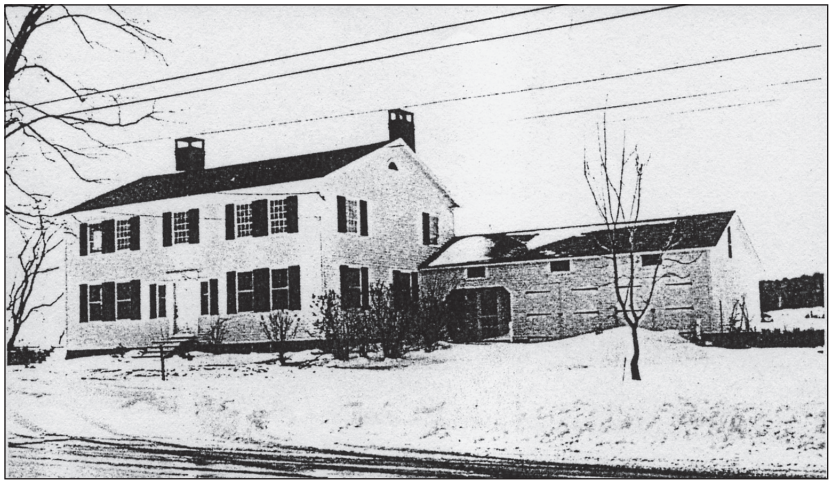
Although the Town of Underhill was officially chartered in 1763, there was no settlement made within the Town boundaries until after the Revolutionary War was settled and peace declared. The Hill Road, (now called Poker Hill) was laid out in 1791 and became the Post Road, the commercial route north to Cambridgeboro. In 1786 Abner Eaton had already settled with his family halfway up the hill. It was there that he found open meadows, cleared long before by beavers, whose ancient pond had since become open land, a treasure in a heavily wooded mountain town. Caleb Sheldon soon followed as well as a number of Revolutionary War veterans. By 1791 the Town of Underhill had a population of 65. The first community building was the log schoolhouse, built in North Underhill 1787. The Town of Underhill was not formally organized until 1795, four years after Vermont had relinquished its status as an independent republic and become accepted as the fourteenth state.

The first officially warned Underhill Town Meeting was held March 9, 1795 in the home of George Olds on the Hill Road. Earlier, in 1794, perhaps at a special meeting, William Barney had already been elected to be Underhill Town Representative to the Legistlature. At the 1795 Town Meeting, William Barney was also elected Underhill Town Clerk. Abner Eaton, Archibald Dixon and Cyrus Stevens were elected Selectmen. Subsequent Town Meetings were held in North Underhill at the home and Tavern of David Birge. (now PH 291) The Birge Tavern also became the Stage stop and housed the Post Office. By 1800, another group of settlers had developed a hamlet midway along the Hill Road. Many of the new settlers were from Connecticut and were Congregational in persuasion. In 1800 they covenanted to establish the first church in Underhill. The first services were held in the homes of members or in the new Birge Tavern. By 1805 they had laid out a cemetery and built an adjacent church Meeting House on the Hill Road. As was customary in those days of theocratic governance, Town meetings were also held in the same building.



Former Birge Tavern, Poker Hill Road
(now a private home) c.1800

In 1786, early settler Elijah Benedict had built a log cabin on a large acreage in the area which came to be known as Underhill Flatts. (He had been a Tory, living in Canada during the War, his property confiscated,) The center of the community began moving from North Underhill to the Flatts, especially after the opening of the Creek Road from the Flatts to Cambridgeboro in 1827. The more level Creek Road became the Post and main stage road. In 1832 the town voted to hold Town Meetings at William Barney's new Tavern in the Flatts. The Tavern was also the Stage Stop.



Former Barney Tavern, Underhill Flats. (now a private home at 417 VT RT 15) c. 1800-10

Meanwhile a hamlet was growing on the east side of the Town. In 1820 a 'highway' to Cambridgeboro had been built paralleling Mount Mansfield. (It was later called Pleasant Valley Road.) A new group of settlers came from came from New Hampshire and were mostly Methodist in persuasion. In 1824 they established a Methodist Episcopal church congregation in the new village which was emerging, with its own cemetery (now the Underhill Town Cemetery on Sand Hill Road). The village soon had a store and sawmill. In 1836 a congregation of Free Will Baptists had formed and in 1850 built a fine meeting house which they then shared with the Methodists, (and for a short while with a second group of Congregationalist). Because it was shared by several congregations, it was known as the Union Church and the hamlet became known as Union Village. Sometimes the Town Meetings also were held in that building



Union Church, Built 1850

The Green Mountain Academy in Union Village (later, officially Underhill Center) closed in 1881. The building was occasionally used by the Catholics until their new church was finished on adjacent property. Then in 1900 the Town voted to purchase the Academy building to serve as a formal Town Hall. There was no room in the building for a Town Office and Town records were kept at the home of the Town Clerk, but the large former schoolroom was used as a place to hold the Town meetings. The building served as the official Town Hall until 1950, when the Town voted to buy the unoccupied. Union Church and renovate it for Town use.



Underhill Town Hall, c. 1900 (Former Green Mountain Academy)

After World War I the US Government purchased large parts of Underhill, Jericho and Bolton to create the Underhill Artillery Range for use in conjunction with the Ethan Allen Army base in Essex Junction. Population declined in all three towns and the many churches suffered serious losses of parishioners. From 1920 to 1950 the population of Underhill declined from about 900 to around 700. The Union Church had been unoccupied for some time when the residents voted in 1949 to assess themselves at 15% of the Grand List to purchase the building. The 100 year old church needed considerable work to make it useable. Orville Wrisley, retired farmer turned carpenter, along with Selectmen Carl McClellan and Crick Walker and other volunteers from the community, did the major reconstruction. The steeple was removed and a Town Office was created in the basement with a separate entrance on the front of the building. A space heater was installed in the office, along with the heavy safe in which Town records were stored. The upstairs meeting hall was heated with a wood stove. The hall was painted, refurbished and decorated with the help of a volunteer ladies organization. Town Clerk / Treasurer Louella Lamphere kept account of the expenditures to the penny. The entire renovation was accomplished at a cost of less than $2300 and the new Town Hall was ready for occupancy in 1950.

IBM opened its manufacturing plant in Essex Junction in 1957. By the late '60s the operation had grown and along with it the population in all the local towns, Underhill included. Toward the end of the decade the population of Underhill was rapidly approaching 1200. Over the years the Town Office had outgrown the small space and a leak by the chimney had seriously rotted part of the main support structure of the building. Underhill Zoning Administrator and professional architect Bill Linde designed an office addition and a plan for renovation of the main building, but in March 1969 a construction bond for $71,500 was rejected. But something had to be done if the building was to be saved. Town Clerk, Zilda Bolio, approached Ed Moore, then a local builder, for ideas. In the "do-it-yourself" tradition of the community, he offered to supervise local volunteers for Saturday work sessions for as long as it might take to renovate the building. Lucius Jackson, president of the Underhill Historical Society, offered to raise funds for the undertaking. The Selectboard agreed to underwrite the construction of a fireproof vault for storage of Town Records, replacement of the roof and installation of a septic system. The rotting structure was reinforced. Matt Parisi built the fireprrof brick vault. Then over the next two years, working every Saturday, volunteers of all ages from children to grandparents, managed to completely transform the building. Improvements included not only a spacious Town office, but a new septic system, two lavatories, a kitchen facility, improved wiring and lighting and electric heat. The Historical Society donated tables and chairs which are still in use. Resident artist Roy Kennedy and Roland Ellis collaborated to stencil the back of each chair with an attractive eagle motif. The meeting hall was completely redone with volunteers on their knees filling holes in the wide board floors; the woodwork and walls were repaired and spackled and painted.



Duane Gravelin, Janet Towne, Ed Moore, 1969



Underhill sculptor Roy Kennedy reworking the balcony.



Librarian Faith Durbrow



John Moore



UNDERHILL TOWN HALL, Underhill Center — A frame building built in the mid-1850s in Greek Revival style. Underhill can be proud of the heroic effort put forth in recent months to render this old building useful for contemporary community needs. The citizens organized as the Underhill Historical Society and found a variety of ways to raise the necessary money. The basement has been done over to house the town library and the town clerk's office, with a fireproof walk-in vault and new carpeting. Upstairs the main assembly room has been redecorated for town meetings. Electric heat has been provided throughout the building, and the exterior has been painted.

The Underhill Historical Society members worked hard to raise the funds for the materials, holding auctions, raffles and sales of various kinds. The summer auction was very popular and became a tradition for quite a few years. In 1970, even before the work was completed, the Town hall received an award from the Chittenden County Historical Society. The Town Hall project had been rewarding for all involved and was celebrated with a grand opening party. The music was provided by local musicians who got together for the occasion: Doc Raymie Town on piano; Father Depeaux of St. Thomas on banjo; Selectman Ed Moore, clarinet; former Selectman Matt Parisi, trumpet; Maurice Nadeau of Nadeau Lumber, guitar; Bob Blaise on trombone. The festive celebration was enjoyed by all.

The newly renovated Town Hall served for many years, but the pace of population growth overtook it. The attendance at Town Meetings was exceeding the Fire Marshall limits and a larger venue was required. In 1991, with great sorrow, the Town of Underhill faced up to holding both the yearly School and Town meetings in the gymnasium of the Browns River Middlw School in Jericho. The Town Hall in Underhill Center continued to house the necessary town offices and meeting rooms. The "Great Hall" served for Special Town Hearings and as a Senior Center and was available for many social events.

Then in 1999 the Town was challended to comply with Federal Regulations for public buildings and make all the building facilities "handicapped accessible" or face legal action. There was no space for an addition on the rear of the building, since the land was the location of the well and septic system. Margaret Hummel, then Chair of the Selectboard, came up with the bright idea to buy the very old house adjacent to the Town Hall and demolish it to make room for an addition on that side of the Town Hall which would meet Federal requirements. The Town so voted and the pruchase was made. Brad Holden offered to take down the building for the materials which could be saved. There would be no expense to the Town. It took more than a year to accomplish the projects, but the land became useful.

In 2000 a construction bond was approved to implement plans for an addition to the building, as well as serious renovations. They had been designed by Stan Hamlet, architect and Selectboard member. The handsome building became even more useful, with a new brick vault, elevator, wheelchair ramp, handicap-accessible lavatory and kitchen. The Senior Citizens used the hall regularly for monthly lunches and all the officers and committees had better facilities. The hall has been in use for special celebrations and gatherings. In 2011, the landscaping was transformed by the Boy Scouts as an Eagle project designed by Andy Chamberlain.



Along with the new addition to the Town Hall, the bond included funds for a new Town Garage. It was built in 2000 and the old former blacksmith shop that had served as a very inadequate Town Garage for many years was replaced by a spacious and well-appointed Town Garage on New Road next to the former land fill. The building was dedicated to George Bradford, who had served as chair of the Selectboard for many years and given many years of service to the town.

The small piece of land across the road from the Town Hall, following the bank of the Browns River, had supported not only the Town Garage, but piles of gravel, sand and salt used on the roads. Their location close to the Browns River was unnacceptable. The piles were moved to the New Road, close to the new Town Garage, a safe and secure location.

The soils on the empty property were hard packed and in poor condition, but with the hard work of many town volunteers, a fine small park was created. All of the landscaping materials, including tons of topsoil and plantings were donated. The park was created under the oversight of the Town Conservation Commission. By 2002 the new park created a fine new setting for the renewed Town Hall. A list of the many volunteers and donors is framed in the Town Hall.

In 2004, in a well attended ceremony, the newly created park was dedicated to Edwin Moore, who had served the town for many years in many roles. It was named Moore Park.



A History of

Businesses

And

Social Life

In

Underhill Flats

And

Riverside

Gary Irish
2013

Businesses in Underhill Flats

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



"Gateway to Underhill Vt."
Covered bridge on Route 15 entering Riverside, about 1915

Early businesses

About 1802 Jonas Humphrey moved to Underhill from Genesee County, N.Y., settling at the foot of Poker Hill Road (now 3 Poker Hill Rd.) on what has ever since been known as the Humphrey Homestead. His son, Daniel Clark Humphrey, established a shoemaking business here on the north side of Roaring Brook, and a tannery on the south side, using the water power from Roaring Brook. He was still listed as a shoemaker as late as 1876. Daniel's son, Amos Humphrey, also engaged in the shoemaking business from at least 1876 to 1900. He lived on Route 15 just north of his father. Simeon Mead, who was born on the Mead farm between the Flats and the Center in 1817, began working for



Humphrey Homestead (left)

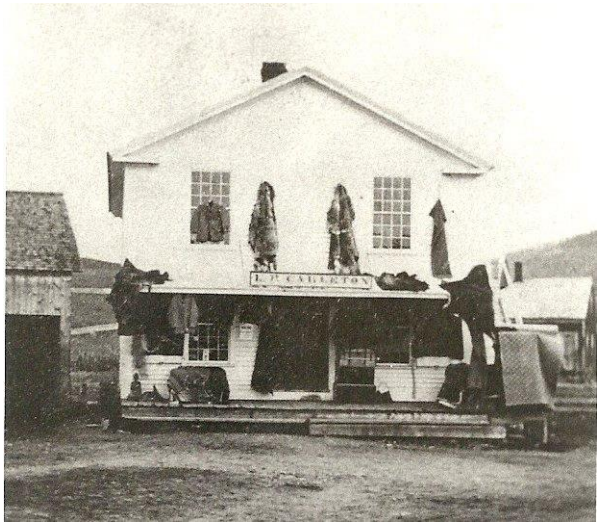
John Warner in Cambridge as a tanner of leather at the age of 17, and in 1841 came back to Underhill and ran the tannery for the next 16 years, drawing products to Boston by team and doing a thriving business. By the 1840s there were also a sawmill and a starch factory located on Roaring Brook just upstream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

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

The White Store

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

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



Lewis Carlton's store

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

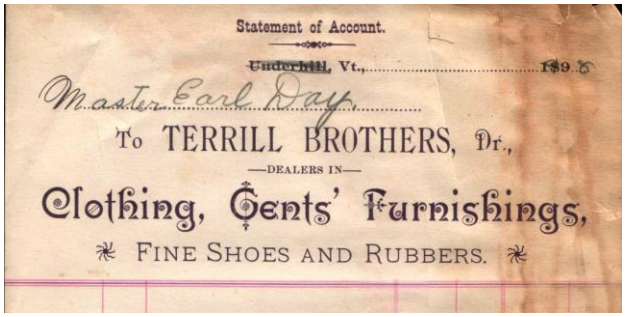
the next eleven years. Around this time, the store became known as the White Store. The property was sold to Darwin French in 1868, but it appears that Carlton continued to operate it for a time as a partnership known as Naramore & Carlton. By 1871, L.P. Carleton was running a store at Jericho Corners,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

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

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



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


Statement of Account.

Underhill, Vt., 189 8

Master Earl Day

To TERRILL BROTHERS, Dr.,

—DEALERS IN—

Clothing, Gents' Furnishings,

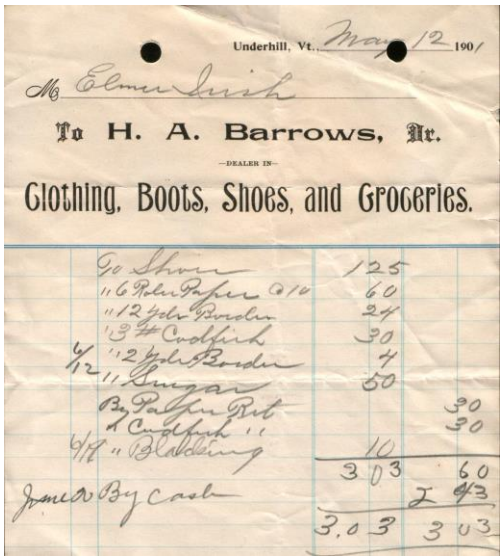
FINE SHOES AND RUBBERS.

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

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



H.A. Barrows store


Underhill, Vt., May 12 1907

M Elmer Irish

To H. A. Barrows, Dr.

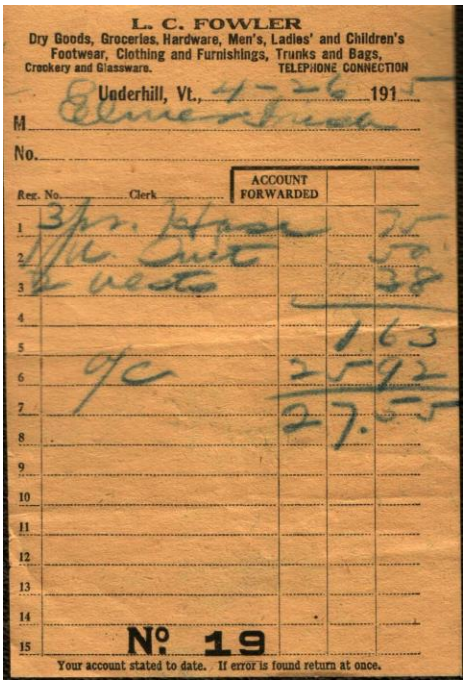
—DEALER IN—

Clothing, Boots, Shoes, and Groceries.

	To Shoes	125	
	" 6 Roles Paper @ 10	60	
	" 12 yds Border	24	
	" 3 # Codfish	30	
6/12	" 2 yds Border	4	
	" Sugar	50	
	By Paper Rt		30
	" Codfish "		30
6/14	" Blacking	10	
		3 03	60
June 20	By Cash		2 43
		3.03	3 03



L.C. Fowler store


L. C. FOWLER

Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Men's, Ladies' and Children's Footwear, Clothing and Furnishings, Trunks and Bags, Crockery and Glassware. TELEPHONE CONNECTION

Underhill, Vt., 4-26 1915

M Elmer Irish

No.

Reg. No. Clerk ACCOUNT FORWARDED

1	3 pr. Hose		75
2	1 M. Suit		50
3	2 vests		38
4			
5		1	63
6	O/C	25	92
7		27.	55
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

No. 19

Your account stated to date. If error is found return at once.

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

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







Frank Simpson and Grace Foster

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



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



The Brick Store

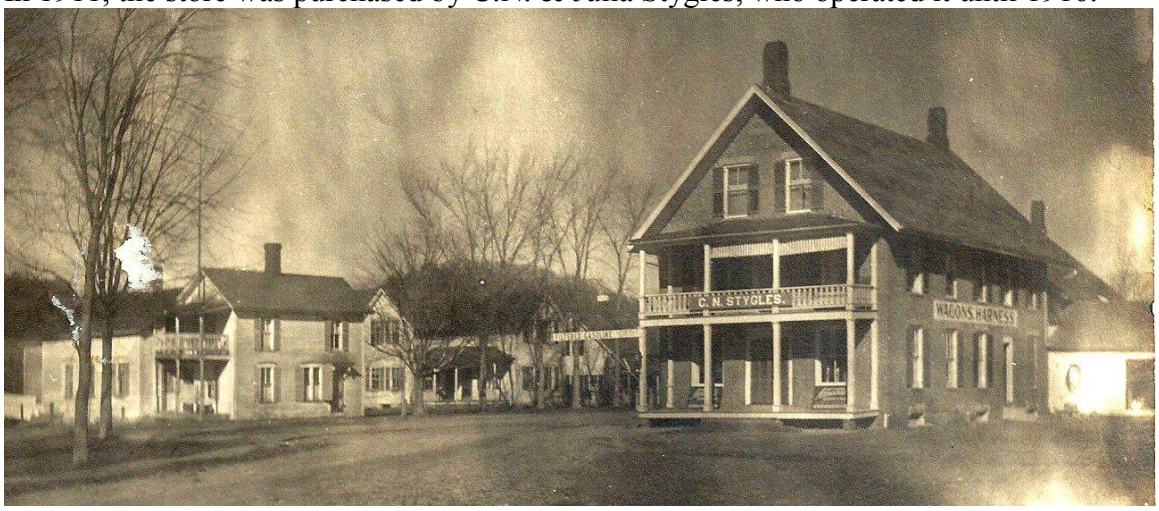
About 1856, the nice brick house and barn located on the corner of Route 15 and Park Street, which had been the home of Col. Frederick Fletcher, a Colonel of one of the Vermont uniformed militia regiments, was replaced by the second store in the Flats, being erected by George Simonds. This is what has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



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



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



WHY NOT

Get a new BUGGY and HARNESS?
We have them in great values
at LOW PRICES

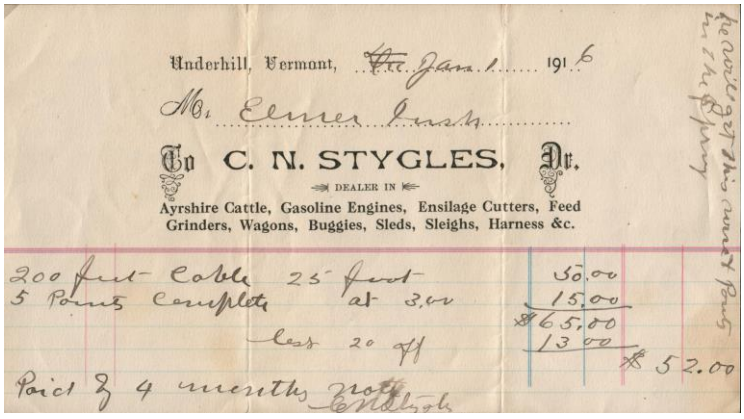
Heavy Farm Truck Wagons
Light and Heavy Farm Wagons
Light and Heavy Buggies
With and without tops

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

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

C. N. STYGLES

UNDERHILL, VT.



Underhill, Vermont, Dec. Jan. 1 1916

Mr. Elmer Irish

To C. N. STYGLES, Dr.

DEALER IN

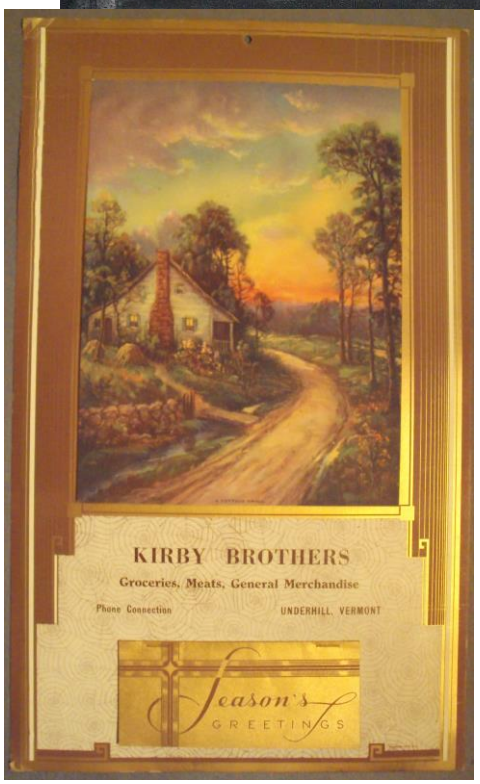
Ayrshire Cattle, Gasoline Engines, Ensilage Cutters, Feed Grinders, Wagons, Buggies, Sleds, Sleighs, Harness &c.

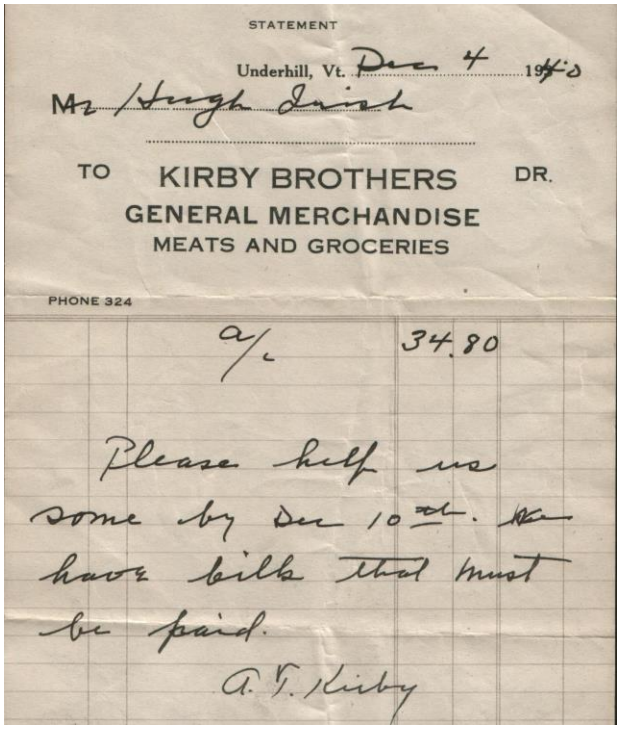
200 feet Cable	25 feet	50.00
5 Points Complete	at 3.00	15.00
		$65.00
less 20 %		13.00
		$52.00

Paid 3 4 months note

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






STATEMENT

Underhill, Vt. Dec 4 19[illegible]

Mr Hugh Irish

TO KIRBY BROTHERS DR.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

MEATS AND GROCERIES

PHONE 324

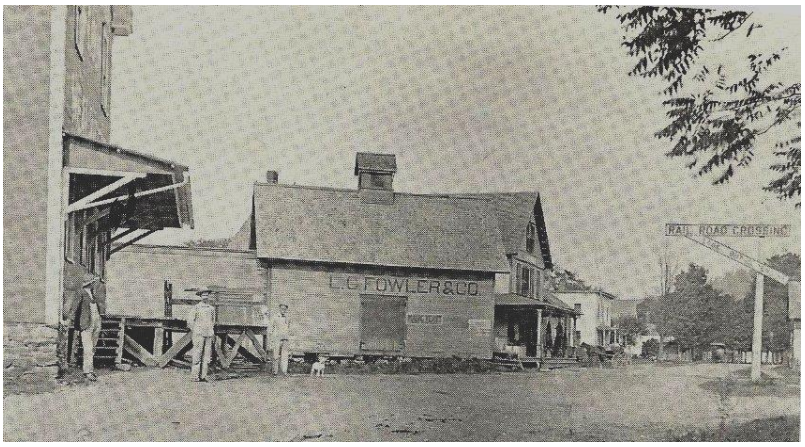
a/c 34.80

Please help us some by Dec 10th. We have bills that must be paid.

A. V. Kirby

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

L.C. Fowler's warehouse

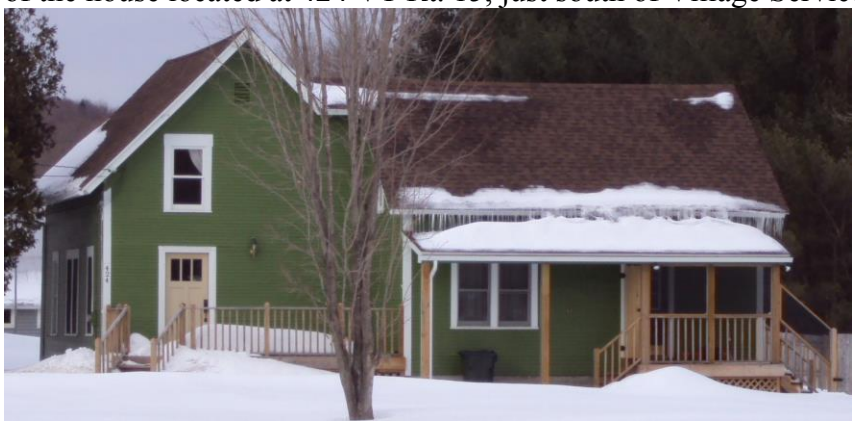


In connection with the above two stores, a building was erected on Park Street between the railroad tracks and the Homer Thompson store for use as a warehouse. This is thought to be the "shed in Jericho" sold to Lewis Carleton in 1857, and was used by L.F. Terrill and then by L.C. Fowler. Besides needing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



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

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

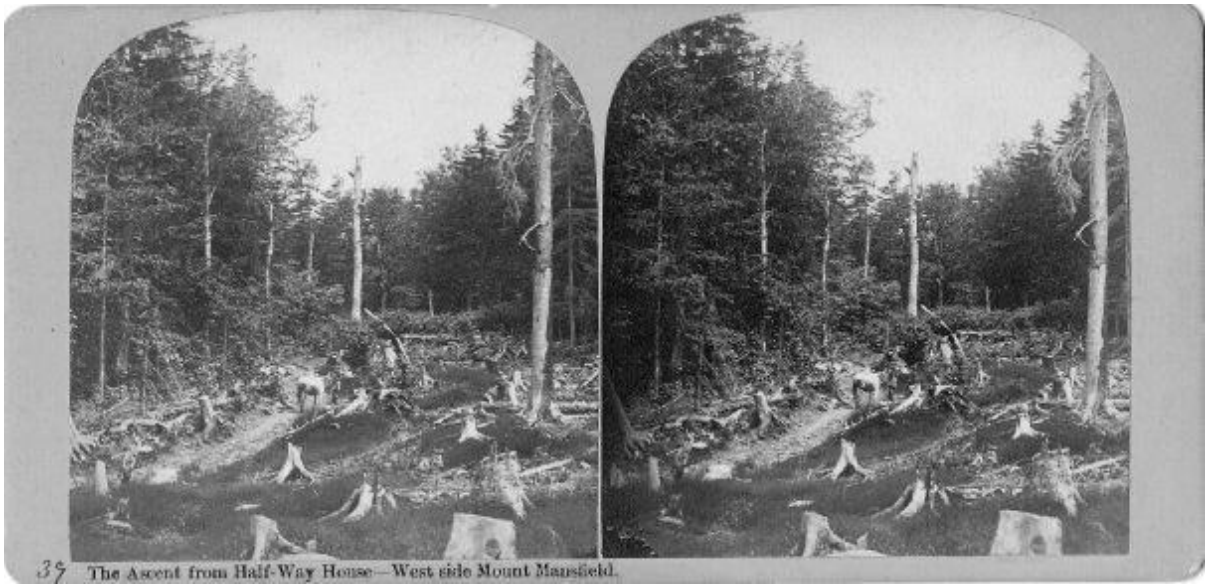


On left, the former L.C. Fowler warehouse, now part of the home at 424 VT Rt. 15

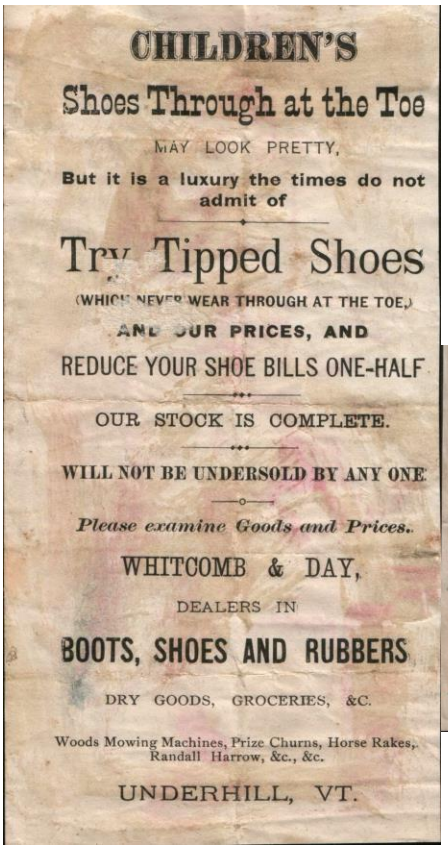
As can be inferred from items mentioned above, potatoes were an important crop in Underhill for many years. In early years, they were often converted to starch in one of the local starch factories, either the Tower & Oakes or Dixon factories in the Flats or others in Underhill Center and Jericho Corners. In 1840, 30,375 bushels were grown in Underhill. The story is told of one farm on Poker Hill where the potatoes were stored in the cellar of the farmhouse until being taken to market, and to make maximum use of the space, the floor boards in the kitchen were taken up and the potatoes poured in until the cellar was filled to the top of the floor joists. In 1886, Mr. Harrison Packard raised on his farm and shipped from the B&L station at the Flats about 3000 bushels of potatoes. September 13, 1893 was another big potato day in Underhill, with nearly 2000 bushels being loaded that day, and 1140 bushels being loaded the day before. At one time, there were 23 loaded teams waiting at the station to be unloaded.

The Whitcomb & Day store

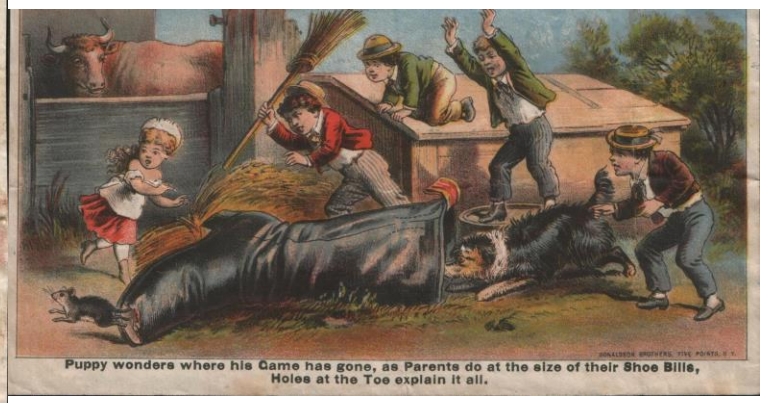
Another early store, in the Riverside section, was what is usually known as the Whitcomb & Day store, located at 4 River Road. This building was reportedly built for a tin shop, but about 1845 it was fitted up as a Union Store (possibly part of the N.E.P.U. chain, but this is not known for certain),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

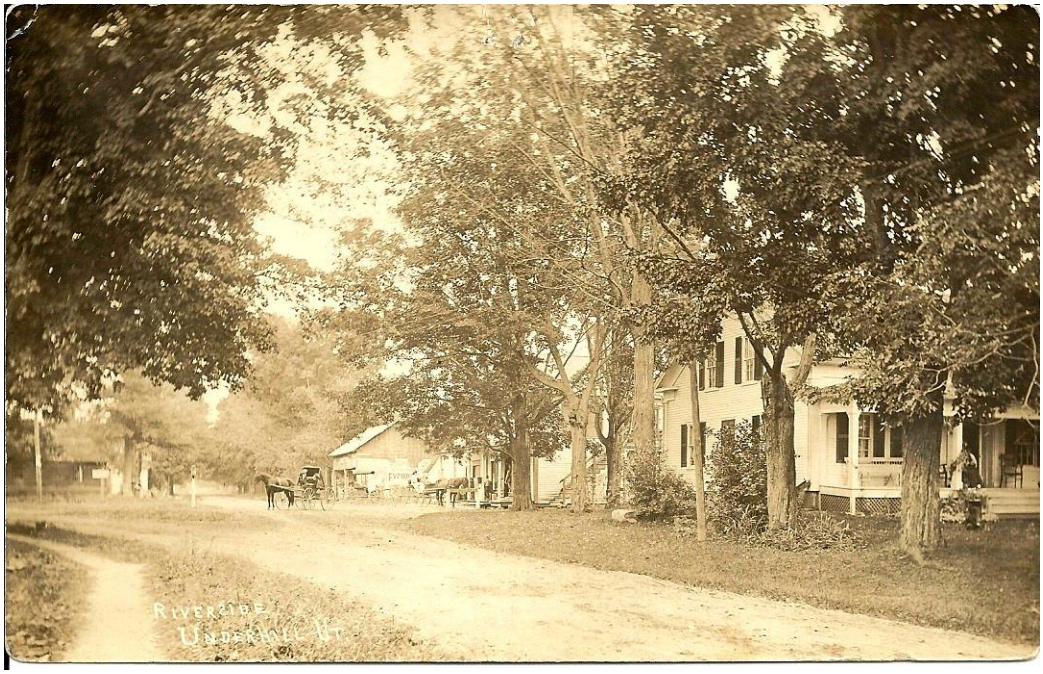


"The Ascent from Half-Way House – West side Mount Mansfield"

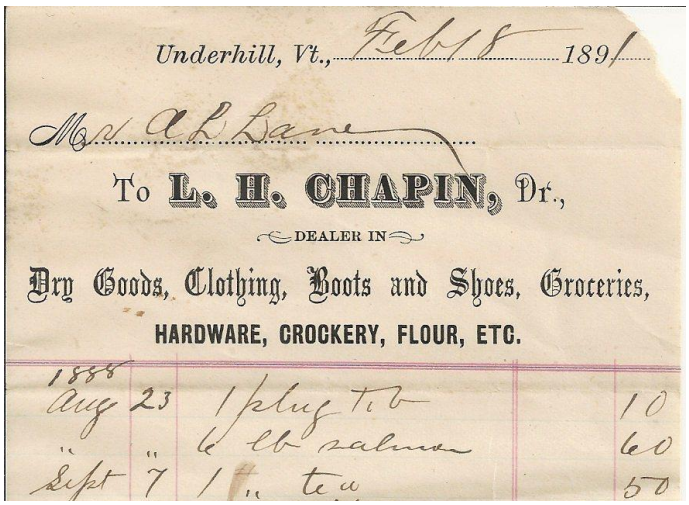


On May 1, 1865, his son Edward S. Whitcomb, Jr. and son-in-law Buel H. Day formed a partnership and purchased the store, carrying on a flourishing business for another 20 years as Whitcomb & Day.





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



Underhill, Vt., Feb 18 1891

Mr A L Lane

To **L. H. CHAPIN,** Dr.,

DEALER IN

Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Groceries,

HARDWARE, CROCKERY, FLOUR, ETC.

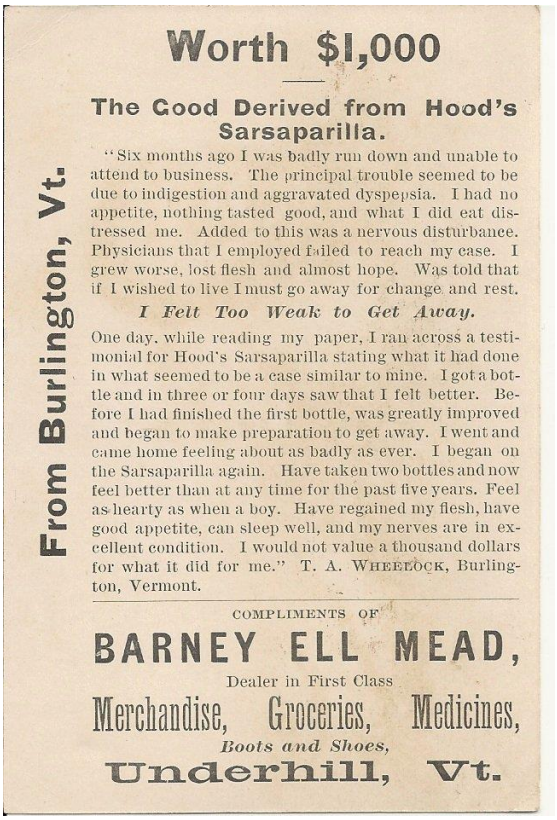
1888 Aug	23	1 plug Tob	10
"	"	6 lb salmon	60
Sept	7	1 " tea	50

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

In June, 1891, the business was sold to Barney Ell Mead. In addition to the existing stock of groceries, Mr. Mead added a line of shoes, hosiery, gloves, wallpaper, whips and other small wares. By August, the Mead and Frenyear custom boot and shoe shop was in business, with the workshop located in the store, operated by Mr. Mead and C.P. Frenyear. Mr. Mead also advertised his stock of medicines, shoes, clothes, lamps, window shades and Vermont Mills spices in the local paper. In August, 1892, a new post office was established in the store, with Mr. Mead as postmaster. This was discontinued in August, 1894, although by the next spring a move was being made to have it re-opened, and by 1900, E.S. Whitcomb, Jr. was postmaster.

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




Worth $1,000

The Good Derived from Hood's Sarsaparilla.

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

I Felt Too Weak to Get Away.

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

From Burlington, Vt.

COMPLIMENTS OF

BARNEY ELL MEAD,

Dealer in First Class

Merchandise, Groceries, Medicines,

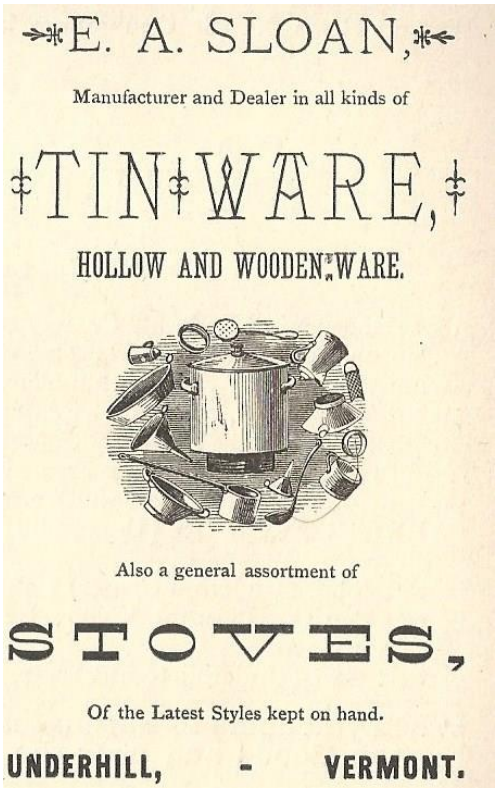
Boots and Shoes,

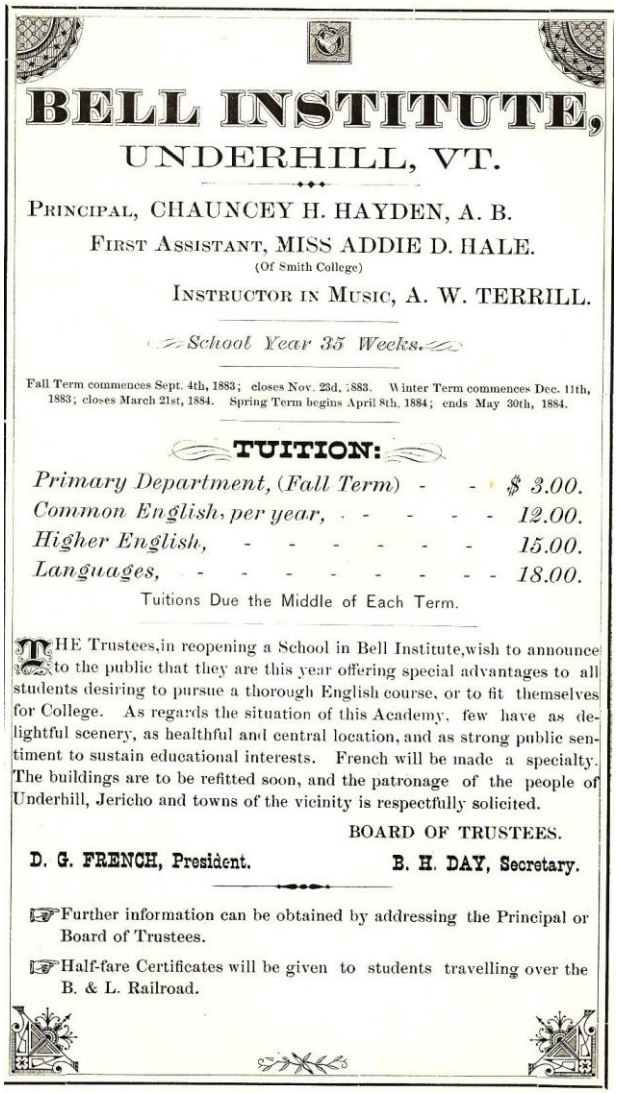
Underhill, Vt.

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

The Sloan/Morom Tin Shop

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





BELL INSTITUTE,

UNDERHILL, VT.

PRINCIPAL, CHAUNCEY H. HAYDEN, A. B.

FIRST ASSISTANT, MISS ADDIE D. HALE.
(Of Smith College)

INSTRUCTOR IN MUSIC, A. W. TERRILL.

School Year 35 Weeks.

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

TUITION:

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

Tuitions Due the Middle of Each Term.

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

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

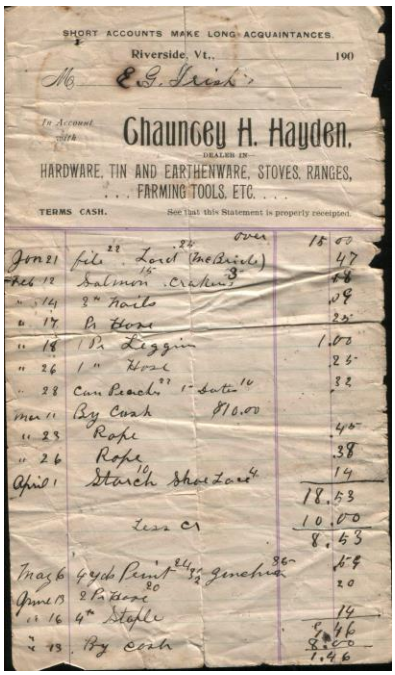
☞Further information can be obtained by addressing the Principal or Board of Trustees.

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

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



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



SHORT ACCOUNTS MAKE LONG ACQUAINTANCES.

Riverside, Vt., 190

Mr. E. G. Irish

In Account with

Chauncey H. Hayden.

DEALER IN

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

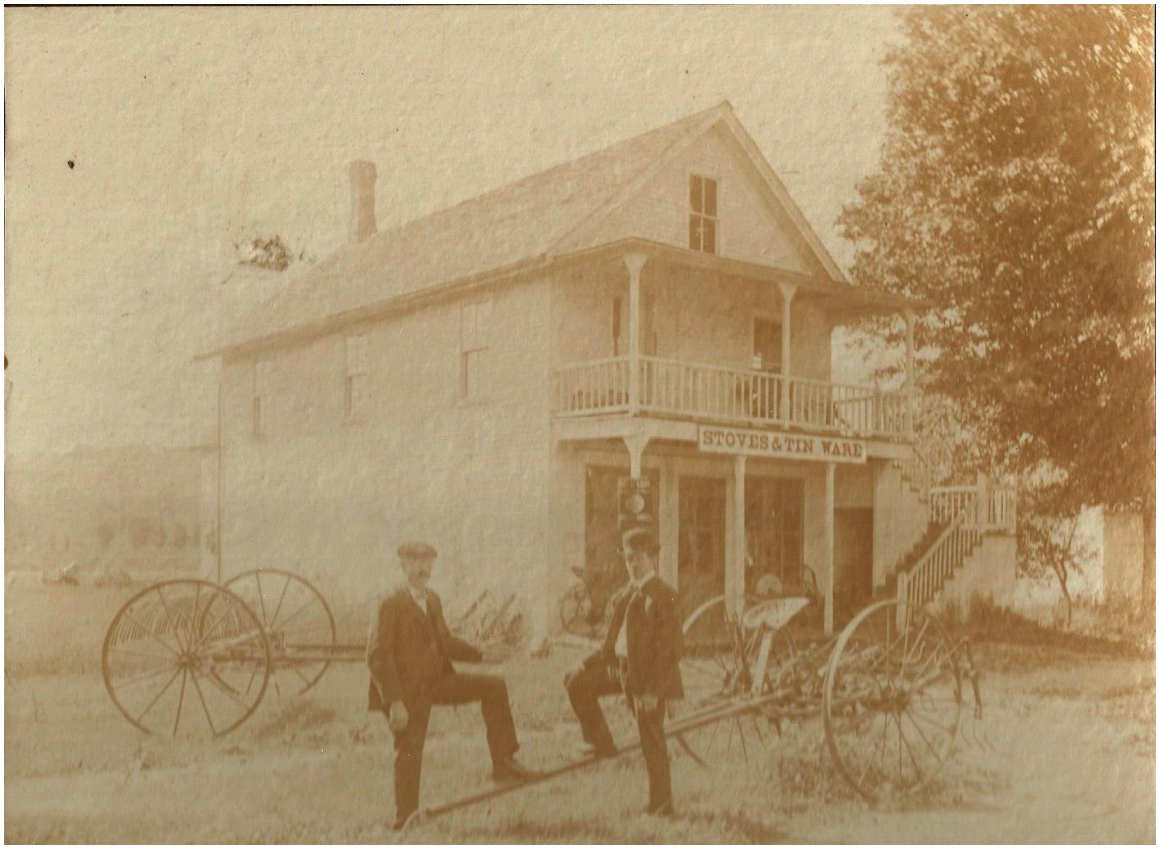
TERMS CASH. See that this Statement is properly receipted.

	over	15 00
Jan 21	file 22 Lard 24 (McBride)	47
Feb 12	Salmon 15 Crakers 3	08
" 14	3" Nails	09
" 17	Pr Hose	25
" 18	1 Pr Leggin	1.00
" 26	1" Hose	25
" 28	Can Peach 22 1 Sater 10	32
Mar 11	By Cash $10.00	
" 23	Rope	45
" 26	Rope	38
April 1	Starch 10 Shoe Lace 4	14
		18.53
	Less Cr	10.00
		8.53
May 6	4 yds Print 24 3½ Genchia 36	59
June 13	2 Pr Hose 20	20
" 16	4" Staple	14
		9.46
" 13	By cash	8.00
		1.46

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

Chauncey Hayden store

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



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

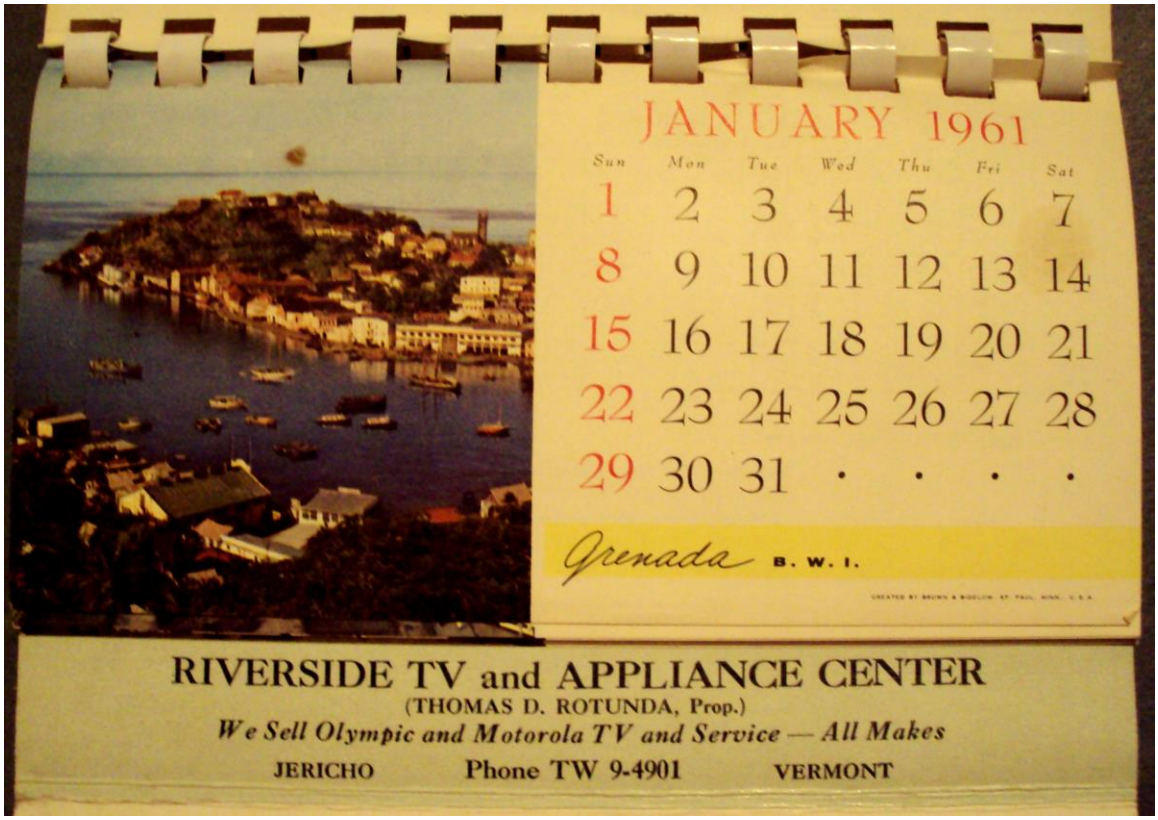
In addition to general merchandise, the Riverside post office was located here until it was discontinued in June, 1934, Mr. Hayden being the postmaster during most of this time. Mail was carried on the B&L Railroad, with incoming mail being dropped off the moving train, and outgoing mail was attached to a pole, where it was plucked off by a hook on the train car as the train went past, so the train did not have to stop.



In the 1870s, Truman Whitcomb, nephew of E.S. Whitcomb, Sr., operated an undertaking business at Riverside, selling to James Hayden in 1882. Upon his death in October, 1891, his wife carried on the business as Mrs. Jas. Hayden & Co., represented by Edmund L. Martin, until 1895, when it was purchased by her son Chauncey Hayden, who continued it until about 1930, assisted at times by

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





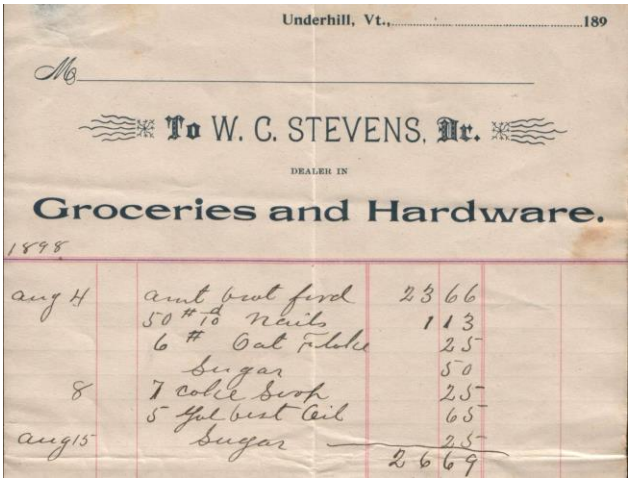
In the late 1950s, Thomas Rotunda, Jr. operated Riverside TV & Appliance Center in the first floor, and from then until about 2008, the upstairs apartment housed various tenants. With expansion of the Jolly's store next door, the Hayden store building was purchased by Jolly's and torn down to create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

W.C. Stevens store

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

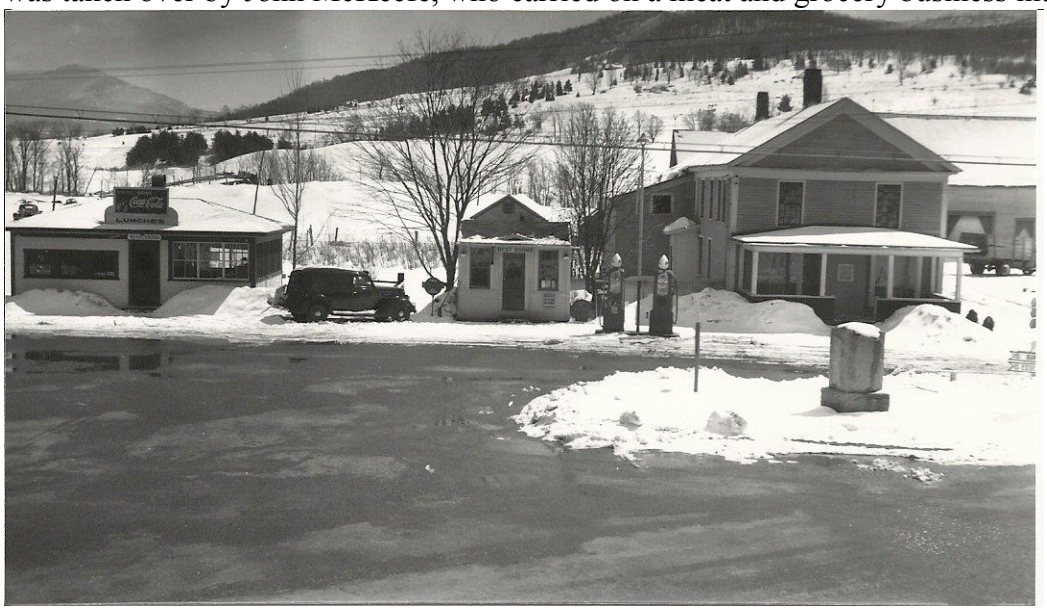
determine if this could have been the store building, and if so, was it originally located here, or moved here from Dickenson Street. The store building was sold to W.C. Stevens in 1894, and in May, 1896, Mr. Stevens took over the business as well. Advertisements for the Stevens store show a transition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





Whitcomb & Day building after 1911

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



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

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

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

Mert & Grace Mills

In the mid-1950s, Mert Mills purchased the former Howard Clark house at 337 VT Rt. 15, just west of the Hayden store. Over the next few years he held the ash and trash contract at the Ethan Allen Air Force Base (formerly Fort Ethan Allen) in Colchester. At that time, most buildings at the base were still heated by coal, and Mr. Mills brought home load after load of the coal ashes, filling and raising the meadow between his house and the Hayden store. In 1958, he built a small building there, at what is now 341 VT Rt. 15, where he and his wife Grace operated the right half of the building as a mom & pop type grocery store, the Double M Market, and rented the left part to Gertrude Hunt for her beauty shop. They also sold the Flying A brand of gasoline. As the business grew, they took over the entire building for the grocery business, and later put an addition on the back for even more room. In the early 1960s, Mr. Mills leveled a spot beside the store which for several years he flooded in the winter for a skating rink. After Mert's death, Grace continued the business for several years until selling to John and Sue Kordish in February, 1985. They operated the store as Big John's Riverside Store until it was purchased by Jolley's about 2006. They operated it a short time before demolishing the old store building and replacing it with a



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



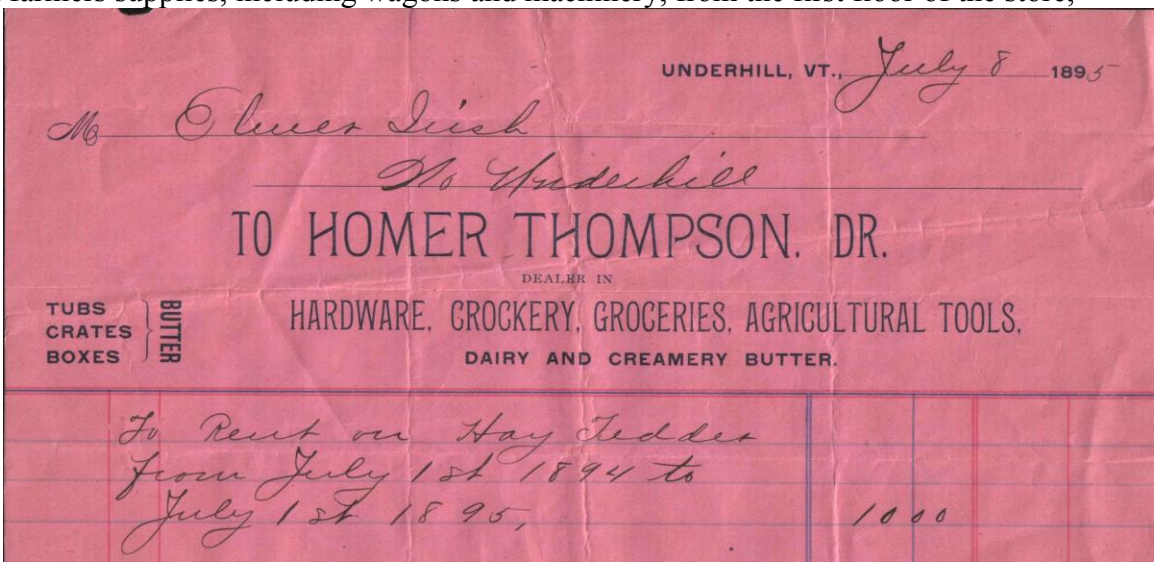


completely new store.

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

Homer Thompson's store

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


UNDERHILL, VT., July 8 1895

Mr Elmer Dick

Mo Underhill

TO HOMER THOMPSON. DR.

DEALER IN

TUBS CRATES BOXES } BUTTER

HARDWARE. CROCKERY. GROCERIES. AGRICULTURAL TOOLS.

DAIRY AND CREAMERY BUTTER.

To Rent on Hay Tedder
From July 1st 1894 to
July 1st 1895, 1000

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

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

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



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

Homer Thompson's grist mill

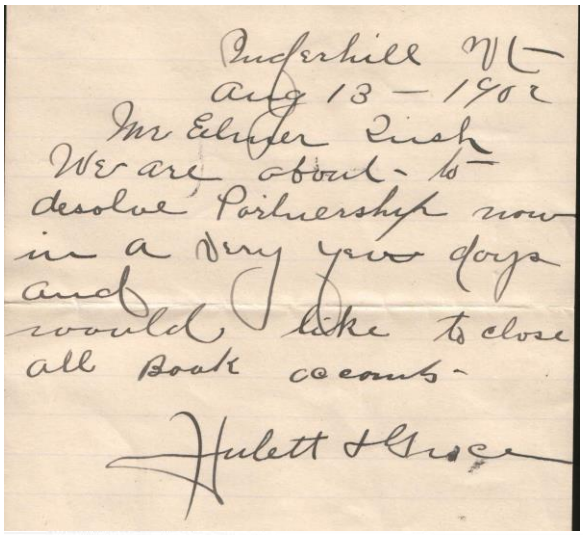


In addition to these businesses, Homer Thompson also built a large grist mill across the railroad tracks from his store in the fall of 1893. The foundation was laid in early September, and by early November the 28 hp gasoline engine had arrived. This was installed by H.N. Gray of Cambridge, and meanwhile Mr. Thompson was purchasing gearing for the mill in Burlington. By early January, 1894, Mr. Gray was back in town starting up the machinery, and by the end of February, the new mill started operation. It appears that grinding was done by the new roller process, with grain being shipped in on the railroad, where it could be unloaded directly from the rail cars into the mill. Mr. Thompson also installed an electric light plant in his mill, and by the end of May, that was operational. It is interesting to note that some 20 years later, Mr. Gray ran a very similar business in Cambridge, including a hardware store, farm machinery business, grocery store, and a grist mill powered by a gasoline engine, which also operated an electric light plant.

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

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

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

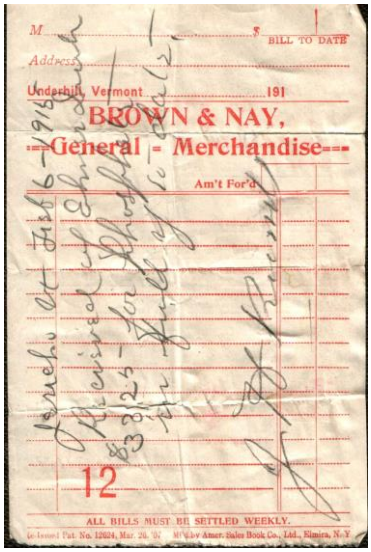

Underhill Vt
Aug 13 — 1902
Mr Edgar Lush
We are about to
desolve Partnership now
in a few days
and would like to close
all Book accounts
Hulett & Grace

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



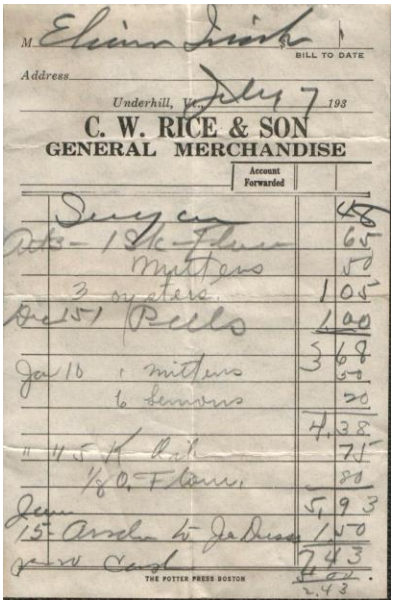
The building was then purchased by C.N. Stygles, who sold general merchandise until moving his business to the brick store in 1911. About that time, he sold this store to Brown & Nay. The second floor porch was added to the store by Mr. Stygles.

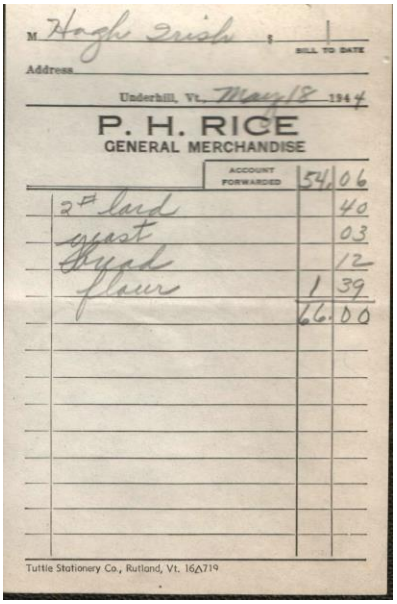




They in turn sold the business to Clayton Rice. In 1924 his son Parker went into partnership in the business, and continued it after Clayton's death in 1937.







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



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

Jacob's I.G.A., 1968



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



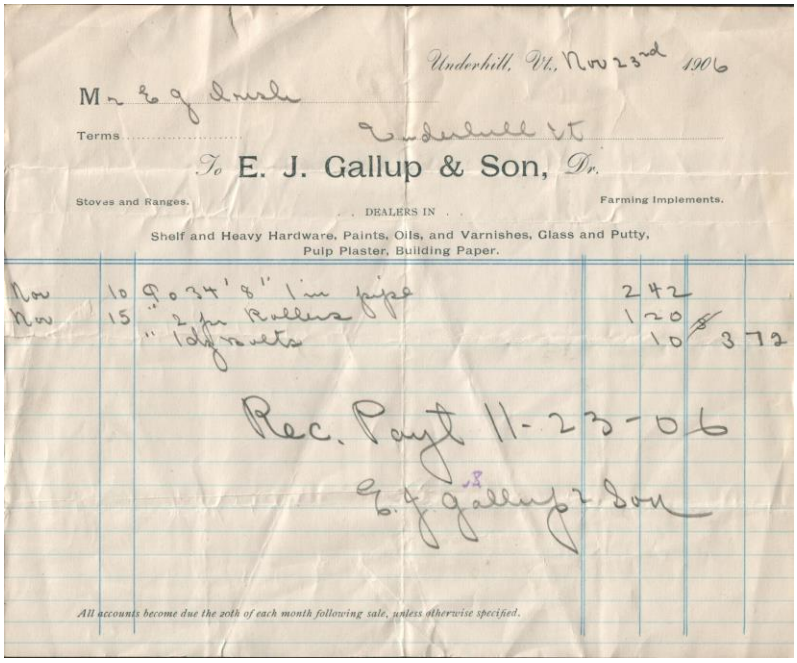
c. 1895 – Note different building from that in the 1890 photo above

E.J. Gallup & Son tin shop & hardware store

Thompson's tin shop was sold to C.N. Stygles along with the grocery store, about 1902. Joseph Bissonette carried on a tinware and hardware business in the Flats for a time; he is known to have been here in 1911, having previously operated a similar business at Jericho Corners, but it is not known where his business was located. By at least 1906 (from the date on the receipt below), E.J. Gallup & Son, were in the hardware business, and they purchased the property from Mr. Stygles in September, 1914, but again, it is not known just when they moved to this site, or if they were in business in another location for a time.



Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Gallup



Underhill, Vt., Nov 23rd 1906

Mr E J Gallup

Terms Underhill Vt

To E. J. Gallup & Son, Dr.

Stoves and Ranges. DEALERS IN Farming Implements.

Shelf and Heavy Hardware, Paints, Oils, and Varnishes, Glass and Putty, Pulp Plaster, Building Paper.

Nov	10	9034' 8" 1in pipe	2 42
Nov	15	" 2 pr Rollers	1 20
		" 1 dz bolts	10 3 72

Rec. Payt 11-23-06

E. J. Gallup & Son

All accounts become due the 20th of each month following sale, unless otherwise specified.



Left to right: Grist mill, L.C. Fowler's warehouse, Thompson's store, Ernest Goodwin house, tin shop

They carried on the business on the site where Homer Thompson had originally built, but as noted above, the buildings seem to have been changed. About 1916, they built a new store in





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

The new Gallup Block



(Left) David Gallup with gasoline pump

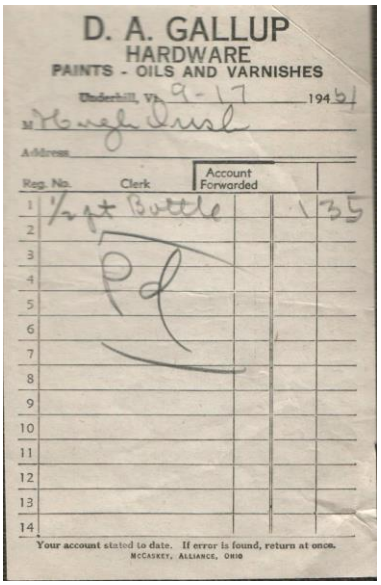
In addition to their other business, about 1910 the Gallups started the first filling station in the area behind their store. This consisted of 5 gallon cans filled from horse-drawn tank trucks. Autos were fueled from these cans using a large funnel lined with chamois to remove the water. A few years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

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





Gallup Block, 2011


D. A. GALLUP
HARDWARE
PAINTS - OILS AND VARNISHES
Underhill, Vt. 9-17 1961
M Hugh Irish
Address
Reg. No. Clerk Account Forwarded
1 1/2 qt Bottle 1 35
2
3
4 Pd
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
Your account stated to date. If error is found, return at once.
McCASKEY, ALLIANCE, OHIO

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

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

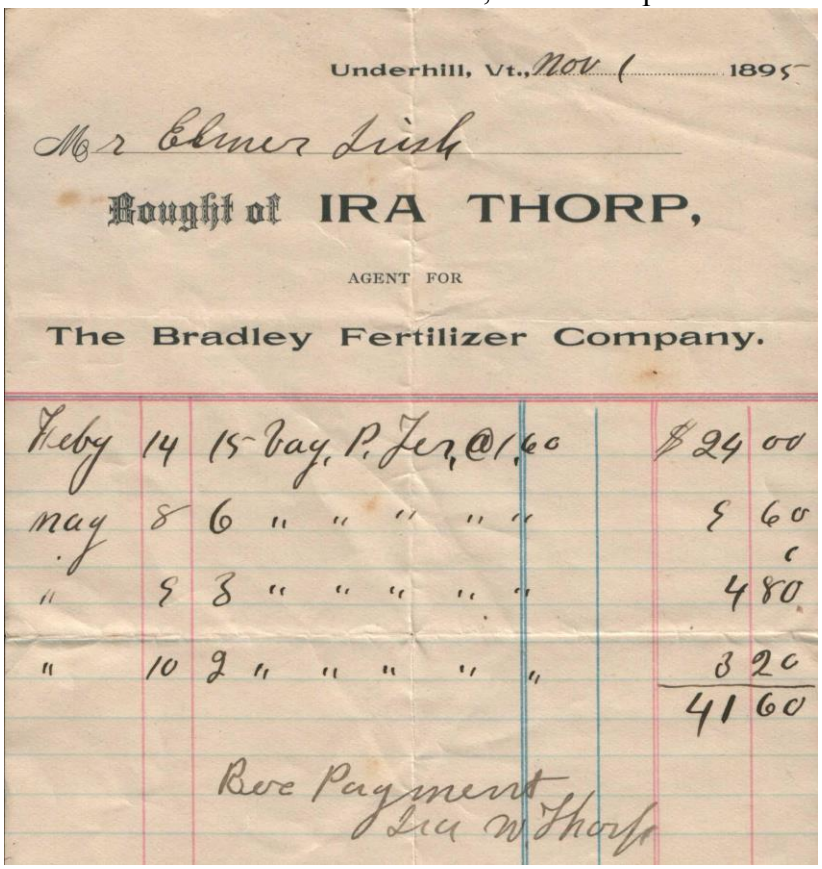


David Gallup, with a dipper and lamp

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

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

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



Underhill, Vt., Nov 1 1895

Mr Elmer Link

Bought of IRA THORP,

AGENT FOR

The Bradley Fertilizer Company.

Feby	14	15 Bag. P. Fer. @ 1.60	$24 00
May	8	6 " " " " "	9 60
"	9	8 " " " " "	4 80
"	10	2 " " " " "	3 20
			41 60

Bore Payment
Ira W. Thorp

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



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

UNDERHILL MILLS,

T. W. THORP & SON, Proprietors.

Wholesale and Retail Grain, Meal and Feed.

OUR MOTTO:
Honest Grain.
Honest Work.
Honest Dealing

Underhill, Vt., Sept. 21 1899

Sold to Elmer Irish

~~Cash~~ Bal Book acct. 6 18

Rec Payment
Ira W Thorp

Beauty Shops

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



Hotels and Taverns

In the early days of Vermont, travel was by foot, horse or stage coach, all of which limited the range that one could travel in a day's time. Thus, an early fixture in most towns was the local tavern, and Underhill boasted several. One of the earliest was the Bass House, located at 365 VT Rt. 15, on the right corner of the intersection with the Raceway in Riverside. Little is known about this tavern, other than for a time Nathaniel Bostwick was the owner. He died February 10, 1807 at the age of 50, and as it was already known as the Bass House, he was likely not the original owner. The old tavern is now used as apartments.



The former Bass House, 2011

The Bostwick House/The Dixon House



From a stereoview, 1860s

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

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

in at dark and out again as early as three or four o'clock in the morning, loaded with such things as grain, pork, lumber, furs and dry goods. During the 1840s and 1850s, there was a strong temperance movement in this area, and it is interesting to note that as a result, in at least 1851, Mr. Brown was licensed by the town to sell small beer and cider in the hotel, but not wines, strong beer or spirituous liquors. In February, 1866 the tavern was purchased by Leonard Dixon, and was soon renamed the Dixon House. Mr. Dixon expanded the building even more, adding a large three story addition and a dance hall. From its large three story porch on the east side, patrons had a spectacular view of Mt. Mansfield, and the Adirondacks could be viewed from the porches on the west side. There were also croquet grounds adjacent to the hotel. An advertisement appeared in 1896 for a photographer temporarily setting up shop in "the old Dixon House bowling alley", so apparently at one time bowling was also offered at the hotel. By the early 1870s they were advertising that stages connected with both morning and evening trains at Essex Junction. With the coming of the B&L railroad in 1877, which passed just south of the hotel, special trains brought patrons from Burlington to dances, etc. held there. Dixon's was a flag stop on the B&L, and a platform was built so passengers could debark right at the hotel.



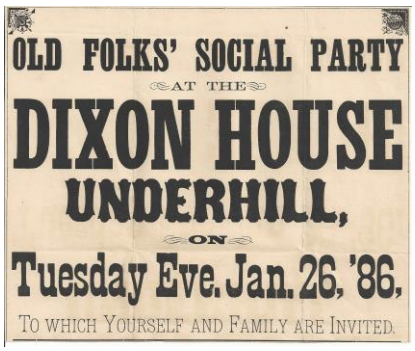


Dixon House, after expansion by L.M. Dixon

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

Mr. & Mrs. Dixon were genial hosts and their hospitality was well known, as was the good cooking. One banquet held there by the G.A.R. included various kinds of meats, oysters served in different styles, a nice variety of pastry and all fruits of the season. Several hundred visitors came





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

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



The Barney Tavern, 2011

The Barney Tavern

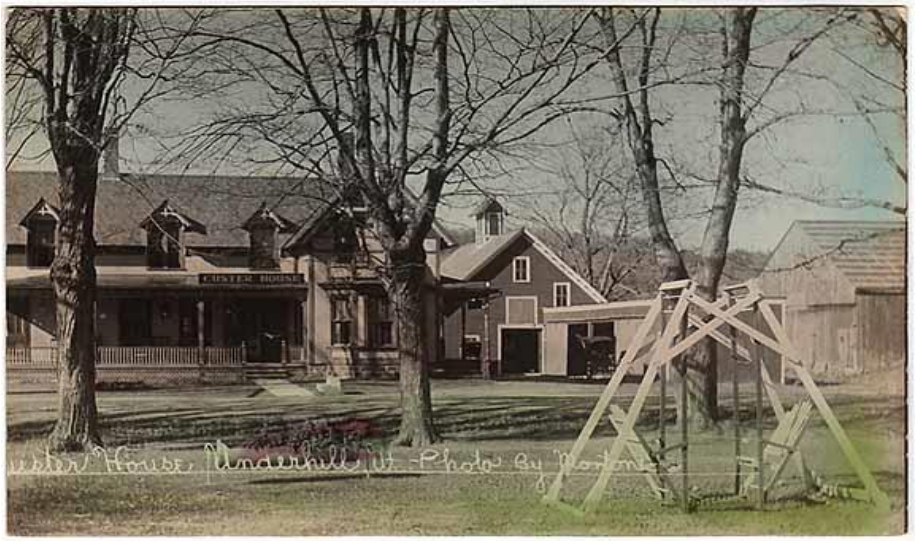
Another early tavern in the Flats was the Barney Tavern, located across Route 15 from the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department at 417 VT Rt. 15. This may be the tavern kept by Elijah Benedict starting in 1786, where Lorenzo Dow preached for two years due to there being no church in town. It was later operated as a tavern by William Barney and Edward Hutchings, and by Martin Barney from about 1830 until 1852, when it became the home of Dr. Hiram Benedict, a graduate of Castleton Medical College. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Benedict kept an inn here as well. Underhill town meetings were held here from 1832 to 1843. Dr. Benedict was the last to operate the inn, although his son, George Benedict, lived here until his death in 1938.

The Custer House

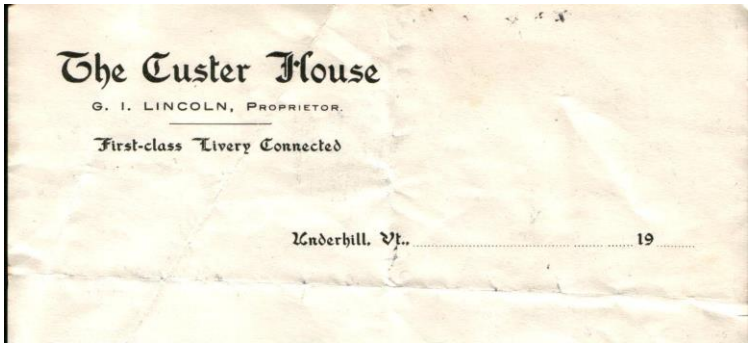
Just a little further north, at what is now 419 VT Route 15, until recently the site of the Flour Shop, the Custer House was established about 1887. Another popular hotel, it was operated by Thaddeus Whipple, who had previously kept the American House in Cambridge. The hotel did a thriving business,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

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





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



The Hotel Sinclair

As mentioned above, the Hotel Sinclair was located in the Riverside area of the Flats, at 389 VT Route 15. This was built in 1893 by Edward Sinclair, an architect and building contractor. Reportedly the various features of the building, including decorative porches and turrets were included by Mr. Sinclair as examples of what he could provide to people interested in his services as a building contractor. The hotel was operated by Ed and his wife Ruth until his death in 1933, although by the 1920s it was only in operation from May 1st to November 15th. Mrs. Sinclair maintained it as her residence until she sold it to Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Fuller in 1952. This operated until about 1964, then became a private residence until the 1980s when it was converted to the Sinclair Inn bed & breakfast by Jane and Scott Smith. In 1989, it was

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

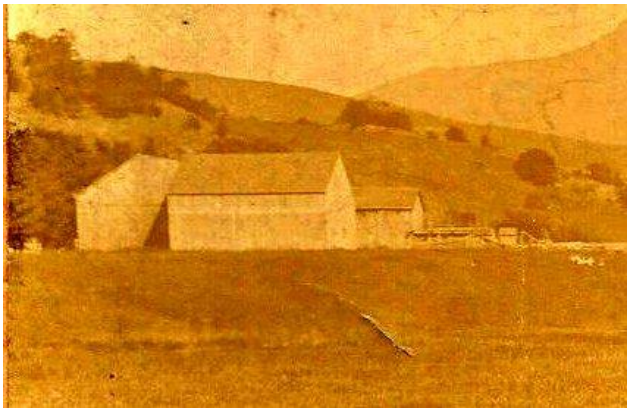


Other area lodging establishments

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



Fairview Lodge



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

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

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

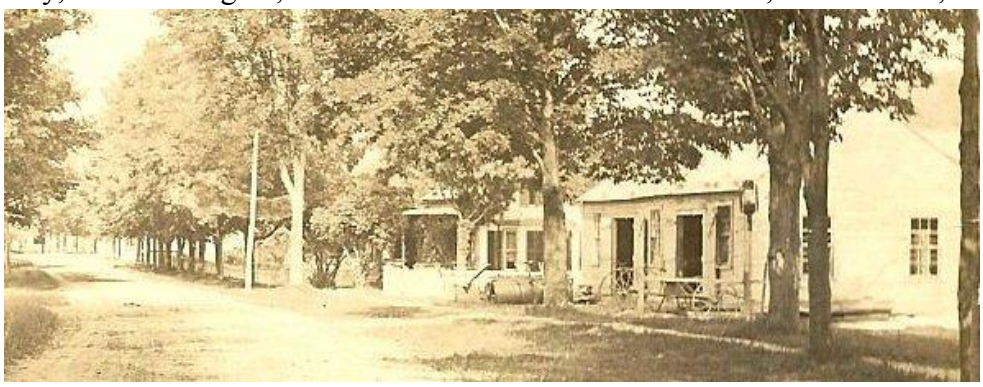
By the 1920s, several other places in the Flats area were offering meals, lodging or both to travelers. One was the Central House at 6 Park Street, operated by Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Santamore. Mrs. Santamore also operated the telephone switchboard, located in their home. In those days, if you wanted to make a phone call, you picked up the receiver and "rang central" on your crank phone; this gave rise to the name. They also advertised it as being "Telephone Central". They offered meals, lodgings and lunches (the latter probably for people hiking on Mt. Mansfield, or perhaps going on a picnic), along with ice cream, soft drinks, candies and cigars. Another business was the Way Side Inn, operated by F.P. Tillison, which offered among other things pure maple products, fresh eggs, cigarettes, with chicken dinners a specialty. At the upper end of the Flats was the Humphrey Homestead, by this time being operated by Eunice Hackett, daughter of Amos Humphrey. If you wanted to "leave the jazz of the busy life", she offered comfortable beds and airy rooms, along with afternoon tea served on a spacious lawn or on open porches attended by attractive country maids, and of course food - chicken dinners, waffles with pure maple syrup, pies, cakes, doughnuts, garden vegetables and country milk. A somewhat different stop was the Fern Crest Camp, operated by Mrs. L.C. Fowler, who offered a comfortable furnished cottage in a desirable location for parties wanting quiet and seclusion, but with easy access to stores, R.R. Station, post office and bus lines and only five miles from the base of Mt. Mansfield and three miles from the U.S. Artillery Range. However, if meals were desired, they had to be obtained "nearby". At 3 River Road in Riverside was located the Deerhead tea room and gift shop, operated in connection with the Riverside



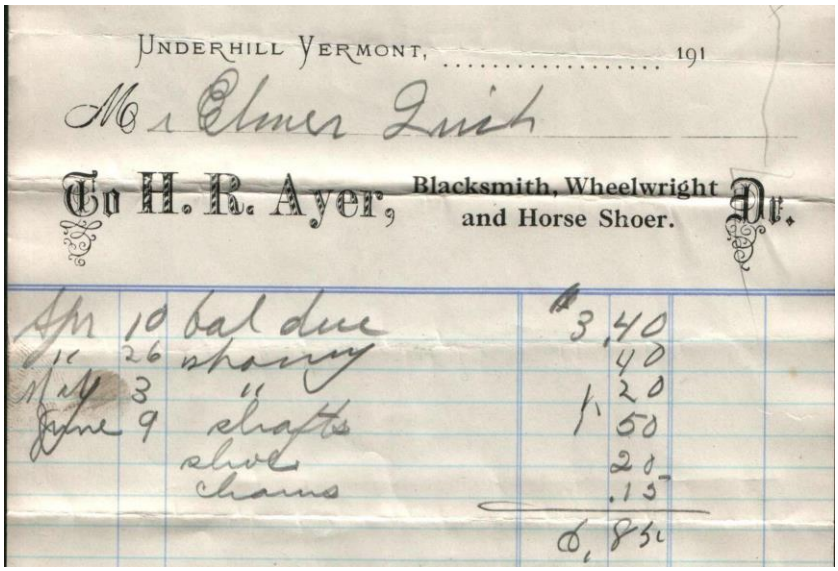
Filling Station by Mrs. Lillian Cross. She offered overnight accommodations for a limited number of guests, along with a first class dining room offering home cooking.

Blacksmith shops

Over the years, several blacksmith shops were located in the Flats. One was started at 382 VT Rt. 15, the site of the former Waters Library building, about 1847 by Samuel Bliss. In connection with this business, he also was a carriage maker. Mr. Bliss was a Justice of the Peace for many years, and having a naturally judicial mind, he served as a Trial Justice for a long period. He also sold insurance in the 1880s as an agent for the Windsor Co. Mutual Fire Ins. Co., and was known as a worthy citizen and an honest man. He was a member of the Episcopal Church near his home. In the summer of 1893, at the age of 77, he sold his blacksmith tools at auction, and after his death in the spring of 1895, Willis Marsh rented the shop from Mrs. Bliss for his house, carriage and furniture painting business, moving here from Jericho Corners. In July, he moved again, to the residence of his brother-in-law, B. Ell Mead, in Riverside. By 1897, Will Gaines, originally from Addison, had moved from a blacksmith shop in Pleasant Valley to this shop, and then moved again, to another blacksmith and wheelwright shop he established on Park Street south of the grist mill. It appears that this was in the same location that Andrew Tatro's harness shop had been, near where First Step print shop is presently located, now 22 Park Street. He operated this blacksmith shop at least until 1922. As noted below, Mr. Gaines owned the Bliss blacksmith shop on Route 15 for a time in the mid-'20s. The next record of the Bliss shop is when it was sold to Howard Ayer in July, 1909; likely it was rented to someone in the intervening years, but it is unknown to whom. Mr. Ayer ("practical horse shoeing, general blacksmithing & wheelwrighting") operated this shop until selling it in 1916 to L.P. Sulham. Nothing is known about him, or the next owner, George Pope, who purchased the shop in July, 1922. The shop was next owned by Will Gaines, who bought it in June, 1924,



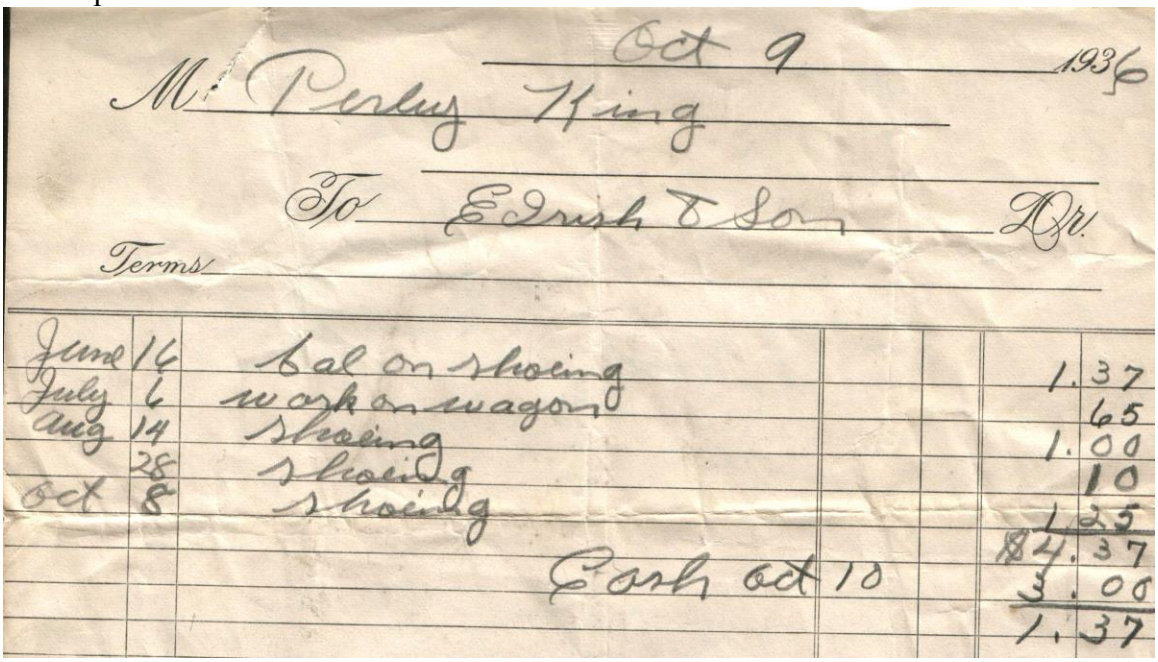
Route 15 looking north, with Bliss blacksmith shop on right



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

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

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



Oct 9 1936

M. Perley King

To Edrish & Son Dr.

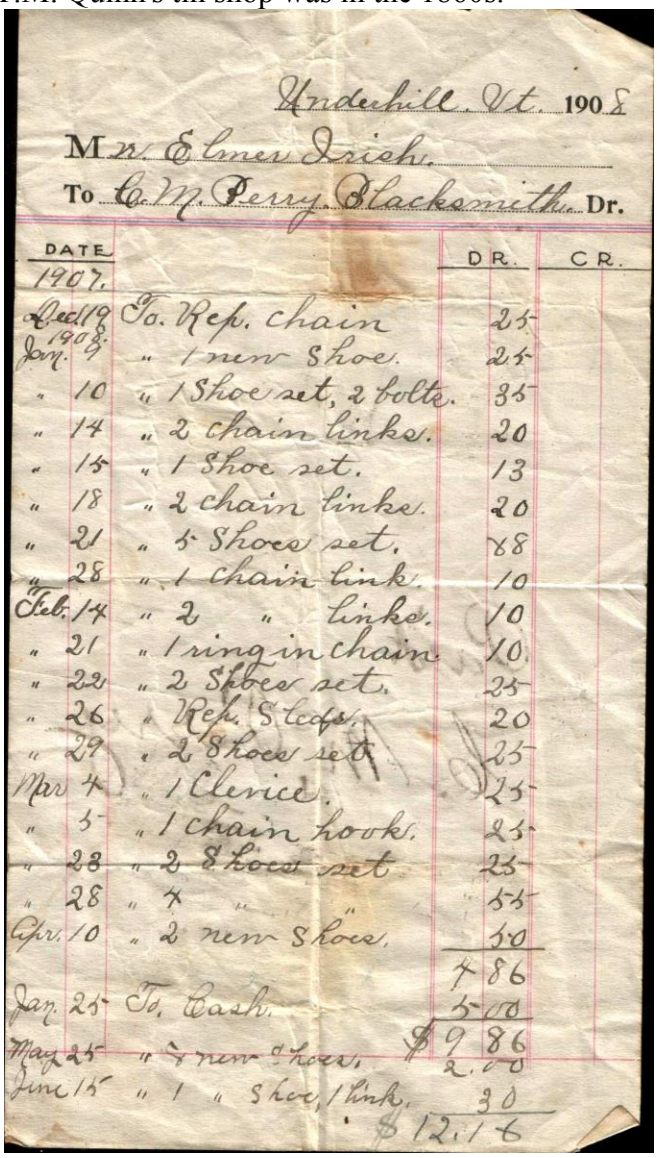
Terms

June	16	bal on shoeing		1.37
July	6	work on wagon		65
aug	14	shoeing		1.00
	28	shoeing		10
oct	8	shoeing		1.25
				84.37
		Cash oct 10		3.00
				1.37

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

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

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



Underhill Vt. 1908

Mr. Elmer Irish.

To C.M. Perry, Blacksmith. Dr.

DATE		DR.	CR.
1907.			
Dec 19	To. Rep. chain	25	
1908.			
Jan. 9	" 1 new Shoe.	25	
" 10	" 1 Shoe set, 2 bolts.	35	
" 14	" 2 chain links.	20	
" 15	" 1 Shoe set.	13	
" 18	" 2 chain links.	20	
" 21	" 5 Shoes set.	88	
" 28	" 1 chain link.	10	
Feb. 14	" 2 " links.	10	
" 21	" 1 ring in chain	10	
" 22	" 2 Shoes set.	35	
" 26	" Rep. 8 tools.	20	
" 29	" 2 Shoes set	25	
Mar 4	" 1 Clevice.	25	
" 5	" 1 chain hook.	25	
" 28	" 2 Shoes set	25	
" 28	" 4 " "	55	
Apr. 10	" 2 new Shoes.	50	
		$ 86	
Jan. 25	To. Cash.	5 00	
		$ 9 86	
May 25	" 4 new Shoes.	2 00	
June 15	" 1 " Shoe, 1 link.	30	
		$ 12 16	

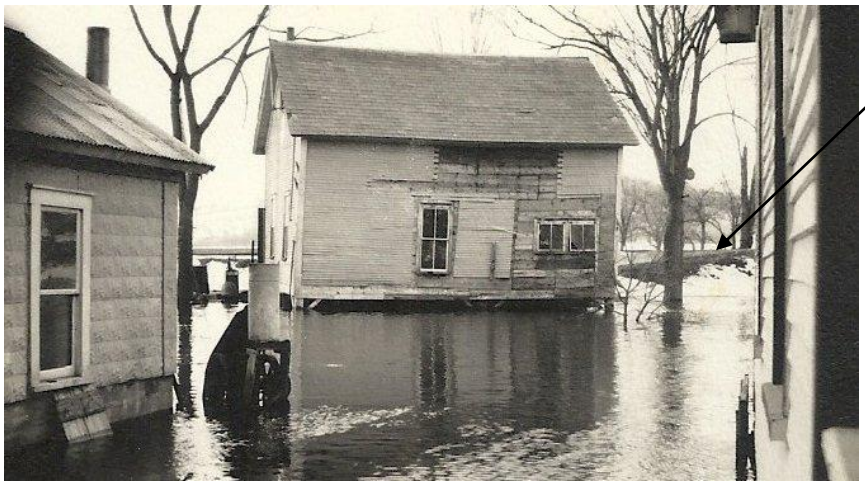
Harness shops

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

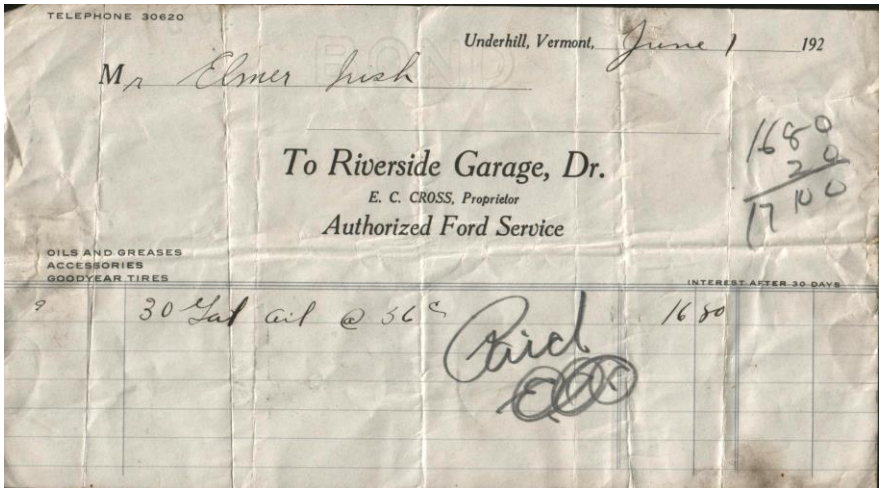
Garages

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

The Riverside Garage was opened in 1915 by Earl Cross in an old barn on Route 15 just north of the intersection of River Road, although often he would travel to customers' homes to make repairs. In 1917, he had a 1 gallon, hand operated gas pump installed, and this was replaced a few years later by a 5 gallon pump. (Early gas pumps had a glass container marked in gallons on their top. Gasoline was pumped by hand into this container until it contained the desired amount, which was then drained by gravity into the car's gas tank.) In this era, cars were usually put up for the winter and until after mud season in the spring, and Mr. Cross would close the garage for the winter. This building was torn down in 1929.



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



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



Will Cross garage, early 1920s

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



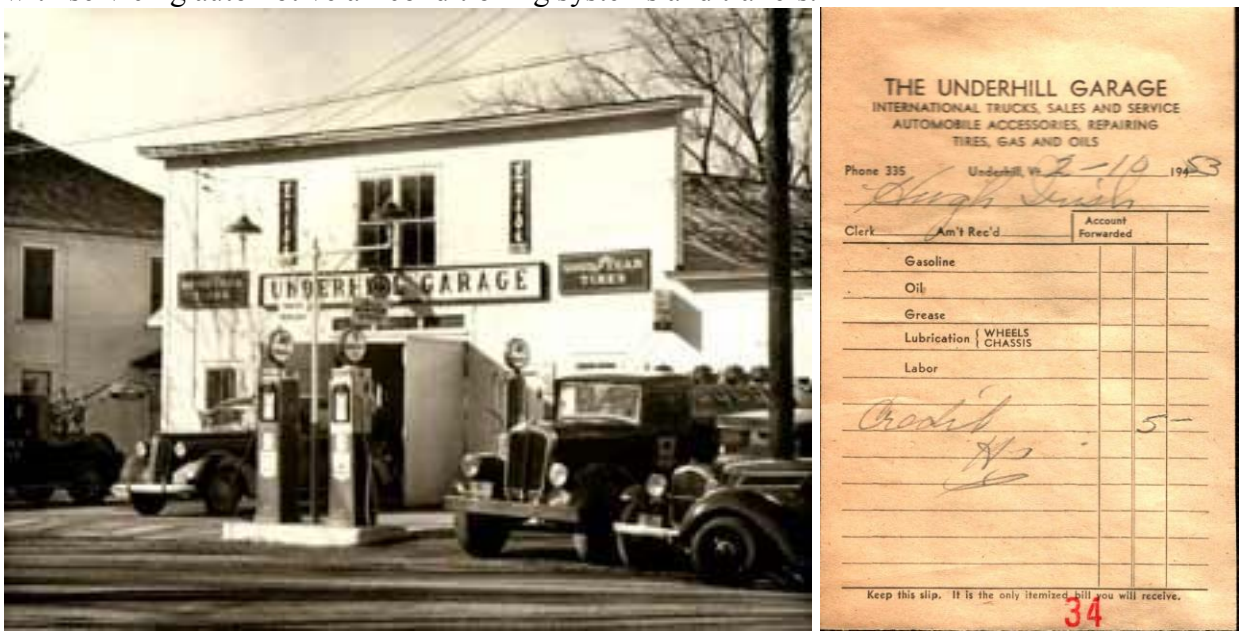
Cross garage, with Deerhead Tea Room on right

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

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

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

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



Underhill Garage, about 1940

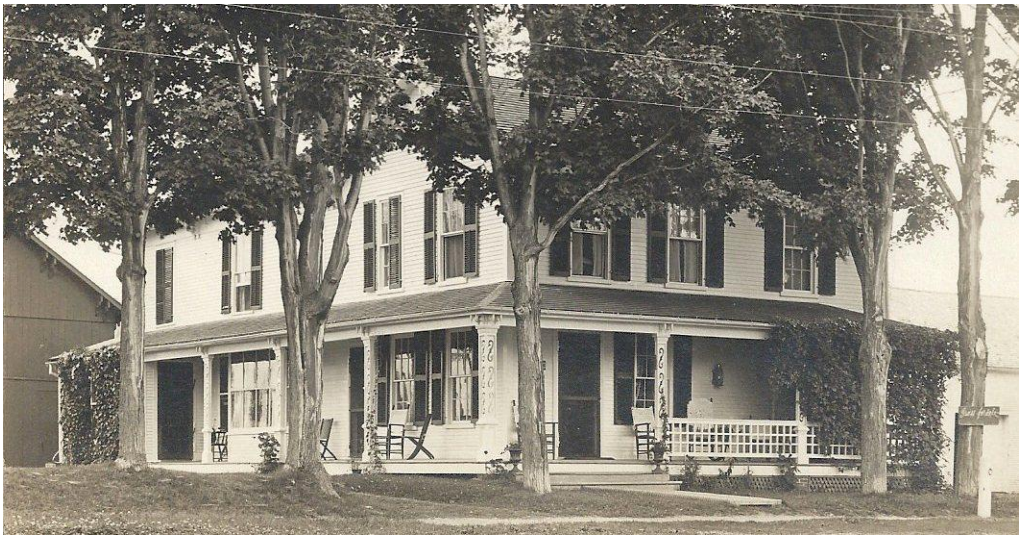
Seymour's Service Station was established at 426 VT Rt. 15 at the north end of the village in 1949 by Fred Seymour, doing automotive repairs and selling Texaco gasoline. Ed Ward worked as a mechanic for Mr. Seymour for many years. As business grew, Mr. Seymour expanded the building in the 1960s. Upon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



Paul Ward's garage, about 1970

Doctors, Medical Services and the Underhill Drug Store

Arthur Burdick was born in Underhill in 1828. As a young man, he spent about three years as an apprentice to Luther Macomber, a carpenter in Riverside, and in September, 1849 left for the gold fields in California. He put his carpentry skills to use there, building the first frame buildings in Sonora, along with gold washers, sluices and pumps for the miners. He also built the first steam mill in that part of the state. After three years there, during which time he was joined by Mr. Macomber as a partner, he returned to Underhill. With the savings he brought back from his businesses, he returned to school, and in June, 1858 graduated from the medical department of the University of Vermont. He began the practice of medicine in the Flats, but that fall returned to medical school in New York City. The following year he returned to Underhill and resumed his practice. He soon purchased the house at 393 VT Route 15, opposite the Methodist church, and in addition to his medical practice, opened a drug store in a part of his home. Around 1870, Dr. Burdick moved the drug



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

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

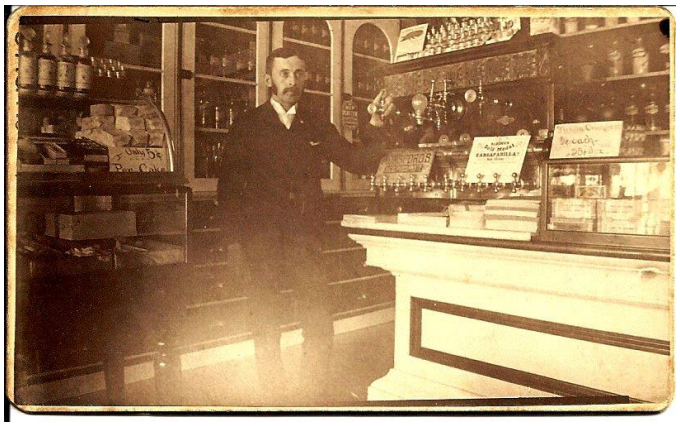


Underhill Methodist church and Underhill drug store

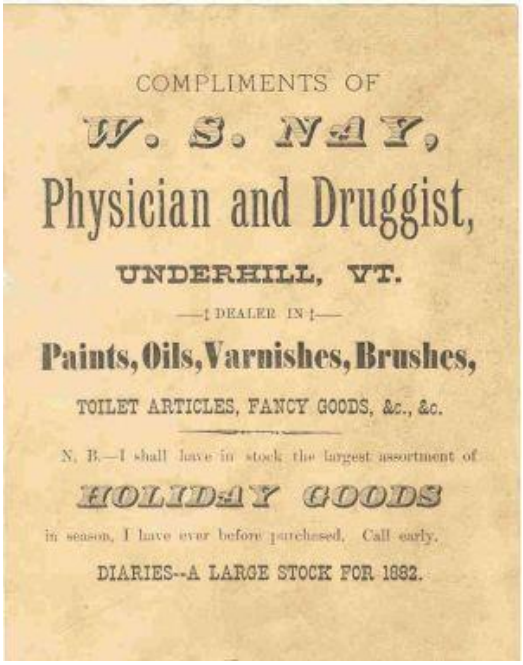


In March, 1871, W. Scott Nay began the study of medicine with Dr. Burdick, and after graduating from the UVM College of Medicine in July, 1873, returned to practice with him, also

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



Interior of Underhill Drug Store



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



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

Underhill Fire

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

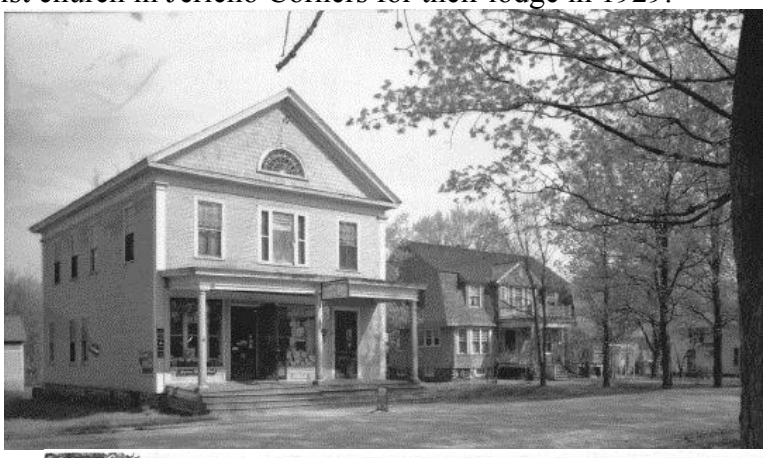


Remains of the Underhill fire August, 1906
Note wet blankets on roof of house in center background

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

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

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



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



The new Methodist church and drug store

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

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

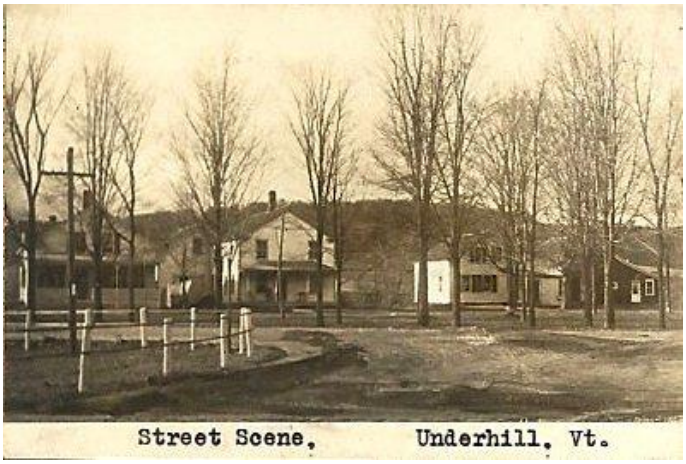
Hector Marcoux, who had just sold his grocery store on Park Street to the Jacobs family, was the next owner of the drug store. He remodeled it, including adding a soda fountain, also selling books and stationary, and at this time remodeled the former Masonic rooms on the upper floor into living quarters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

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

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

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

Barber Shops



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

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

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



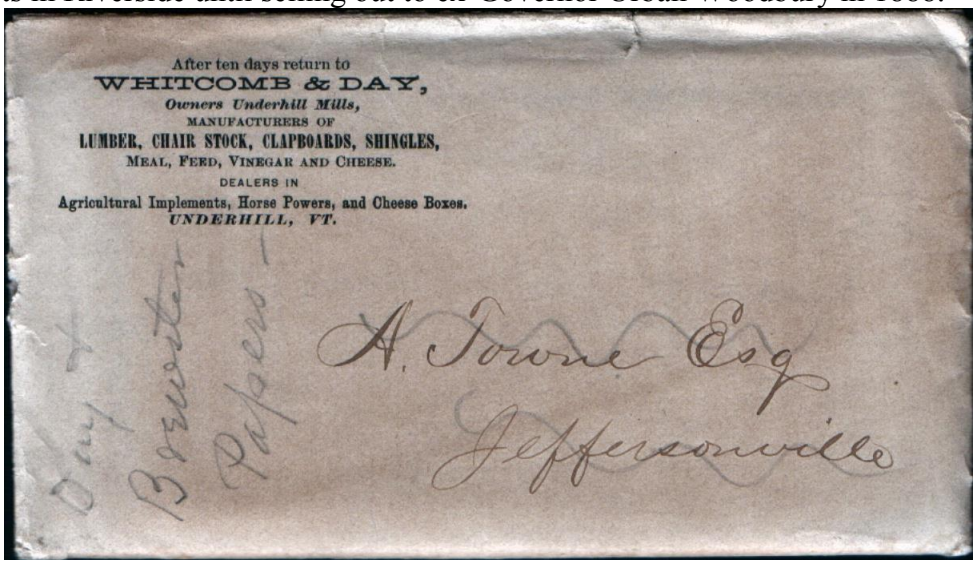
Frank Ladue and Mike McMahon

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

The Steam Mill

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

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



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

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



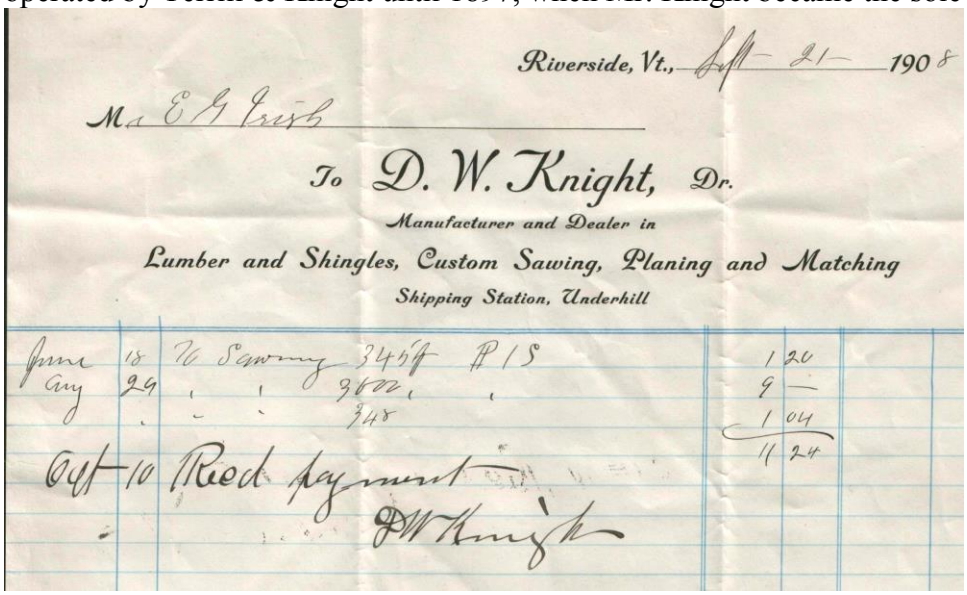
The Steam Mill



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

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

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



Riverside, Vt., Sept 21 1908

Mr E G Irish

To D. W. Knight, Dr.

Manufacturer and Dealer in

Lumber and Shingles, Custom Sawing, Planing and Matching

Shipping Station, Underhill

June	18	To Sawing 345 ft #15	1	20
Aug	29	" " 3600 " "	9	—
		" " 348	1	04
			11	24
Oct	10	Recd payment		

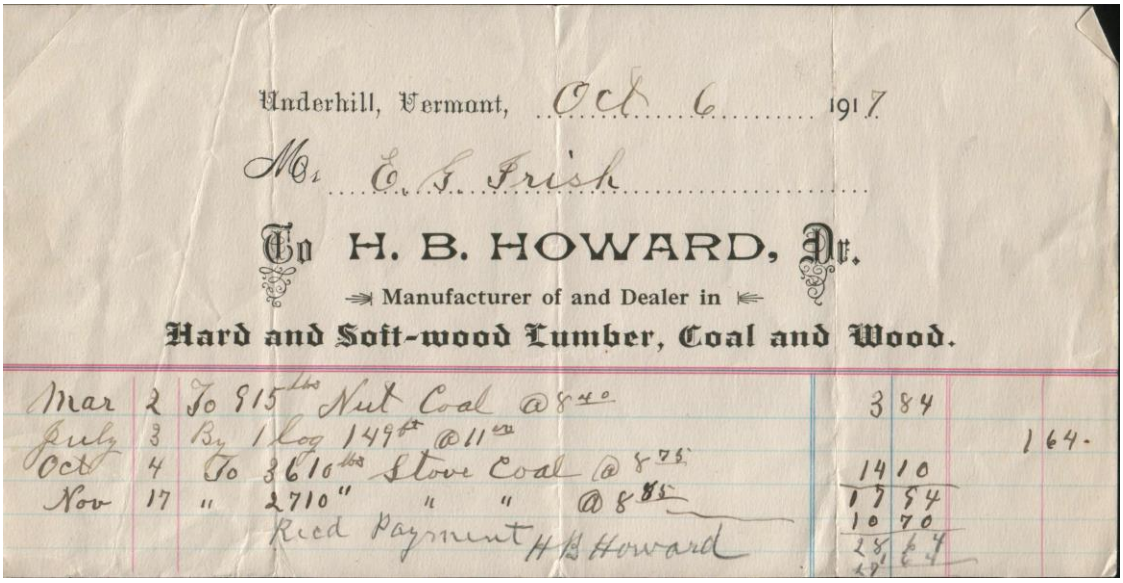
D W Knight



Darius Knight

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





Underhill, Vermont, Oct 6 1917

Mr. E. E. Irish

To H. B. HOWARD, Dr.

Manufacturer of and Dealer in

Hard and Soft-wood Lumber, Coal and Wood.

Mar	2	To 915 lbs Nut Coal @ 8 4c		3 84	
July	3	By 1 log 149 ft @ 11 cts			1 64
Oct	4	To 3610 lbs Stove Coal @ 8 75		14 10	
Nov	17	" 2710 " " " @ 8 85		17 54	
		Rec'd Payment H B Howard		10 70	
				28 24	



Drawing logs in Underhill with horses



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

By the early 1920s, the mill had been sold to Buel Irish and Lynn Moulton, and later to Alson Swinyer and his son-in-law Howard Stufflebeam, who ran the mill until it closed in the late 1930s.

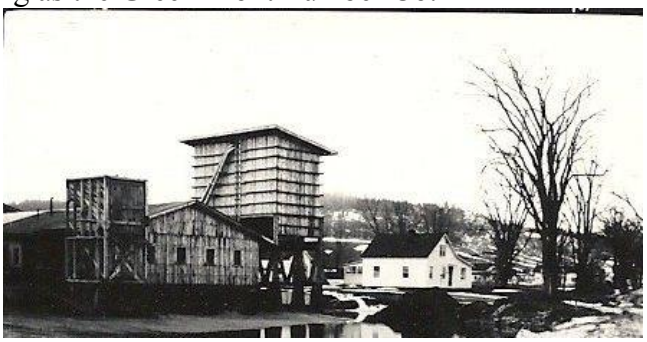


"**Three acres of logs Knight's Mill Underhill Vt."**

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

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

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



Villeneuve sawmill

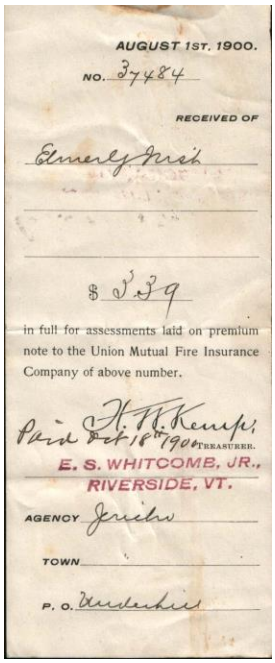
In 1967 he built a second mill on the site which sawed the logs with a band saw instead of the traditional circular saw. The mill was later sold to Green Crow, who operated it for a time before closing the business. The property is now owned by Richard Villeneuve's son David, although the mill is no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

Creameries and the cheese factory

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



Underhill and Jericho Cheese Factory


AUGUST 1ST. 1900.
NO. 37484
RECEIVED OF
Emery Mead
$ 3 3 9
in full for assessments laid on premium note to the Union Mutual Fire Insurance Company of above number.
Paid Oct 18th 1900 H. H. Kemp TREASURER.
E. S. WHITCOMB, JR.,
RIVERSIDE, VT.
AGENCY Jericho
TOWN
P. O. Underhill

of the Underhill ID school. This was started by them about1873, and in 1876 they purchased a mill on Cilley Hill Road in Jericho where they made up to 15,000 cheese boxes annually to supply their cheese business, which used the milk from 600 to 1000 cows. One week in June, 1885 saw them selling 40 cheeses. About 1888, when Mr. Day moved to New York City, the business was sold to the Cheese Factory Association, with Mr. Whitcomb going into the insurance business for several years. This appears to have been the sale of the business only, as the co-op did not purchase the property until 1916. The business was formed as a co-operative creamery, which operated for about 30 years, with S.M. Mead as president, E.S. Whitcomb, Jr. secretary and treasurer, and directors T.B. Barney, T.H. Porter and Ira Hawley. W.H. Howes was their cheese maker, and Thomas Bruce, Roy Montgomery and Bert Metcalf were employed there making butter. In 1886, 60,000 pounds of butter were shipped on the B&L from Underhill, although likely not all from this factory, and on one day in October, they shipped 50 boxes of cheese to Babcock, Hurd & Co. of Cleveland, Ohio. In 1889, the factory was making 16 to 18 cheeses per day, and by 1891, they were making 10 cheeses per day. In April, 1893, a separator was put in, marking a shift from cheese to more butter making. By early May of that year, 2000 pounds of milk were being taken to the separator each day.

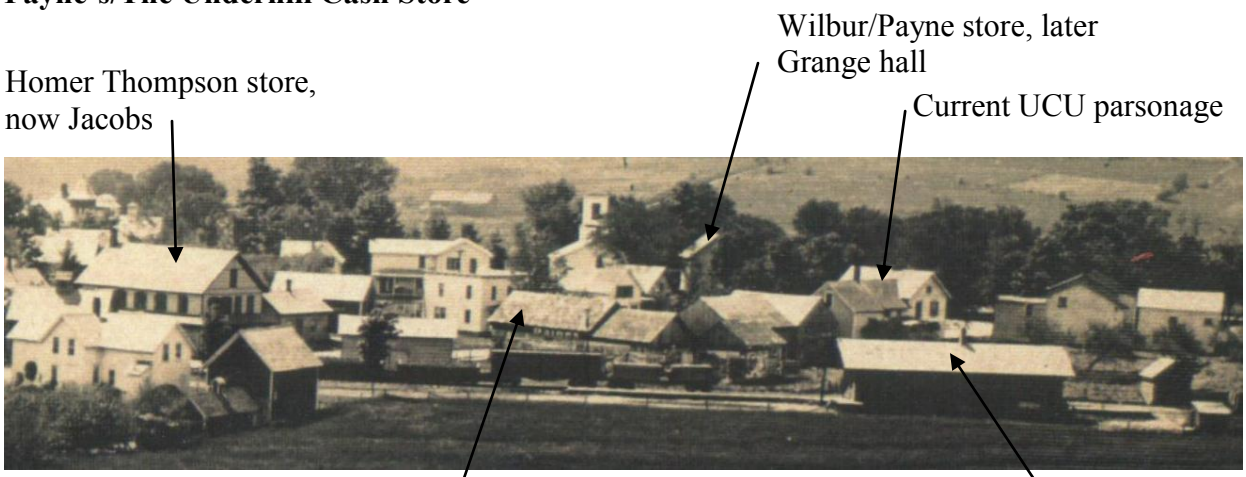
By the early 1900s, cheese making had entirely ceased in town; in 1914, the creamery received 546,414 lbs. of cream and 202,785 lbs. of milk, making 167,058 lbs. of butter, and paying out to the co-operative members $48,885.85. In February, 1920, the creamery was purchased by Chauncey Hayden and operated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

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

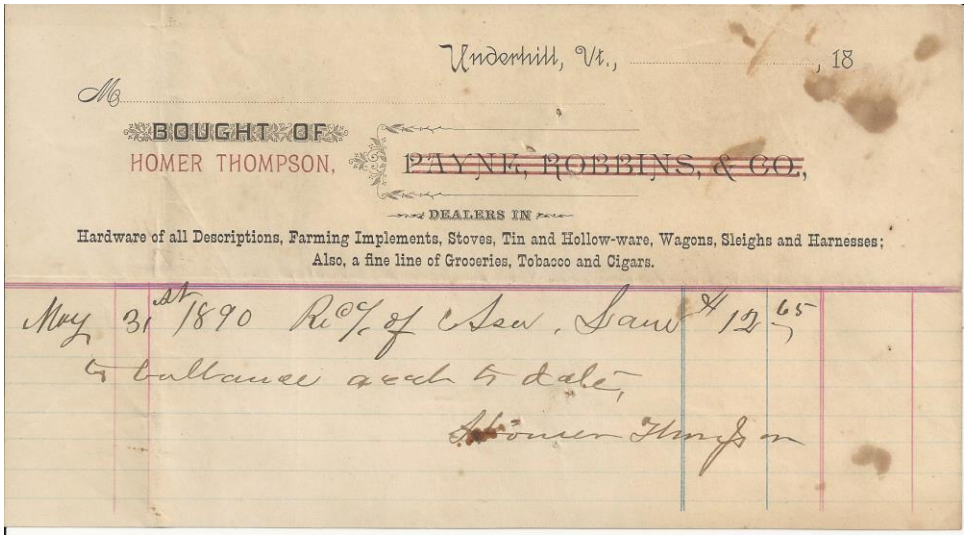
Another creamery was located across Park Street from the mill, at what is now 4 Depot Street. This was built about 1911 by the Vermont Condensed Milk Company, represented by F.H. Shepardson, on land leased from R. Lee Howe, who lived in what is now the United Church parsonage. It was leased to Borden's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

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

Payne's/The Underhill Cash Store



As can be seen in the above photo taken about 1893, there were an odd assortment of buildings in the triangle bounded by Park Street from the Thompson store to what is now the United Church parsonage and the railroad station. Little definite information can be found about these buildings, but it is believed that the one in the center of the photo, above the boxcar, was where, from at least 1889 to 1894, a store variously known as Payne, Robbins & Co. or Payne Bros. was operating in Underhill Flats. The first mention is


Underhill, Vt., ..., 18

Mr.

BOUGHT OF

HOMER THOMPSON, ~~PAYNE, ROBBINS, & CO.~~,

DEALERS IN

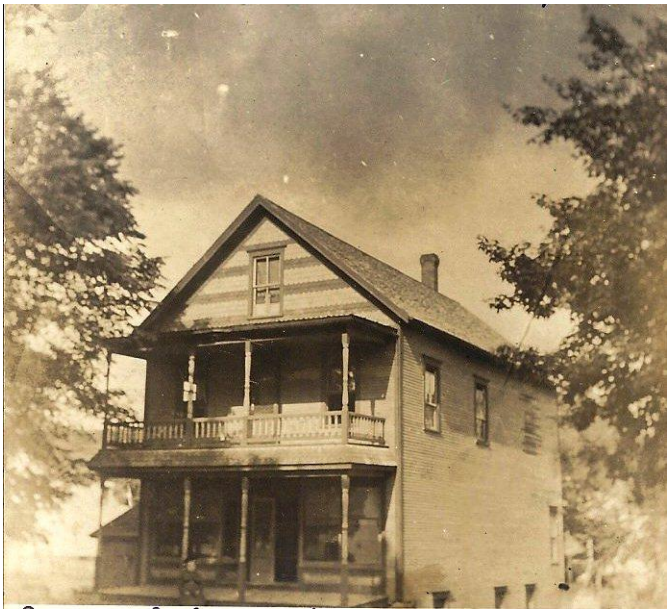
Hardware of all Descriptions, Farming Implements, Stoves, Tin and Hollow-ware, Wagons, Sleighs and Harnesses; Also, a fine line of Groceries, Tobacco and Cigars.

May 31st 1890 Rec'd of Asa, Sam $12.65 to balance acct to date,

Homer Thompson

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

Yet in the spring of 1891, Mr. Thompson had Oliver Garrow from Burlington, plus another tinsmith working for him making sugaring utensils, and he was still making sap buckets in 1894. Did he sell only the stock to Payne & Robbins, and not the business? And why, on the above receipt, is the Payne, Robbins, & Co. name overprinted, and replaced by Homer Thompson's name? In February, 1894, the Payne Bros. of Cambridge leased the Ira Thorp store to put in a line of furniture and undertaker's goods (they advertised that embalming and care of the dead was a specialty, and that chairs could be furnished and all matters attended to). In connection with this line of business, they were also agents for flowers and artistic floral designs, which they could furnish on short notice. They also advertised a line of oil paintings and pastels. No definite record has been found of where this store was located, but on October 18, 1892, the local newspaper announced that Jim Wilbur had broken ground for a new store on the corner lot near the Methodist church, and by November 1st, the foundation for the new store was nearly completed, and the carpenters were to begin framing the building the next week. By the end of January, 1893, the building was ready for the shelves, and by the end of March it was nearly completed. Nothing further is known of this store, so it is likely that if Mr. Wilbur actually ran it, it only stayed in business a short time. On the side of the building in the photo on page 56 marked "Payne's first store?", it appears that the word "Paines" is on the building behind the boxcar, so the likely scenario is that the Paynes first opened their store in the building on Park Street, then expanded into or moved to the building beside the Methodist church. Will Payne was also advertising the U.S. Cream Separator, and anything in the line of dairy utensils, and the firm also offered a cattle de-horning service. Besides all their other businesses, in January, 1895, they advertised that Prof. C.E. Mudget, the occulist, would be at their store, and that all in need of spectacles should call and see him for a free examination, as he had done much work in town and guaranteed satisfaction. In late June, they had an experienced upholsterer at their store for a week, for those having chairs or lounges that needed new covers or springs. In September, 1895, Will Payne opened a barber shop in the Payne Bros. store. In November, 1896, J.B. Wilbur moved into the Thomas Thorp store recently vacated by Paine Bros., so it would appear that the store built by Wilbur in 1892 was owned by the Thorps and rented to the Paynes until that time. For the next year, regular advertisements appeared for the Underhill Cash Store, with J.B. Wilbur as manager, featuring boots, shoes, rubbers, overshoes, and leggings, in addition to a good line of hosiery, corsets and underwear, with more lines to be added. (This is the same location as the Grange hall that burned in the fire of August, 1906, so at some time in the intervening years the Grange took over



Grange Hall

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

Jewelry businesses

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

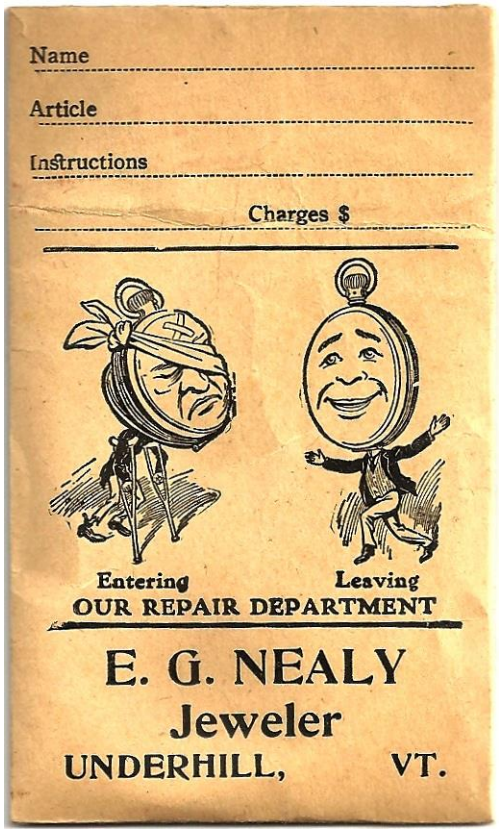
The Nealy Block

In 1892, Elbridge Nealy had established a jewelry business within B.W. York's store in Jericho Center, and in 1908, after further training in the business with Mr. Lowery of Burlington, he built a store on Park Street in Underhill Flats opposite the C.N. Stygles store, now 1 Depot Street. The 1893 picture above shows a building in this same



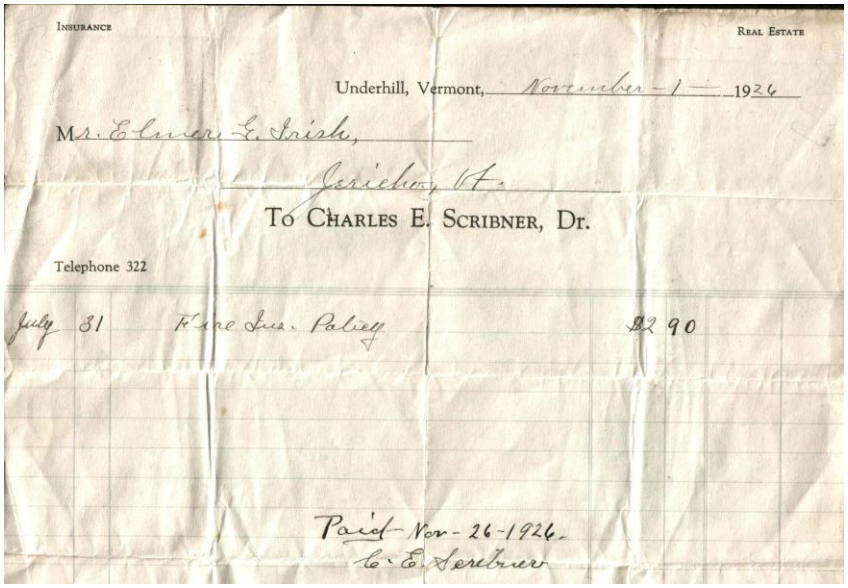
Park Street looking west – Nealy Block on right

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



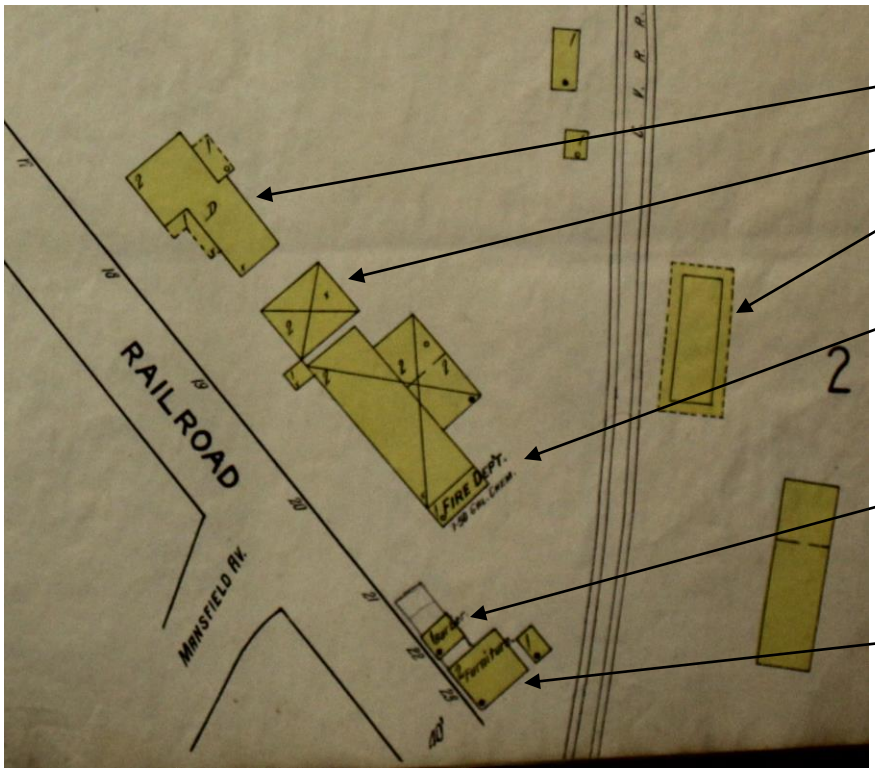


with the gable end facing the street, and just to the north of it was a small building separated from it by only a few feet, which was the barber shop of Frank Ladeau. In 1915, Mr. Nealy purchased additional land from Lee Howe, and about this time, the building was remodeled to the shape it has today,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



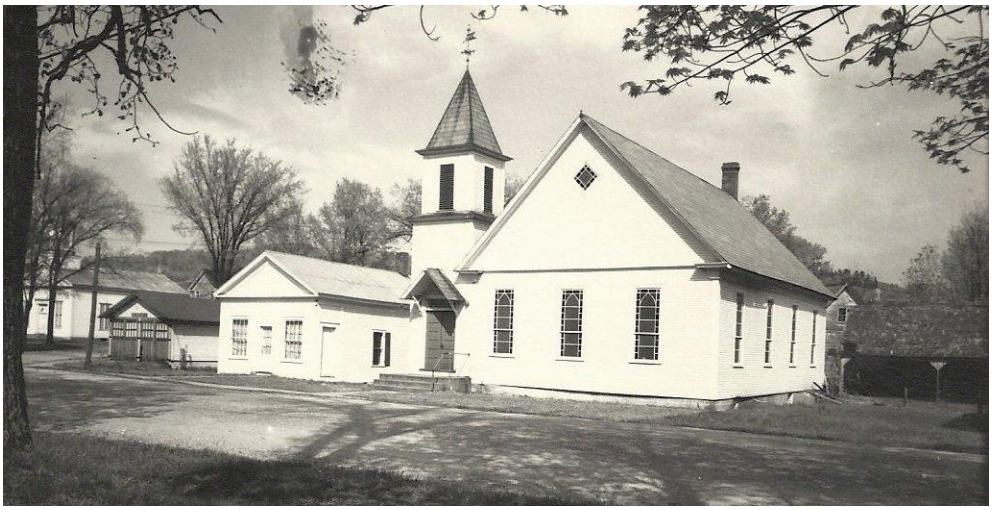
After Mr. Nealy's business closed in the mid-1930s, a variety store occupied the building for a time, and then Wiley Danforth used the store for several years in the late 1950s and early 1960s for his antiques and real estate businesses. It was then converted to apartments.

Underhill Fire Stations



1915 Sanborn Insurance Map

As shown on the above map, Underhill's first piece of firefighting equipment, listed on the map as a 50 gallon chemical tank, mounted on an axle and two wagon wheels, was housed in the end of the building northwest of the barber shop. (At that time, Park Street was known as Railroad Street, and G.A.R. Place was called Mansfield Ave.) After remodeling, the center part of Mr. Nealy's building, by now known as the Nealy Block, housed the fire equipment, which was used to fight fires only in the Flats-Riverside area. In 1918, money was raised by donations, celebrations, Field Days, ball games and dances, enabling the purchase of a Model T Ford one ton truck chassis, which was equipped with



Second Underhill Fire Station, on left beside Methodist parish house

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



Third Underhill Fire Station, under construction, 1952

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

The Mansfield Theatre

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



Mansfield Theatre

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

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

The Underhill Telephone System

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



Telephone Office, 10 Park Street



Alice King at the switchboard

The Burlington and Lamoille Railroad

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

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



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





The Underhill Station, about 1913

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

Maple Sugar

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

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



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

Stagecoach/bus service

Prior to 1827, a Mr. Burroughs drove the first stage from Essex through Underhill to Johnson, and in December, 1829, Roswell Butler of Essex was driving "nice yellow Concord coaches" drawn by four horses from Burlington through Underhill to Stanstead, Quebec. In winter, covered sleighs replaced the wheeled coaches. By the 1860s stages ran twice daily from Essex to the Halfway House on Mount Mansfield, stopping at the Dixon House for meals. And in the 1870s, George Howe, who owned a livery stable beside the Dixon House, at what is now 355 VT Rt. 15, also owned and ran the stage from Essex through Underhill to Johnson, including carrying the U.S. mail.

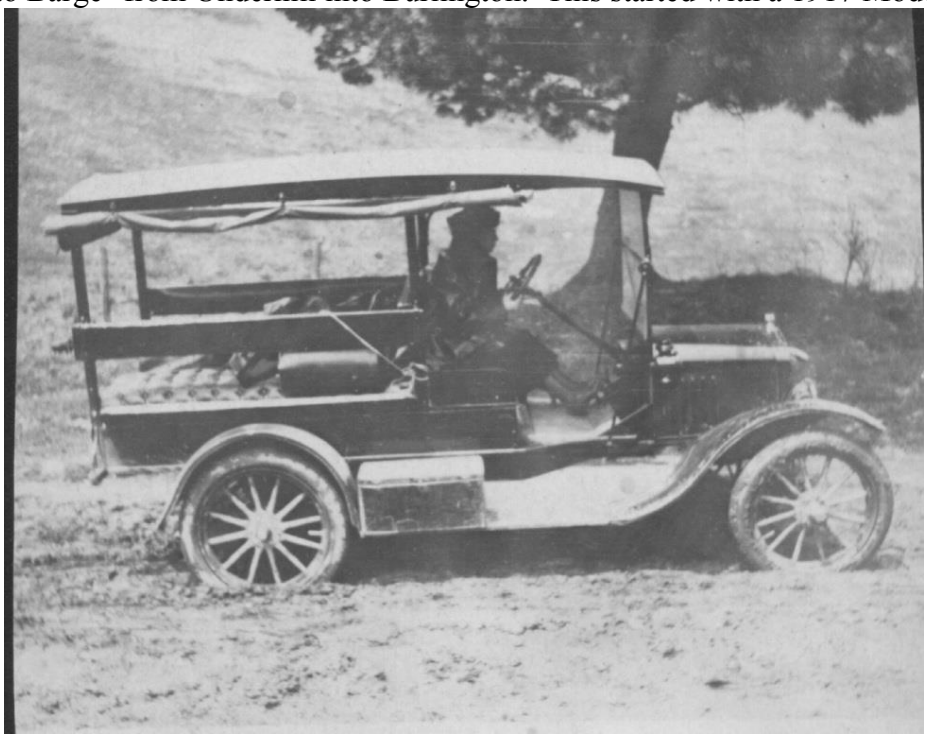


Stagecoach at the Bostwick House about 1870

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

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

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



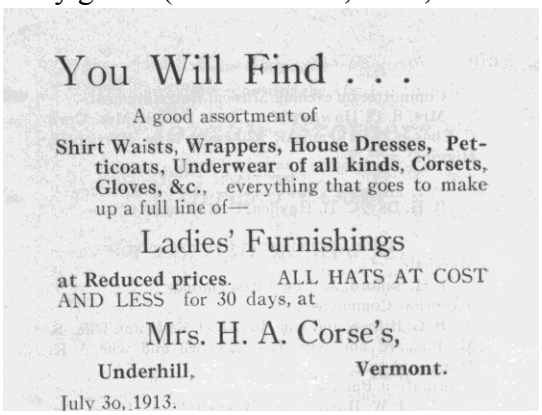
Guy Benedict's bus

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

Millinery & tailor shops

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

travelling salesman, in 1882 being listed as a wholesale milliner and dealer in millinery and fancy goods (and in March, 1896, he was in Rochester, Bethel and adjoining towns selling gloves and mittens), so apparently the couple ran the business together. Their son, Clinton Abbott was the Underhill station agent for the B&L for 37 years prior to his death in 1914. Mrs. Hattie Corse carried on a millinery business two houses south of the Academy in the Flats, now 409 VT Route 15, from about 1880 until just prior to her death in 1915. At least once per year, she would go to New York City to purchase the latest in millinery goods - for example, in the spring of 1891, she returned with hats, bonnets, and trimmings, a complete line of ladies and children's gauze and muslin underwear, skirts, night robes, hosiery, infants' dresses and cloaks, corsets, kid and silk gloves, mitts, belts, handkerchiefs and ladies cloaks.


You Will Find . . .

A good assortment of

Shirt Waists, Wrappers, House Dresses, Petticoats, Underwear of all kinds, Corsets, Gloves, &c., everything that goes to make up a full line of—

Ladies' Furnishings

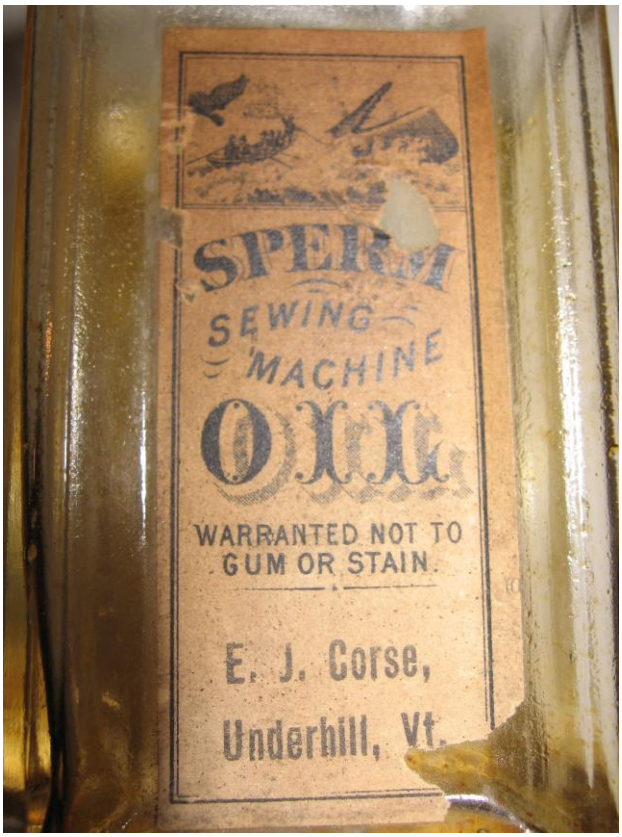
at Reduced prices. ALL HATS AT COST AND LESS for 30 days, at

Mrs. H. A. Corse's,

Underhill, Vermont.

July 30, 1913.

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





Hattie and Ed Corse

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

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

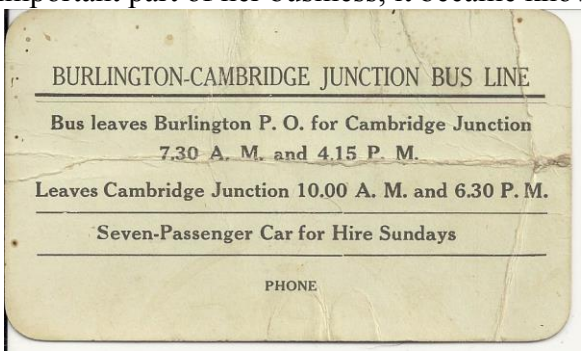


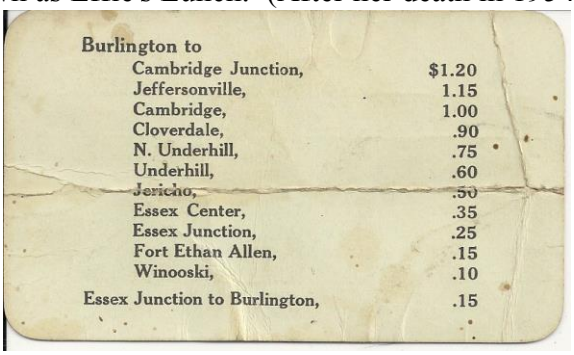
Effie's Lunch & Bus Terminal



Effie and Charlie Reynolds

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







Underhill Post Office at 406 VT Rt.15

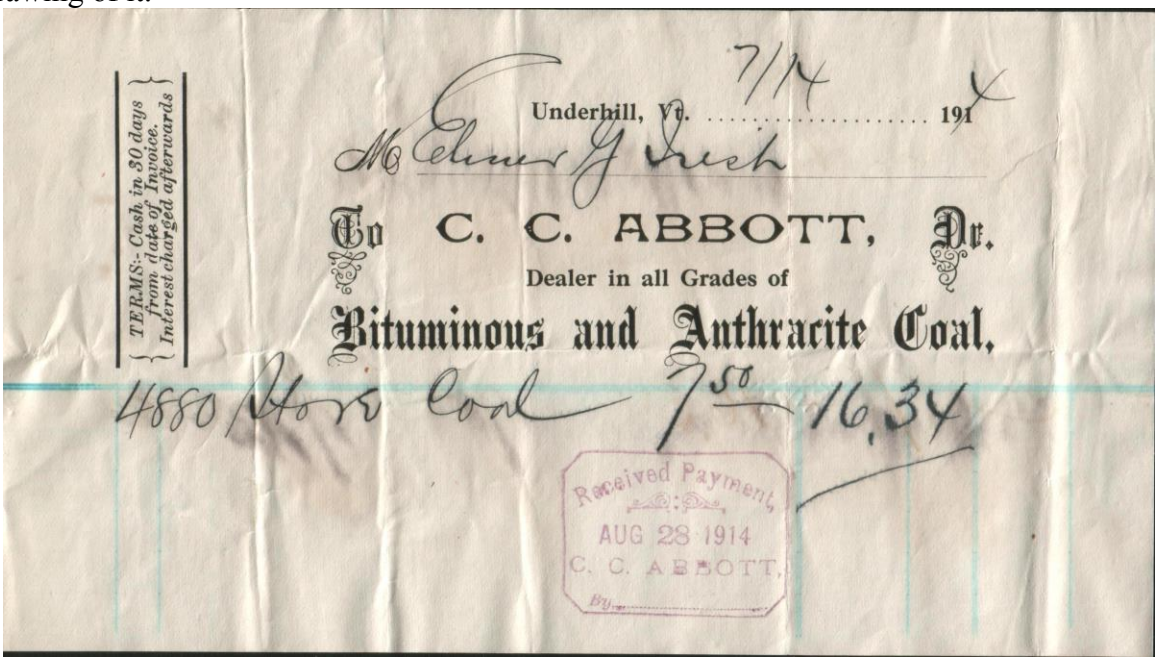
house was purchased by Elwood Clark, who had it torn down to expand his truck dealership.) Her husband, Charles Reynolds was a tailor, and was the proprietor of the Underhill Tailor Shop, located in the rear portion of the house and offering first class custom

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

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

Coal dealers

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


TERMS:- Cash in 30 days from date of Invoice. Interest charged afterwards

Underhill, Vt. 7/14 1914

Mr Elmer G Irish

To C. C. ABBOTT, Dr.

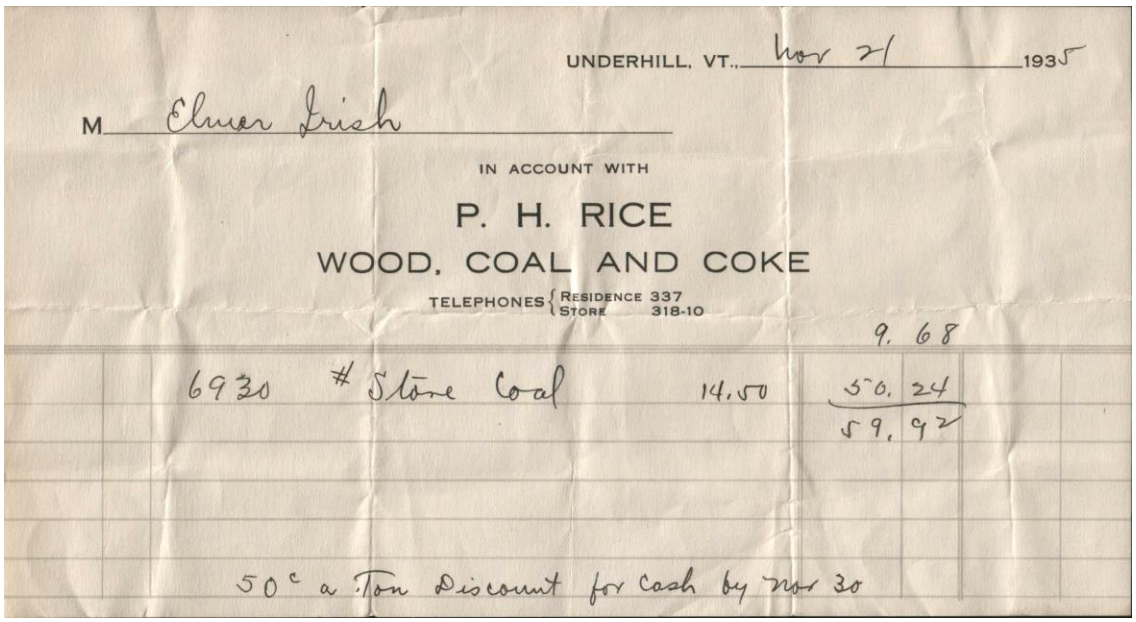
Dealer in all Grades of

Bituminous and Anthracite Coal.

4880 Store Coal 7.50 16.34

Received Payment
AUG 28 1914
C. C. ABBOTT,
By

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



UNDERHILL, VT., Nov 21 1935

M Elmer Irish

IN ACCOUNT WITH

P. H. RICE

WOOD, COAL AND COKE

TELEPHONES { RESIDENCE 337 / STORE 318-10

			9. 68
6930	# Stove Coal	14.50	50. 24
			59. 92

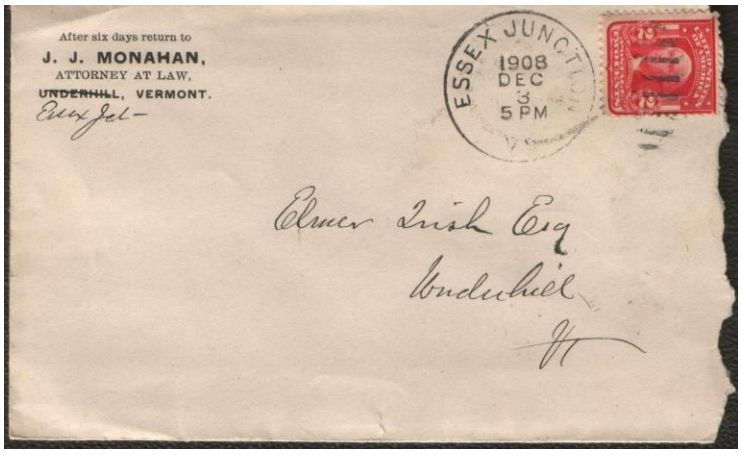
50¢ a Ton Discount for Cash by Nov 30

Lawyers

About 1821, a young man by the name of Bacon tried to practice law in Underhill, but he lasted only a short time. Later, a firm known as Sawyer & Beardsley had a law office here, but that also was short lived. From the 1870s until around 1900, John J. Monahan, who lived at 414 VT Rt. 15, across from the Academy building, carried on a law practice, having his law office in the ell, and was as well the school superintendent and, from 1877 to 1899, town clerk. From about 1885 to 1896, the post office was also located here and he was the postmaster. J.J. Monahan was a Civil War veteran, having served as a private in Co. F of the 1st US Sharpshooters, and was very active in the G.A.R. after the war. In addition, for a number of years when living in Burlington, Monahan had been associated with John Lonergan in the Fenian movement then popular in the area. He had given speeches and been toastmaster at several Fenian meetings, as well as leading one secret meeting, and while



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



After six days return to
J. J. MONAHAN,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
~~UNDERHILL~~, VERMONT.

ESSEX JUNCTION 1908 DEC 3 5 PM

Elmer Irish Esq
Underhill

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

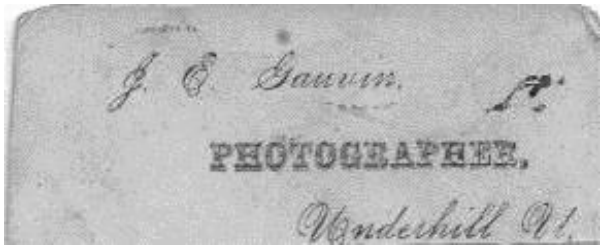
In the late 1800s A.C. Dixon had a law office in the Brick Store. Other lawyers were A.C. Benedict in the 1870s and E.W. Thorp in the 1880s.

Butcher shops

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

Photographers

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

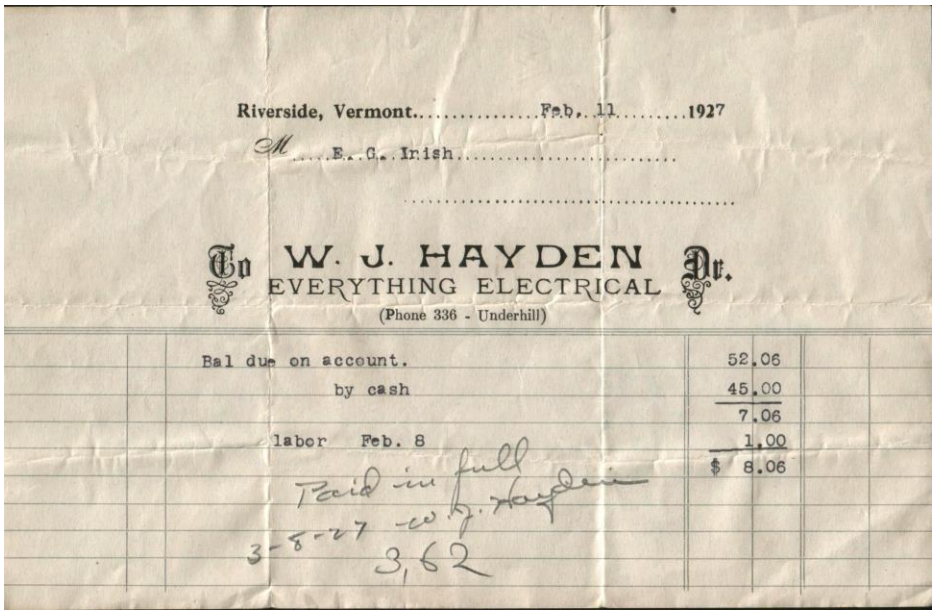


$250. This appears to be a movable photographic studio which he apparently used in his business, although it is curious as to why something movable, and in Bolton, was recorded in the Jericho land records.

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

Electricians & Plumbers

In the 1920s, Wendell Hayden carried on an electrical business in Riverside. In the 1940s, Stanley Hoag, who lived at 10 G.A.R. Place, opposite the GAR Hall, carried on a similar business, and after spending several years in Connecticut, he returned to Underhill in 1955 and continued the business with his daughter, Grace, who also repaired radios. Claude Potvin, who lived just north of Effie's Lunch at 403 VT Rt. 15, carried on a plumbing business for many years around this time, at least through 1963. He enclosed the porch on his house for a showroom for appliances which he also sold. For a number of years, Ferdinand Comtois worked with him, and then succeeded to the business


Riverside, Vermont..... Feb. 11 1927

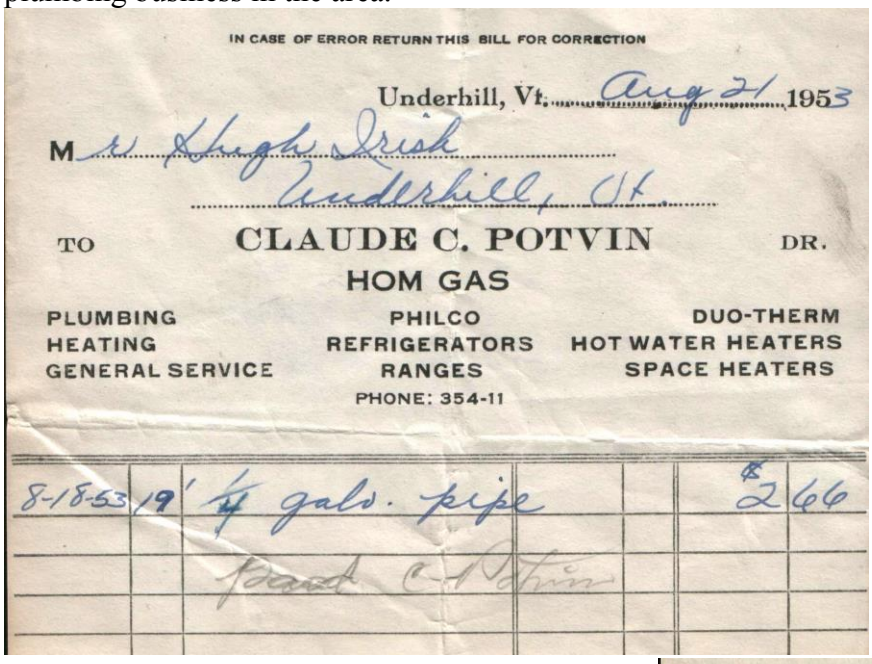
M ....E. C. Irish.....

To W. J. HAYDEN Dr.
EVERYTHING ELECTRICAL
(Phone 336 - Underhill)

Bal due on account.	52.06
by cash	45.00
	7.06
labor Feb. 8	1.00
	$ 8.06

Paid in full
3-8-27 -W.J. Hayden
3,62

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



IN CASE OF ERROR RETURN THIS BILL FOR CORRECTION

Underhill, Vt. Aug 21 1953

M Mr & Mrs Hugh Irish
Underhill, Vt.

TO CLAUDE C. POTVIN DR.

HOM GAS

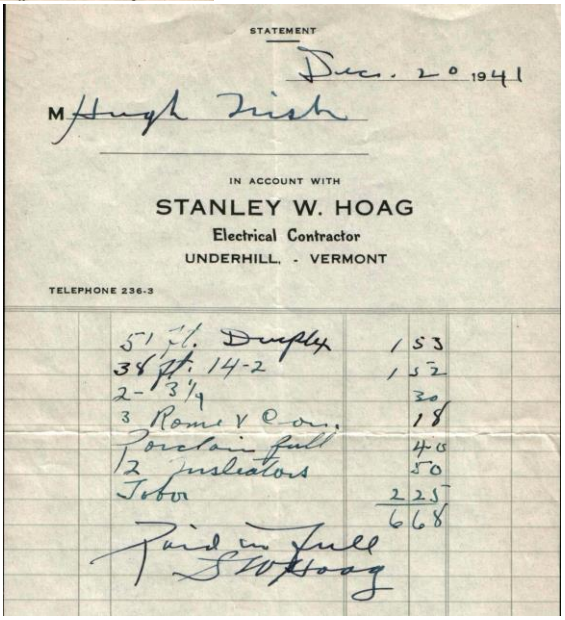
PLUMBING
HEATING
GENERAL SERVICE

PHILCO
REFRIGERATORS
RANGES

DUO-THERM
HOT WATER HEATERS
SPACE HEATERS

PHONE: 354-11

8-18-53	19	¼ gals. pipe	$2 66
		Paid C. Potvin	



STATEMENT

Dec. 20 1941

M Hugh Irish

IN ACCOUNT WITH

STANLEY W. HOAG

Electrical Contractor

UNDERHILL, - VERMONT

TELEPHONE 236-3

51 ft. Duplex		1 53
38 ft. 14-2		1 52
2- 3¼		30
3 Romex Conn.		18
Porcelain fuse		40
2 insulators		50
Labor		2 25
		6 68

Paid in Full
S W Hoag

Newspapers

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

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

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

Miscellaneous Businesses

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

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



Dedication of the new post office, November, 1960

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bicycles

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

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

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



W.C. "Bill" Bailey

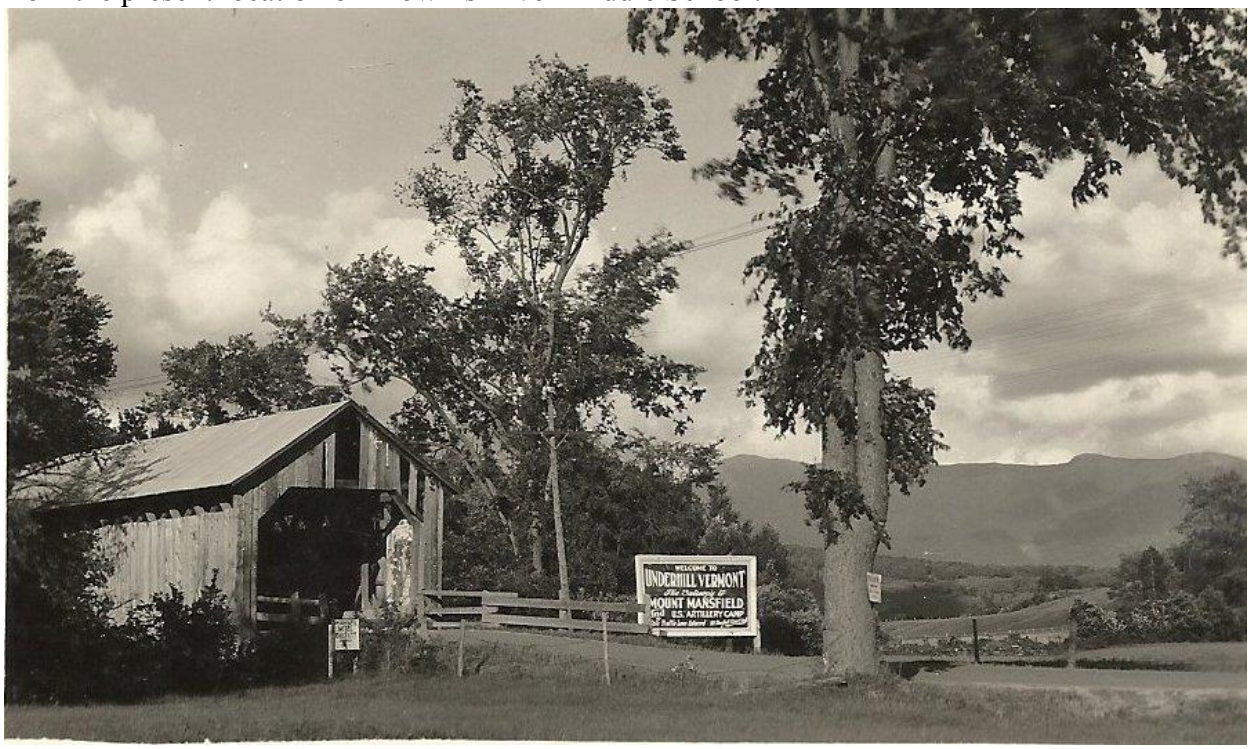


Mr. Bailey's funeral in the Underhill Methodist church

The Underhill water system

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

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



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

Rooming houses

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

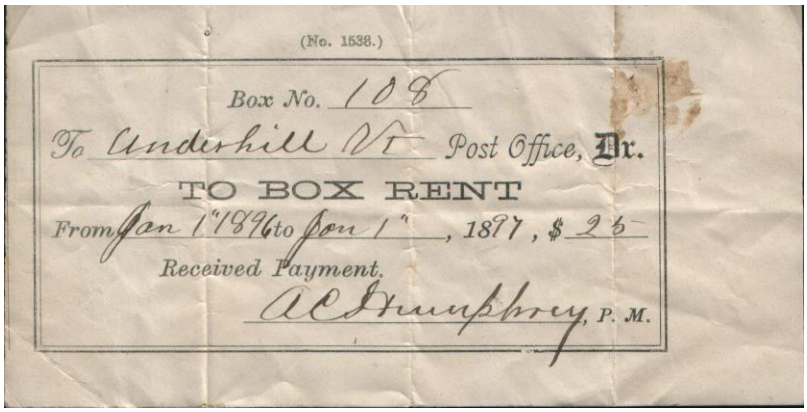
For the many hikers who ascended Mt. Mansfield, the carriage road to the site of the old Halfway House was improved with turnouts to accommodate automobiles. (By 1925, a cottage had been built there, and was being enlarged for the reception of guests.) In addition, in the early 1920s, Edwin Henry, Underhill's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

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

Underhill Libraries

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

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


(No. 1538.)

Box No. 108

To Underhill Vt Post Office, Dr.

TO BOX RENT

From Jan 1st 1896 to Jan 1st, 1897, $ 2 50

Received Payment.

A C Humphrey, P. M.

By 1896 the building was remodeled in preparation for the Underhill post office moving into it (J.J. Monahan had been postmaster for 11 years, but in 1896, with the election of McKinley, a Republican, to succeed Cleveland, a Democrat, the Collector of Customs in Burlington appointed A.C. Humphrey postmaster and he immediately moved the post office to his building). While books continued to be added, nothing further is known about the location of the library. However, in January, 1907, the property was sold to the Grange, and also early in 1907 it was reported that the Underhill Library Association decided to divide the books belonging to the association among the remaining shareholders, so it is entirely possible that the library remained in this building until that time, when the association was dissolved. It had been voted at the 1903 Underhill town meeting to establish a public town library, and when the books of the Underhill Library Association were divided, two of the shareholders offered to sell their portion of the books to the new town library, adding a total of 140 books to the town library's collection, which was located in Underhill Center.

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

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



The Waters Memorial Library

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

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

Grand Army of the Republic

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

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



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

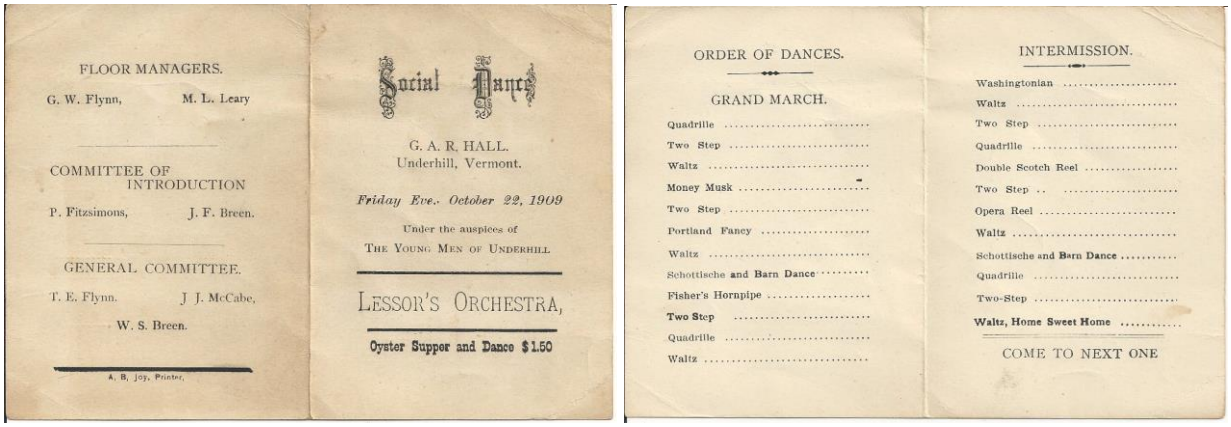
Finally, on September 11th, all was ready for the dedication of the new hall, and the Post went all out in doing so. The day started with the flag raising, on the pole on the front of the hall donated by Thomas Thorp. The rest of the morning was taken up with field sports, followed by dinner in the Post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

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



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

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



FLOOR MANAGERS.

G. W. Flynn, M. L. Leary

COMMITTEE OF INTRODUCTION

P. Fitzsimons, J. F. Breen.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

T. E. Flynn. J. J. McCabe,

W. S. Breen.

A. B. Joy, Printer.

Social Dance

G. A. R. HALL.
Underhill, Vermont.

Friday Eve., October 22, 1909

Under the auspices of
THE YOUNG MEN OF UNDERHILL

LESSOR'S ORCHESTRA,

Oyster Supper and Dance $1.50

ORDER OF DANCES.

GRAND MARCH.

Quadrille .....
Two Step .....
Waltz .....
Money Musk .....
Two Step .....
Portland Fancy .....
Waltz .....
Schottische and Barn Dance .....
Fisher's Hornpipe .....
Two Step .....
Quadrille .....
Waltz .....

INTERMISSION.

Washingtonian .....
Waltz .....
Two Step .....
Quadrille .....
Double Scotch Reel .....
Two Step .. ..
Opera Reel .....
Waltz .....
Schottische and Barn Dance .....
Quadrille .....
Two-Step .....
Waltz, Home Sweet Home .....

COME TO NEXT ONE

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

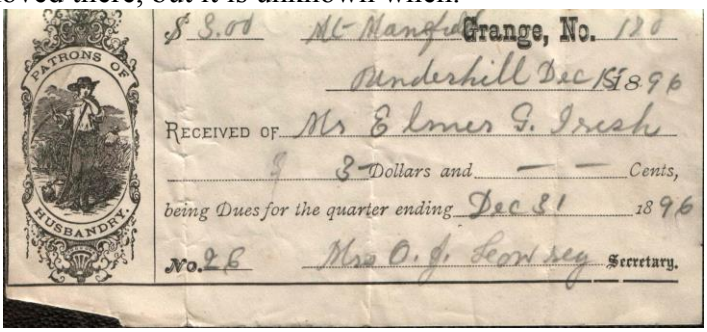
Mrs. Medora Schweig, daughter of Dr. Arthur Burdick, attended art schools in New York City, and also studied dramatics. When back in Underhill, she assisted with plays presented at the Hall, including 'The Chronothanatoletron' in March of 1896, for which, according to the local newspaper, she planned costumes in exquisite styles as well as drilling the ladies to do their parts well. As often was the case, the play followed a supper, which the ladies served in Colonial style, the cost of both being 25 cents. After her husband's death in1898, she returned to Underhill to live, and for many years she coached local youths in plays she produced in the G.A.R. Hall, when it was the center of the social life of this and surrounding towns. She was actress, producer, coach, wardrobe mistress, and make-up artist. Being an excellent needlewoman, she made many of the costumes, as well as painting much of the scenery, and was even handy with the carpentry work needed to build sets. Much of the scenery she created was used into the 1940s. About 1956, Doris Ward taught a group of young people how to square dance, culminating in a program given at the Hall for their parents and friends. For many years, graduation exercises for both the Underhill ID and Underhill High School students were held at the G.A.R. Hall, until at least 1956, when the graduation speaker for the eighth grade class was Judge Edward J. Costello of Burlington.

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

Mount Mansfield Grange

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





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

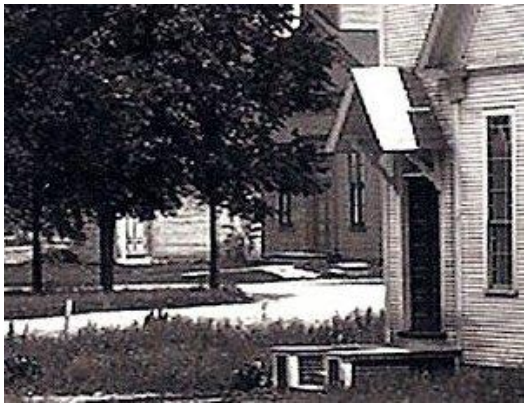
Grange #524 was organized in Underhill February 6, 1935 by H.A. Stoddard. In July, 1937, they purchased the former KP Hall, which they had shared, from the Knights of Pythias. They sold the hall to Harold Brown in May, 1942, and ceased operations in 1944, but were reorganized in 1949.



Original Congregational Chapel



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



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



After being moved beside the Methodist Church

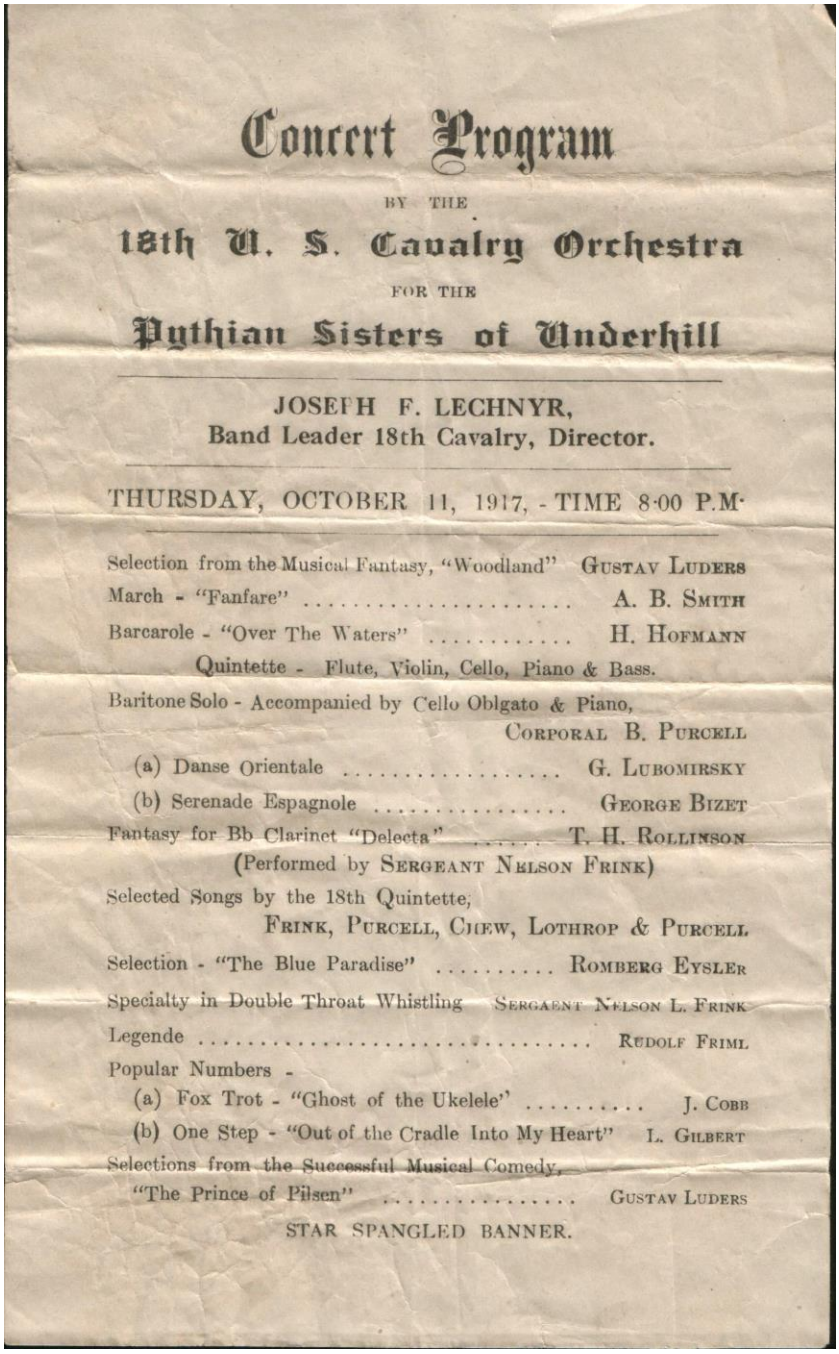
Knights of Pythias

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

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

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

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



Concert Program

BY THE

18th U. S. Cavalry Orchestra

FOR THE

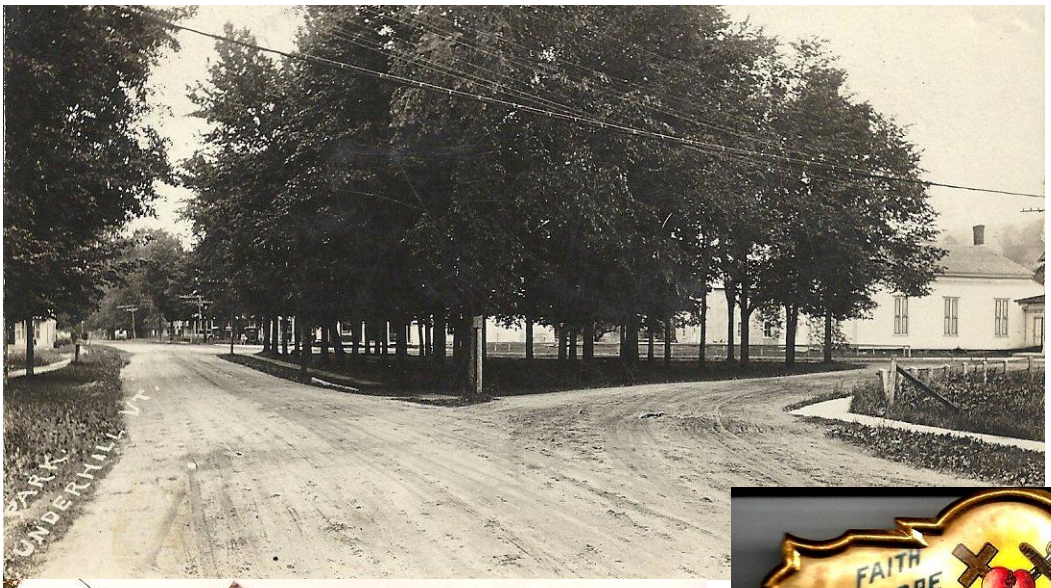
Pythian Sisters of Underhill

JOSEPH F. LECHNYR,
Band Leader 18th Cavalry, Director.

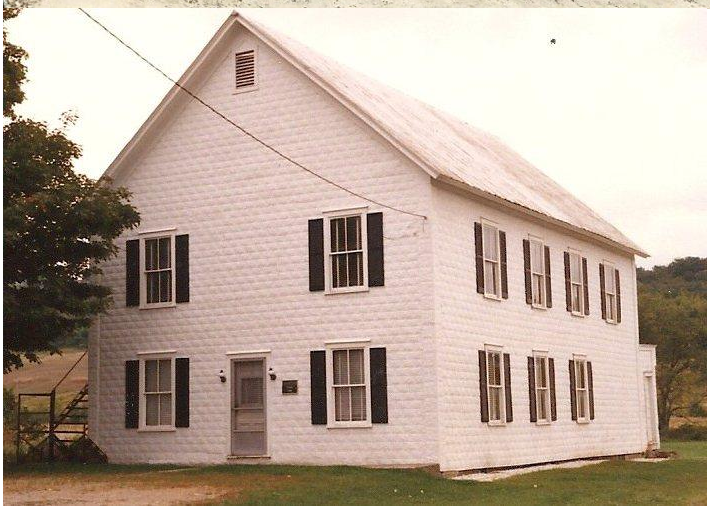
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1917, - TIME 8:00 P.M.

Selection from the Musical Fantasy, "Woodland" GUSTAV LUDERS
March - "Fanfare" ..... A. B. SMITH
Barcarole - "Over The Waters" ..... H. HOFMANN
Quintette - Flute, Violin, Cello, Piano & Bass.
Baritone Solo - Accompanied by Cello Oblgato & Piano,
CORPORAL B. PURCELL
(a) Danse Orientale ..... G. LUBOMIRSKY
(b) Serenade Espagnole ..... GEORGE BIZET
Fantasy for Bb Clarinet "Delecta" ..... T. H. ROLLINSON
(Performed by SERGEANT NELSON FRINK)
Selected Songs by the 18th Quintette,
FRINK, PURCELL, CHEW, LOTHROP & PURCELL
Selection - "The Blue Paradise" ..... ROMBERG EYSLER
Specialty in Double Throat Whistling SERGEANT NELSON L. FRINK
Legende ..... RUDOLF FRIML
Popular Numbers -
(a) Fox Trot - "Ghost of the Ukelele" ..... J. COBB
(b) One Step - "Out of the Cradle Into My Heart" L. GILBERT
Selections from the Successful Musical Comedy,
"The Prince of Pilsen" ..... GUSTAV LUDERS
STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

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



Underhill Flats park with Knights of Pythias Hall in distance



Gifford Funeral Home, about 1970



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

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

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

Underhill Congregational church

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



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



Congregational church (right) and chapel (left)

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

Calvary Episcopal church

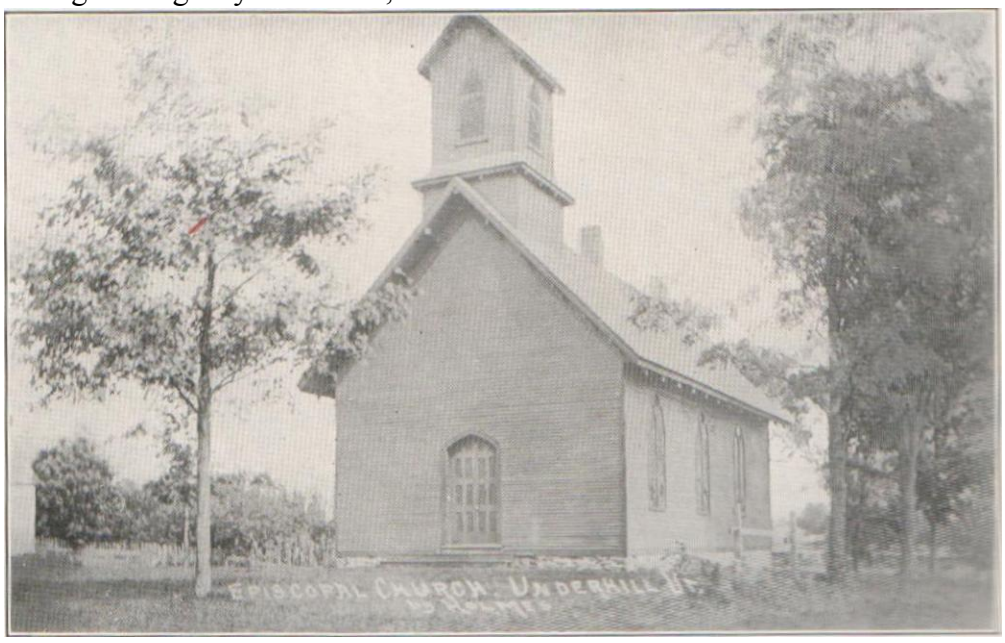
The Bostwick family, along with the Brown and Castle families, were all members of the Episcopal Church, and the first record of any service in the area was a baptism performed at the house of Joseph Brown Sr. in 1789 by the Rev. Reuben Garlic of Alburgh, VT. This same year lay services were held in the log school house located at the corner of Route 15 and Brown's Trace in Riverside, with Jonathan Castle and Timothy Brown acting as lay readers. Jonathan Castle lived across the road from the school, at what is now 287 VT Route 15, where by 1784 he kept a tavern. During the 1790s, the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden came once in four weeks and held services in the school house, what was known as the Church Street school, until in 1796 the Rev. Garlic moved to the area to live.



Church Street school house, about 1870

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

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



remaining to be raised in order to erect a church building, and she conceived a plan to buy a knitting machine which she used to make the tubing for socks, with the legs to be put out among the church families to be footed. Through these efforts, a large amount was raised towards the completion of the church and the first service was held in the church on May 20, 1856, although the building was not completed. The first service after the completion of the building was at Christmas, 1856. Polly Bostwick just lived to see its completion, and her funeral was the first held in the church, on January 3, 1857, conducted by Rt. Rev. S.H. Hopkins.

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

Leisure activities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

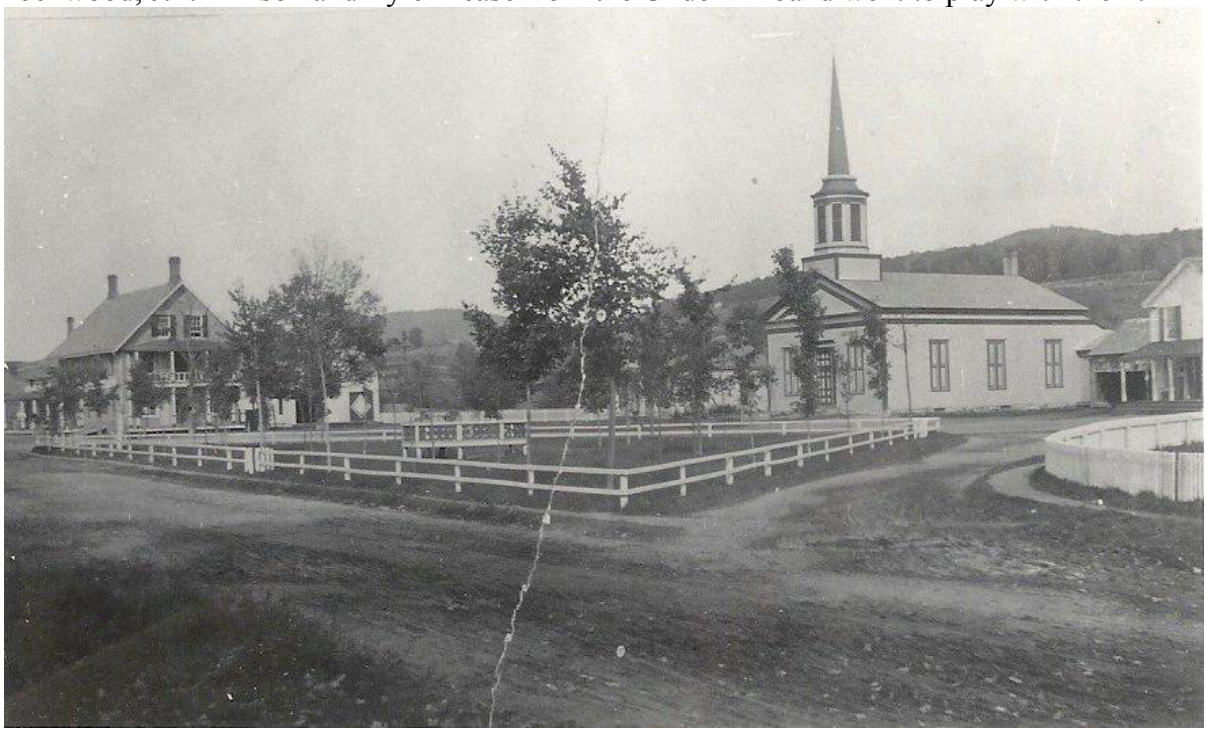




The Underhill Citizens Band

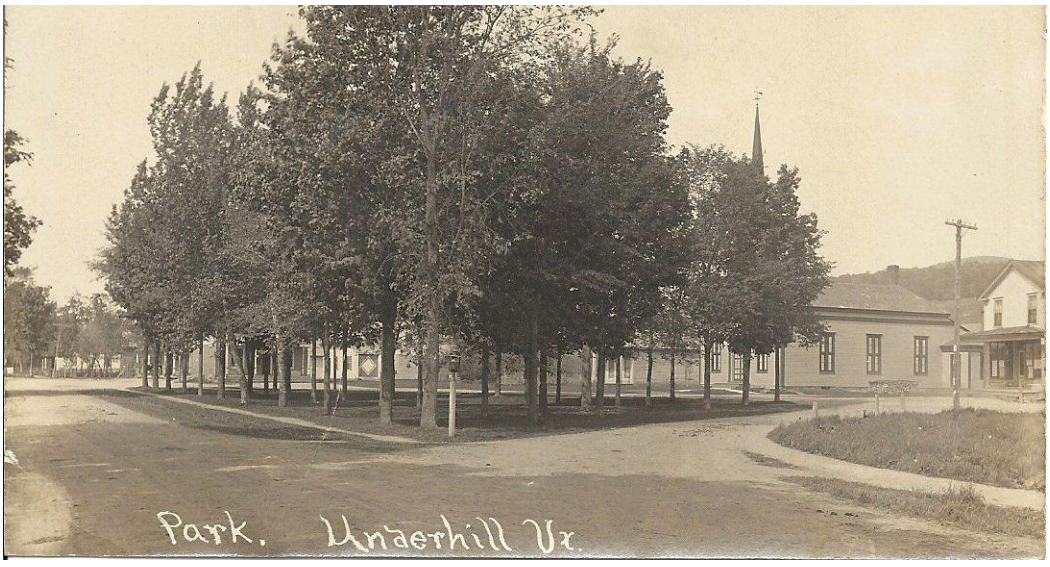
In the mid-1880s the Underhill Citizens Band was formed in the Flats, practicing at the Academy every Wednesday evening. They often played in return for donations to support their group. For example, in November, 1886, they played at the Beach House in Jericho Corners (and were said to have played well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

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

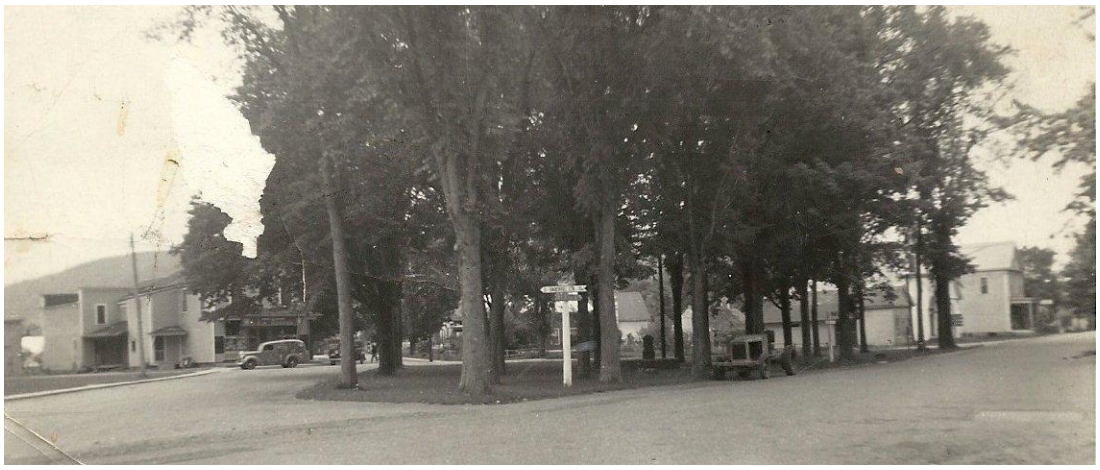


Bandstand and fence around park about 1888

In the spring of 1888 a bandstand was erected in the park in the Flats, along with a fence enclosing the park. Due to the efforts of S.A. Hale, the work was completed in time for use during the Decoration Day celebration. Over the next few years, the band often gave concerts here during the summer months. In the summer of 1894, funds were being raised to repair the bandstand and paint the fence.



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



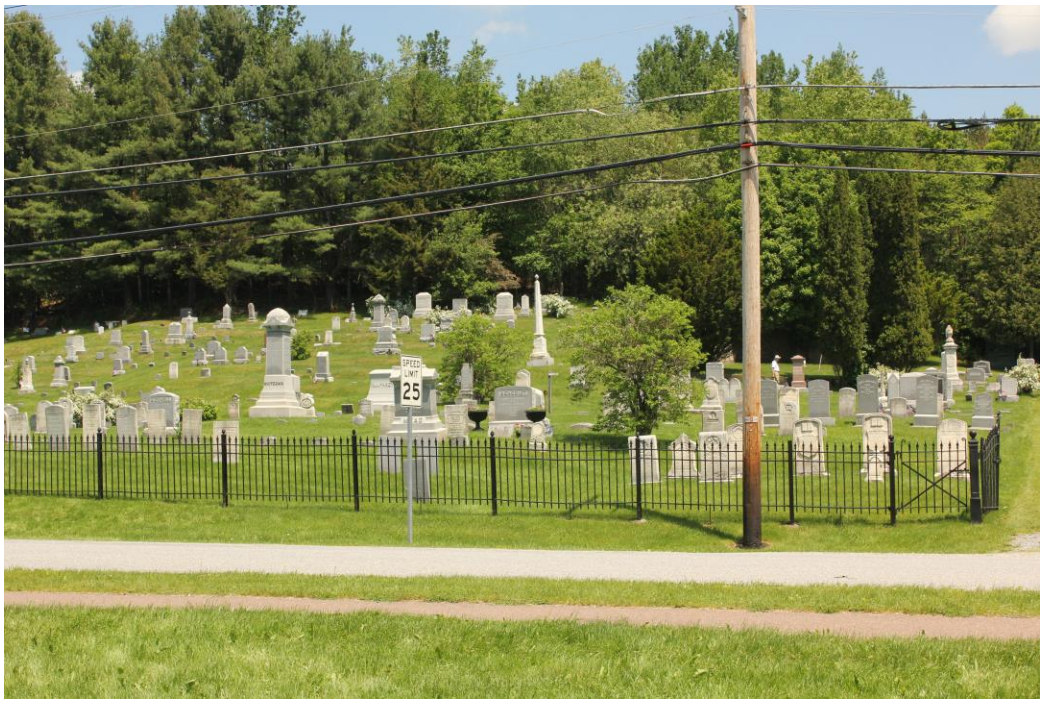
About 1937, the cobblestone fountain which is in the park today was built, and it was also about this time that the granite G.A.R. monument was erected in the park. That monument was in turn replaced in the 1950s with the one standing there today after the original one was struck by an automobile and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

Holiday Celebrations

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



Cemetery on Park Street, May 30, 1911

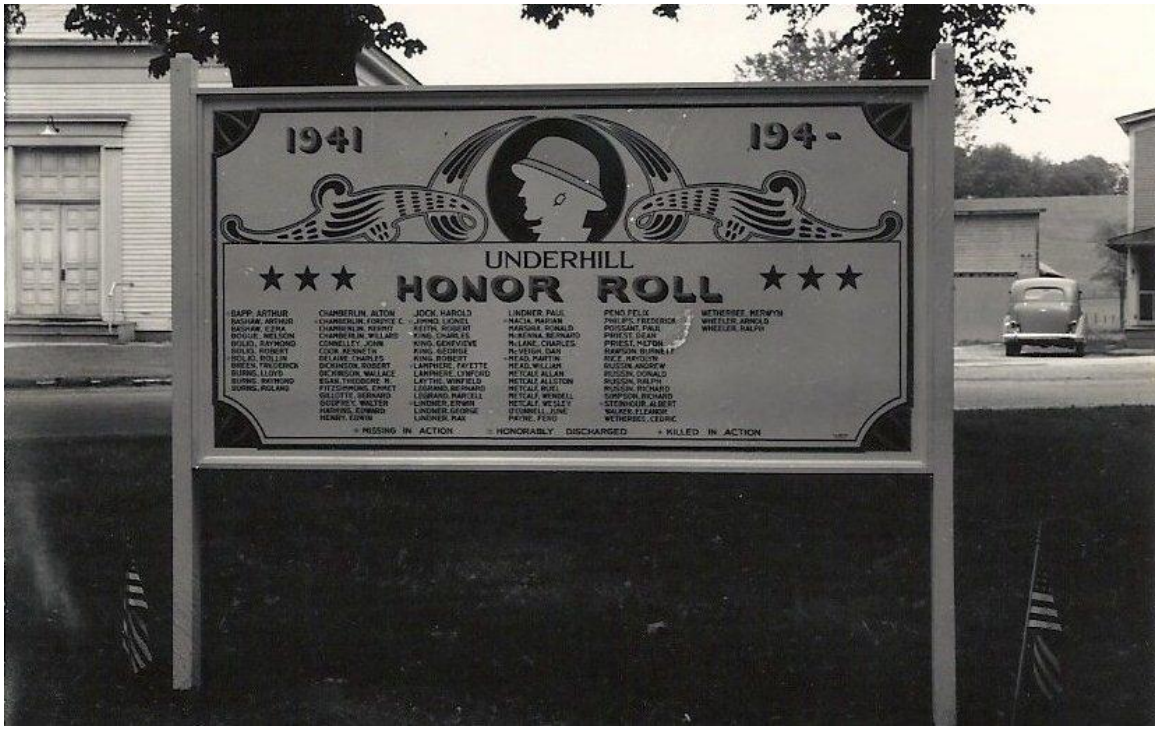


Cemetery on Park Street, May 30, 2011

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



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

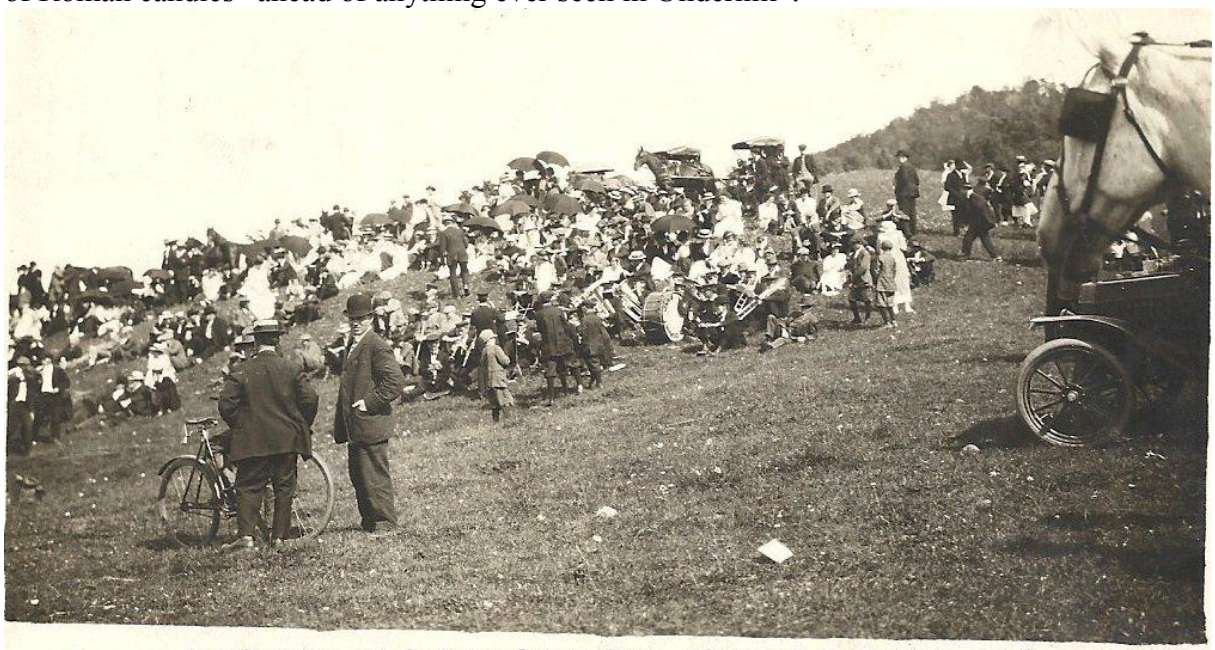


Underhill Honor Roll, erected in park in 1941



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

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



Celebration of Independence Day, 1915, at Underhill, Vt.”

Accidents and unusual happenings

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

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

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

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

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

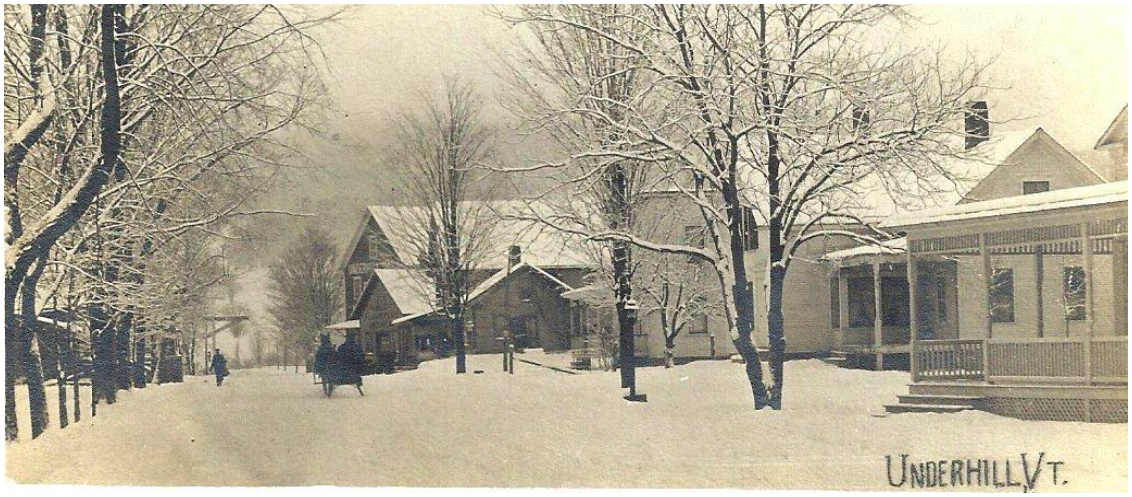




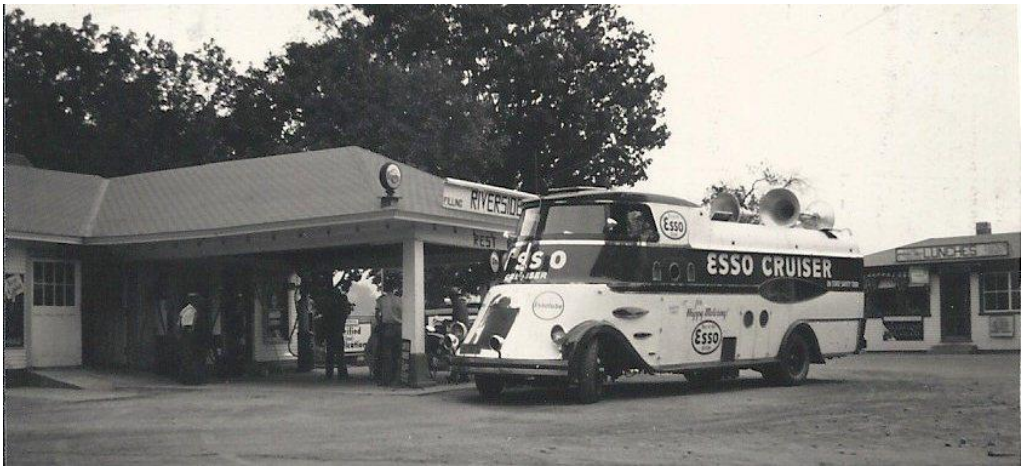
Miscellaneous Underhill photos



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



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



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



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



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



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



Route 15 looking north from the Brick Store, about 1915



Paving Route 15 in front of the Brick Store, 1936



Halfway House – June, 1867



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



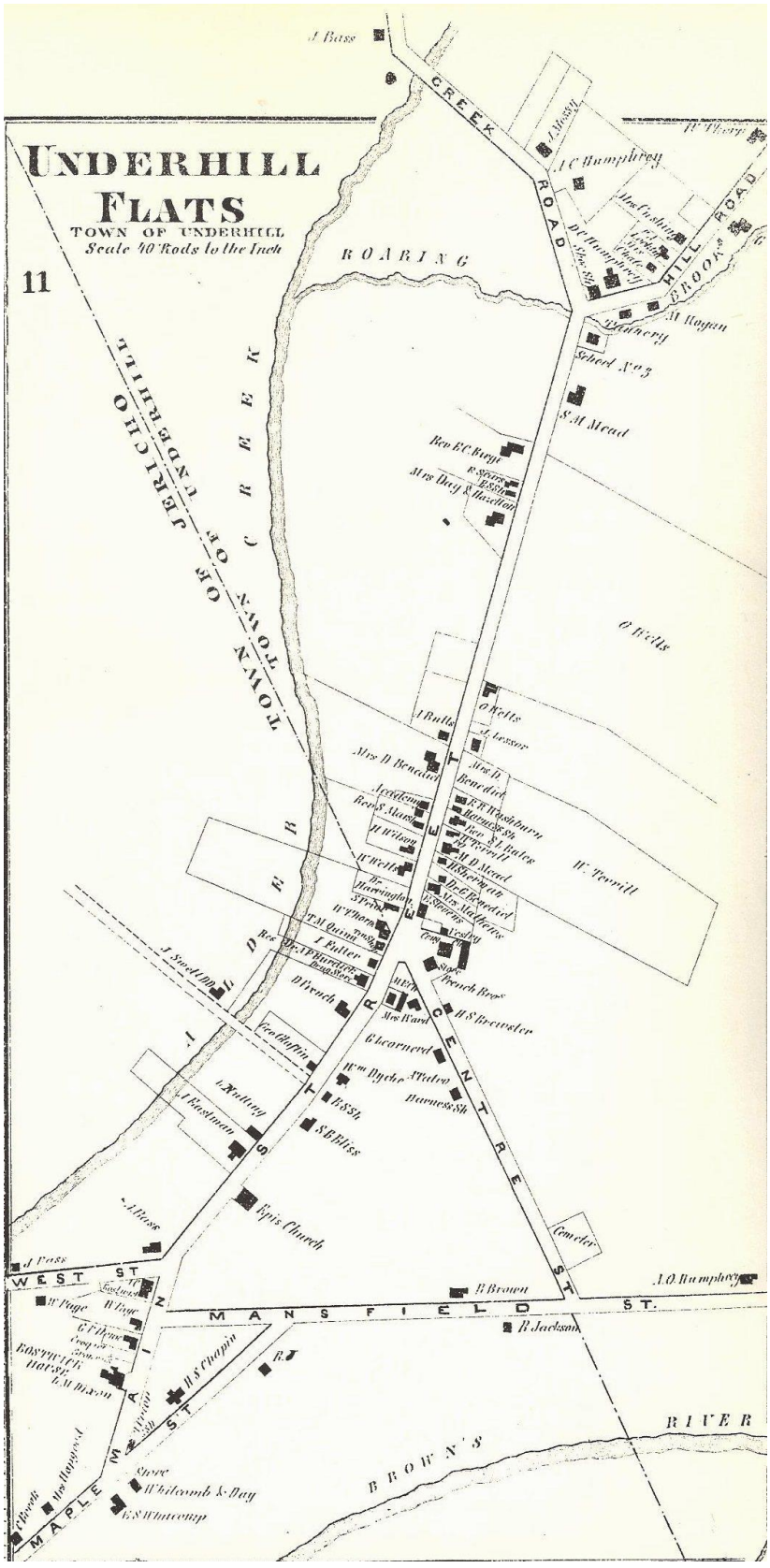
Same view as above photo in 2011, now location of Jolley's store



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



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


UNDERHILL
FLATS
TOWN OF UNDERHILL
Scale 40 Rods to the Inch
11
ROARING
CREEK
TOWN OF JERICHO
TOWN OF UNDERHILL
BROOK'S HILL ROAD
CREEK ROAD
CENTRE ST
WEST ST
MANSFIELD ST.
MAPLE ST
RIVER
BROWN'S
Epis Church
Cemetery
POST OFFICE
HOUSE
Store
Mrs Ward
Mrs Hayward
Mrs Mathews
Mrs Dyche
Mrs Hayward
Mrs Hayward
Mrs Hayward

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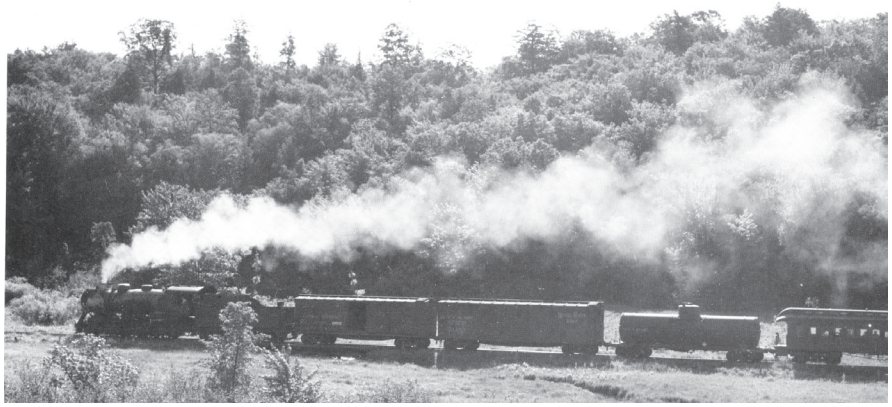
Jerry Fox
Dr. Mary Kintner
Kathleen Lamphere
Jane Maheux
Bob Martelle
Rick Middlebrook
Diane St. Cyr
David Villeneuve
Sarah White

BURLINGTON
&
LAMOILLE RAILROAD
in
UNDERHILL, VERMONT
1875-1938

Stanton Hamlet

2008



Burlington & Lamoille Railroad

~~Railroad Fever

At the conclusion of the Civil War railroad fever hit the United States. It seemed that every community, large or small, had expectations of a railroad connection to the outside world. Underhill, Vermont was no exception.

On February 24, 1875, the Burlington & Lamoille Railroad was granted a charter to build a line to connect the Rutland Railroad at Burlington with the Central Vermont Railway at Essex Junction and also the newly constructed Portland & Ogdensburg Railroad's Vermont Division at Cambridge Junction, (Jeffersonville). The Burlington & Lamoille was viewed as Burlington's second rail outlet to the world, thus providing competition to the Central Vermont and its lessee, the Rutland Railroad. In addition to through traffic that would be interchanged at Burlington, Essex Junction, and Cambridge Junction, the promoters of the line envisioned handling considerable traffic of locally-produced agricultural and forest products.

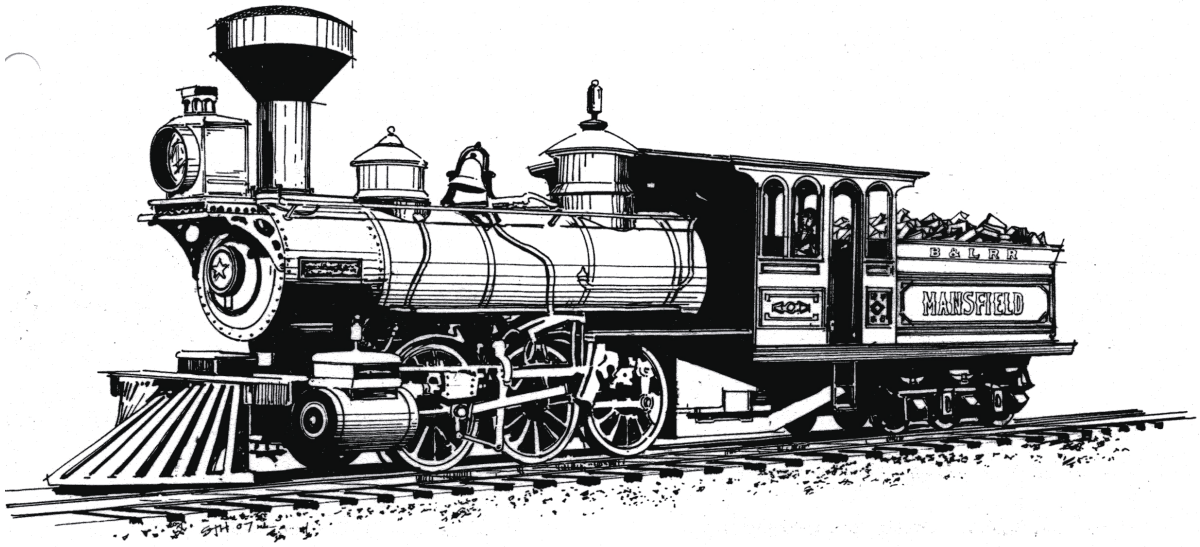
Key promoters of the B&L included Horace Fairbanks of Fairbanks-Morse fame, D.C. Linsley, civil engineer who later was the builder of the New York City subway system, William Hatch, stockbroker in New York City, and A.C. Spaulding, a highly regarded Burlington banker. Other promoters came from towns adjoining the line. Underhill had three appointed commissioners: A.C, Humphrey, L.F. Terrill, and William C. Naramore.

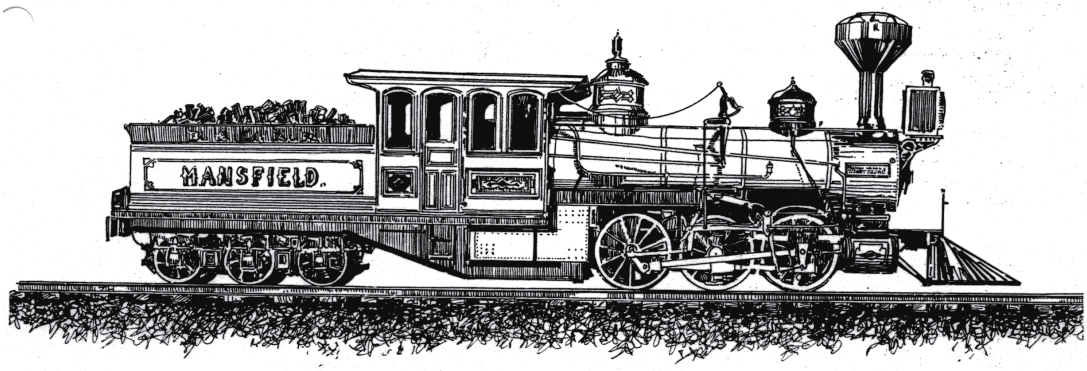
Voters in Underhill agreed to bond the town to an amount of three times the Grand List towards building the railroad. Much discussion within the town occurred about building the line to Underhill Center and on through, up and over, Pleasant Valley to Cambridge. This, of course, was never really considered as it was cost prohibitive. Later, discussion ensued about only building a branch line to Underhill Center. This, likewise, never happened.

Ground was broken in May of 1875 and completion of the Burlington to Cambridge Junction 34.6 mile line took place in June of 1877. During its first 12 years the Burlington & Lamoille functioned as an independent railroad, all the time maintaining a friendly working relationship with the Central Vermont Railroad. However, the B&L RR defaulted on its bond payments and was soon leased to the Central Vermont for 95 years beginning in May of 1889.

Two of the B&L's earliest locomotives were of unusual configuration. The two were Forneys – that is the engine and tender were built on a single frame. Engine Lamoille was a 2-4-6T, and its sister Mansfield was an 0-6-6T (see sketch). The locomotives were wood burners built by Mason Machine Works out of Taunton, Mass.







'MANSFIELD'
B&L Woodburning Locomotive 0-6-6-T Mason Machine Works, Taunton, Massachusetts
(Drawing by Stanton Hamlet 2008)

For some 60 years (1877-1937), Underhill enjoyed relatively good passenger service. Passengers boarded at a flag stop at Riverside, a full-fledged station in the Flats, and at another flag stop at North Underhill in their efforts to travel to Burlington or to Cambridge Junction for connecting trains to Montreal or Portland, Maine. Freight-wise the railroad carried mail, transported cattle, sheep, milk, butter, maple sugar and maple syrup in barrels. Lumber from several Underhill sawmills was also shipped to the huge lumber yards on the Lake Champlain waterfront in Burlington. In the middle-late 1800's nearly five million board feet of lumber was shipped from the Underhill station in the Flats, along with some 60,000 pounds of butter and some 15,000 pounds of potatoes.

Perhaps one of the B&L's finest moments occurred in 1906 when a special train with a Burlington fire engine aboard raced to aid Underhill to put out a fire that threatened to destroy the Flats. The time of the trip was 35 minutes. However, it is understood that the fire was under control by the time the train arrived, thanks to the fine efforts of the Underhill bucket brigade.

Underhill had two trackside creameries. The Borden Company had a facility in the Flats, located between the depot and Park Street. The other creamery was a Cloverdale located at the Route 15 crossing just north of the Underhill-Westford town line.

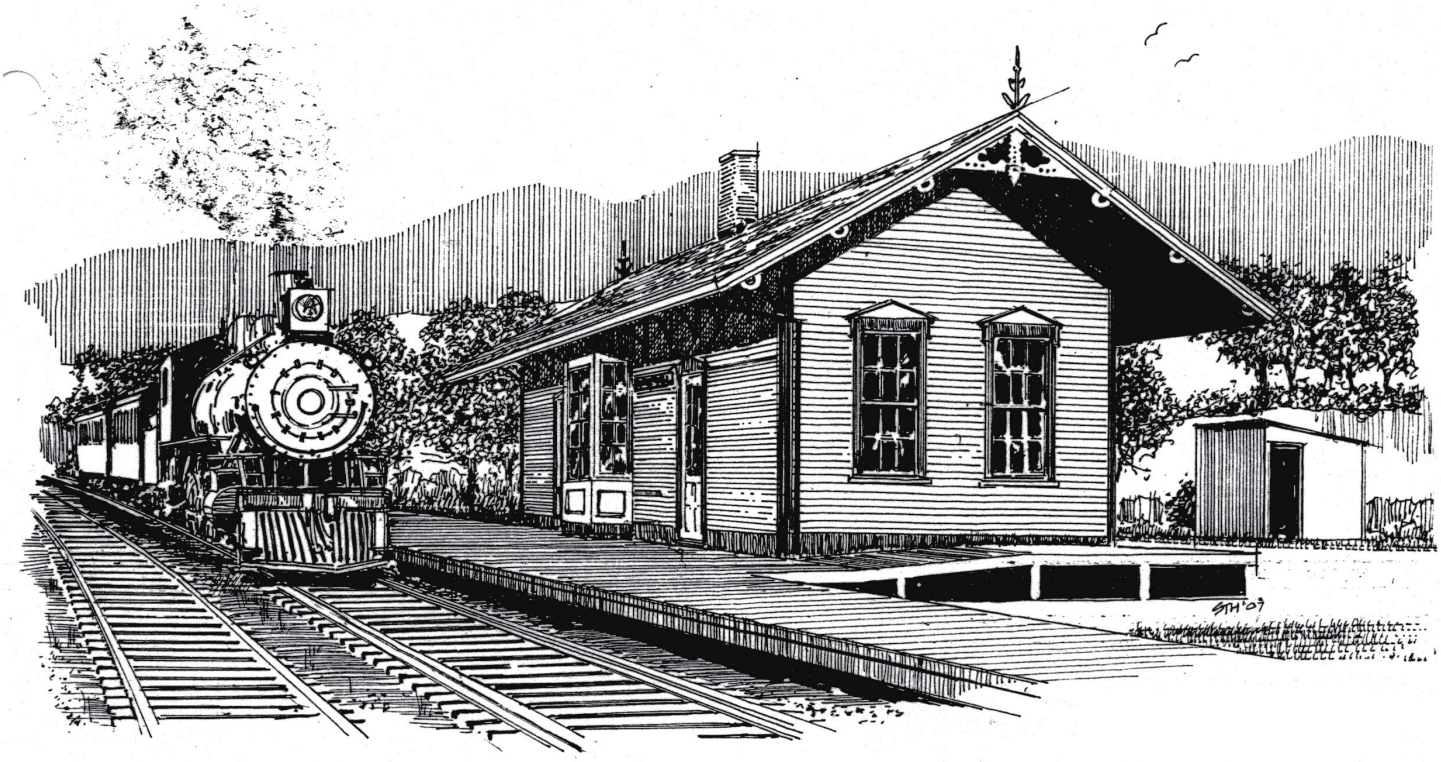
Originally a flag stop for the railroad, the North Underhill station was built in 1914 as a two story structure. A short distance across North Underhill Station Road, heading towards Cambridge from the station, was a water tower for the steam engine tenders. A little beyond the tower was a boarding house for train crews. Farther up the line, about half way between the North Underhill Station and the railroad crossing at the Cloverdale route 15 crossing, was a track siding for cordwood that was used for the early wood-burning locomotives. Cordwood, cut in four foot lengths in various woodlots along Poker Hill Road, was transported by teams of horses or oxen to trackside. The cordwood was then resawn, stacked, and loaded onto locomotive tenders.

The stretch of railroad bed paralleling Route 15 along the present wetlands was often in difficult repair because of the marshy ground. Many derailments over the years were caused by flooding and washouts. The most famous derailment was that of a locomotive that went into the swamp in December of 1910. Even though stories exist to the day that the engine is still there, such is simply not true. Engine No. 328, after considerable effort, was extracted the following spring.

Only one person was killed on the B & L during its 60-year operation. In March of 1902, following a period of heavy rain, a section of the roadbed near Cloverdale failed under the evening train. The baggage and passenger cars tipped over and slid down a 16-foot embankment. A four year old child was thrown across the car he was riding in and received fatal injuries.

Business was brisk on the B & L during the 1920's. In May of 1926 the St. J. & L.C. began delivering milk to the B & L at Cambridge Junction. Trains were added to the timetable to handle the business. In 1927 heavy Central Vermont 400 class 2-8-0 locomotives appeared on the B & L thus making it possible to consolidate these trains. Unfortunately, however, the St. J. & L.C. discontinued the milk deliveries in November of 1929, preferring to carry the business to St. Johnsbury where the Canadian Pacific shipped the milk to Boston. The loss of this business was a crucial blow to the B & L. It perhaps signaled the beginning of the end of the railroad.

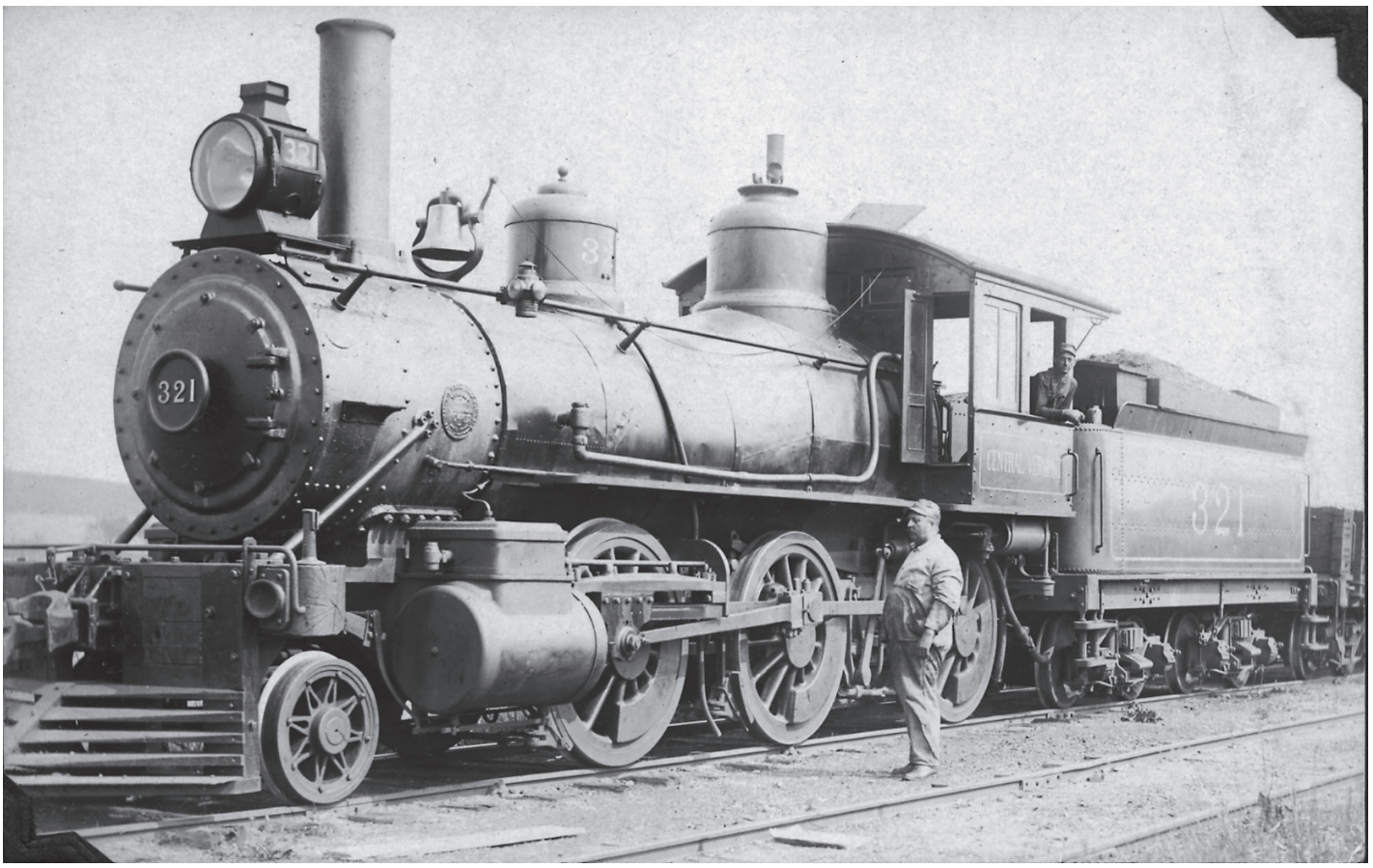
During the depression years of the 1930's B & L traffic declined drastically because of the economic climate along with the increase of automobiles and trucks on Vermont roads. By 1937,




UNDERHILL.




NORTH UNDERHILL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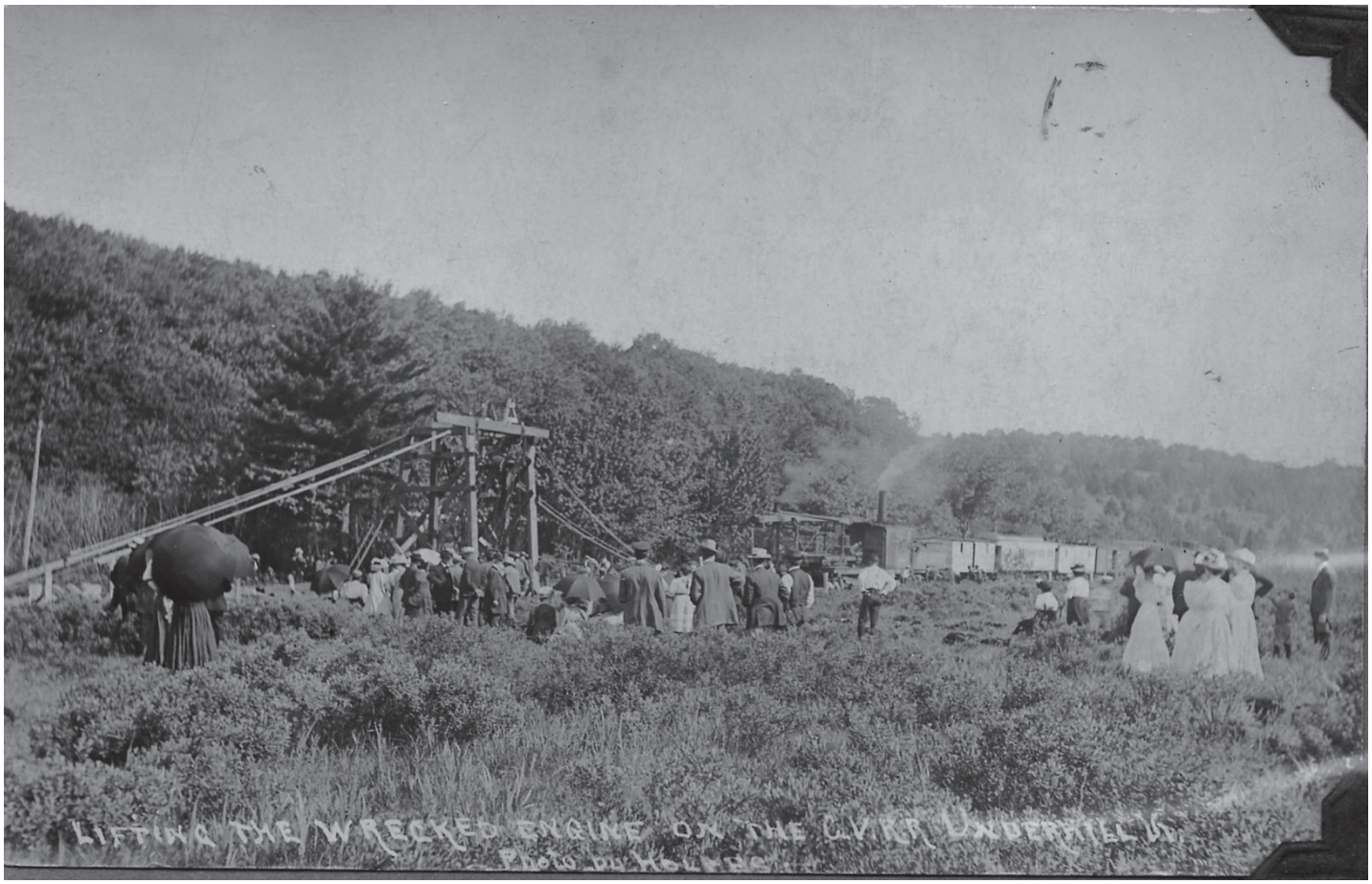
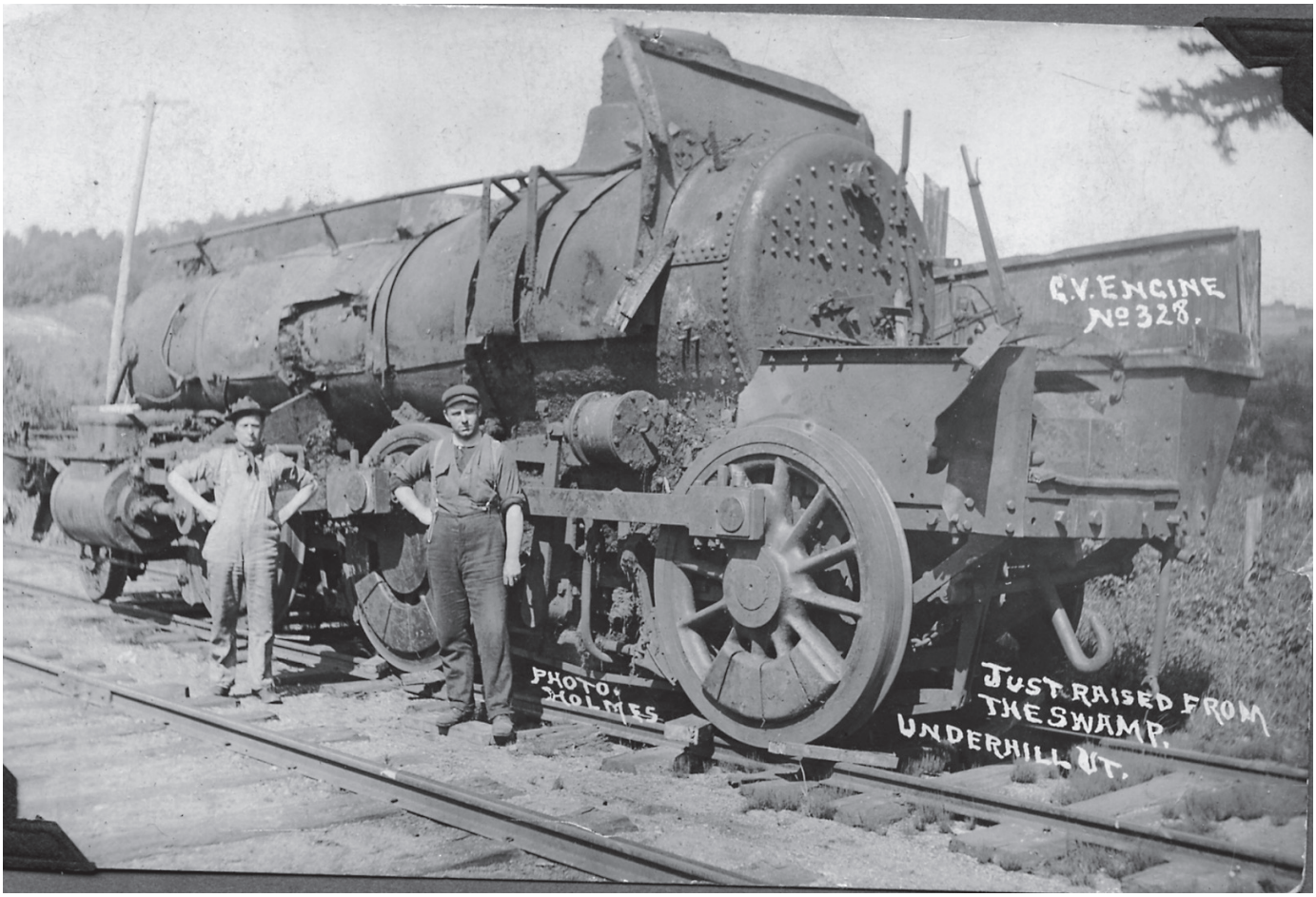
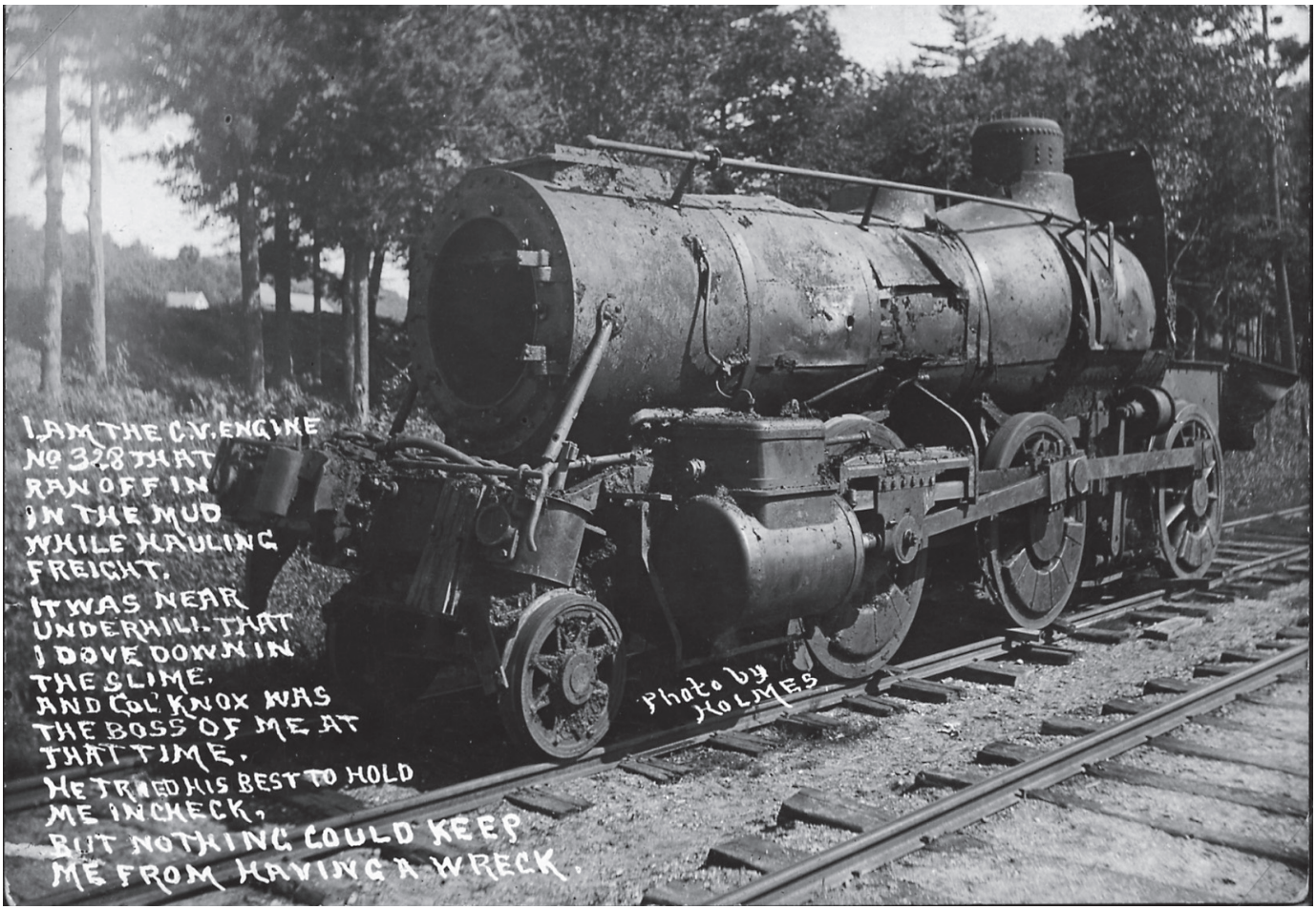
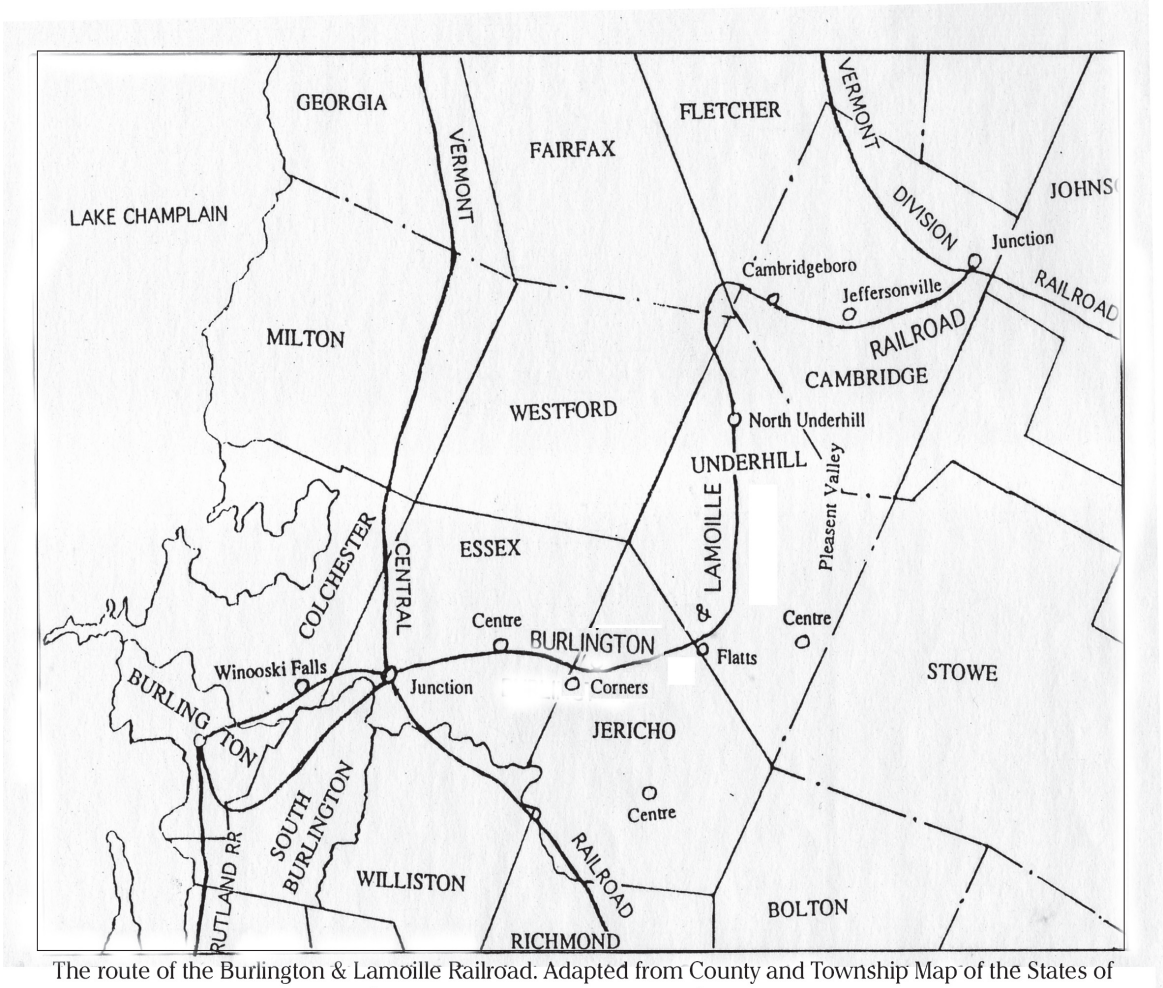

LIFTING THE WRECKED ENGINE ON THE C.V.R.R. UNDERHILL


C.V. ENGINE
No 328.
PHOTO.
HOLMES
JUST RAISED FROM
THE SWAMP.
UNDERHILL, VT.


I AM THE C.V. ENGINE
No 328 THAT
RAN OFF IN
IN THE MUD
WHILE HAULING
FREIGHT.
IT WAS NEAR
UNDERHILL THAT
I DOVE DOWN IN
THE SLIME.
AND Col KNOX WAS
THE BOSS OF ME AT
THAT TIME.
HE TRIED HIS BEST TO HOLD
ME IN CHECK,
BUT NOTHING COULD KEEP
ME FROM HAVING A WRECK.
Photo by
HOLMES



Railroad Bridge over the Brown's River



The route of the Burlington & Lamoille Railroad. Adapted from County and Township Map of the States of New Hampshire and Vermont. (Philadelphia: S.A. Mitchell, 1879)

the Central Vermont sought abandonment which the ICC granted with unusual haste. The last train ran on the 16th of June, 1938, with 20 passengers aboard, two of whom had been passengers on the B & L 61 years earlier. One of those passengers was Mrs. Lillian Cross, mother of Earl Cross who was responsible for his many photos of the B & L, some of which currently grace the walls of the Underhill Town Hall.

Dismantling operations began almost immediately and were completed before the year was out. It might be noted that much of the grade is still visible along Route 15 from Essex through Jericho and Underhill, and on to Cambridge and Jeffersonville. Also, interestingly enough, all the B & L stations on the line – Essex, Jericho, Underhill Flats, North Underhill, Cambridge and Jeffersonville are extant and are residences, with several in very good repair.

Stan Hamlet

Sources: Bob Jones, *History of the Central Vermont Railroad*, Volumes III and IV.
Loraine S. Dwyer, *History of Underhill*, (1970)
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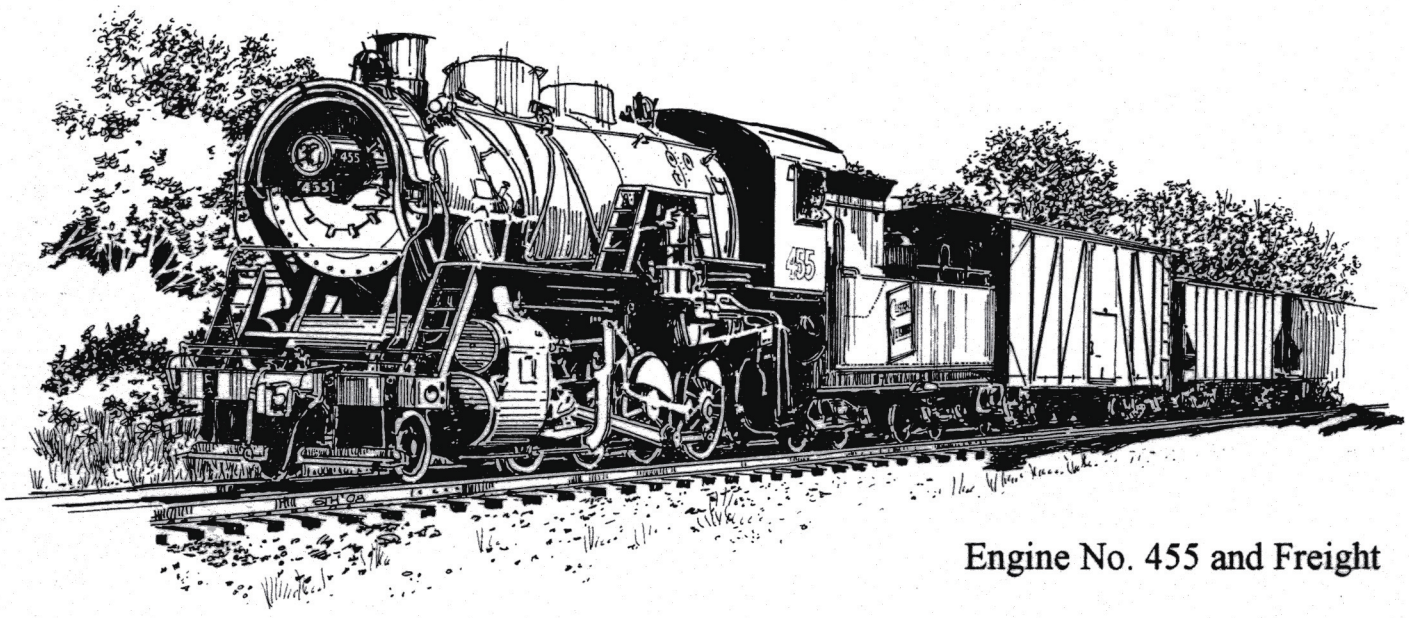


Engine No. 455 and Freight

United States America

NUMBER 43

DOLLARS 100

STATE OF VERMONT.



6 PER CENT LOAN BOND AUTHORIZED BY LAW

REDEEMABLE AFTER FIVE & PAYABLE TWENTY YEARS FROM DATE.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL

$100

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS

Know all men by these presents that the Town of Underhill is indebted and hereby held and firmly bound unto John Woodruff or bearer in the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS lawful money of the United States redeemable at the option of the Town of Underhill, after the fifteenth day of March 1880 and payable on the fifteenth day of March 1895 at the Ninth National Bank of the City of New York, with interest thereon at the rate of SIX per cent per annum payable semi annually at said Bank on the first day of January and July of each Year on the presentation of the proper coupons hereto annexed.

In witness whereof the said Town of Underhill hath executed these presents by the undersigned Commissioners who have hereunto subscribed their names in pursuance of the Laws of Vermont and the action of said Town this fifteenth day of March, A.D. 1875.

IN AID OF B.&L. R.R.

Countersigned by

Edward Llanaford

Treasurer.

S. W. Mead

Wm. M. Naraman

F. F. Church

Commissioners of the Town of Underhill.

THE HATCH LITH. CO. 32 & 34 FENEY ST. N.Y.

The United Church of Underhill and Its Historical Roots

Elizabeth Weichel Moore

The United Church of Underhill and Its Historical Roots (1801-2013)

~~The Founding Of The Underhill Congregational Church

The settlement of Underhill in the mountainous, inaccessible backwoods of Chittenden County did not get underway until after the Revolutionary War. Although the town was chartered in 1763 it was not officially organized until 1795, four years after Vermont had relinquished its status as an independent republic and had been accepted as the fourteenth state. A small group of homesteaders had earlier established a hamlet just south of the Cambridge line and in 1787 had built the first log schoolhouse. The Hill Road (now called Poker Hill) was officially surveyed and laid out in 1791 and soon became the commercial route to the north. By 1800 a second hamlet had developed along the hilltop midway along the Hill Road. Many of the original settlers were from Connecticut and Congregational in religious persuasion. In 1801 they established the first church in the new community. The first page in the Underhill Congregational record book reads, "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 Reverend Ebenezer Kingsbury of ye First Church of Jericho". (The First Congregational Church in Jericho Center had been established in 1791.) Seven men and seven women subscribed to the Covenant and Articles of Faith and Practice, "thus declaring both their obligations to God and their fellowship and charity for each other, and becoming known as the members first joining in covenant and organized a church of Christ in Underhill."

In those days "church" did not refer to a building, but to a congregation of people who shared a common spiritual commitment and convenanted together to uphold their creed. (Each member signed the covenant, after approval of the congregation, and woe to the member who did not live up to expectations. The early records of the churches are rife with excommunications and details of the causal human frailties.) The congregations often met in the homes of members until a meetinghouse could be built. For the first few years the Underhill Congregationalists held worship in the Birge Tavern (now 271 Poker Hill Road) where town meetings were also held. The North Underhill Cemetery on Poker Hill Road, still in use today, was deeded to the town in 1807. In 1805 the first meetinghouse was built, under town auspices, close to the road by the cemetery grounds. It served, as was customary in those days of theocratic governance, for town meetings as well as Congregational worship. The first minister was Reverend James Parker. He was pastor until 1812, when his opposition to the war put him at odds with the congregation. For four years the church was without regular preaching. In 1816 Mr Nathaniel B Dodge began preaching and by the end of the year was ordained as minister. He organized a Church School in 1818 which continued in different forms throughout the years. (In the beginning the emphasis was on memorization of the catechism, Bible verses and hymns. At the first annual meeting 88 scholars were reported. One was said to have recited eighteen hundred and eighty seven verses and hymns! The students attended worship services with their parents; Church School training was under the tutelage of several teachers throughout the community who taught under the supervision of a main teacher.)

~~Growing Pains And Church Expansion

In 1820 the Pleasant Valley highway was laid out to the Cambridge border and by 1827 Underhill Center emerged as a village with its own cemetery and meetinghouse, store and sawmill. Many of the new settlers were from New Hampshire and were not Congregational in persuasion. In 1824 a group established a Methodist Episcopal Church in the Center. Meanwhile a new village was growing on the Jericho border in what became known as "The Flatts", with its own school, stores and even a starch mill. The original settlement on the Hill Road in what was now North Underhill was no longer the population center and sentiment grew to move town meetings and Congregational worship to a more accessible location. In 1827 a small group of worshipers petitioned to be dismissed from the founding church to establish the Second Congregational Church in Underhill Center. For a while they shared a newly-built Union Meetinghouse with members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Shared places of worship were common in those days, enabling small congregations which could not afford a resident pastor, or even to meet every Sabbath, to rotate the use of the meetinghouse among the denominations. The population of Underhill was burgeoning and new families from England and Ireland arrived to establish settlements. In Underhill Center a Freewill Baptist Church was organized in 1836 and a Catholic congregation was growing.

~~The First Congregational Society

In 1828 the members of the original Church of Christ in Underhill, now the First Congregational Church, erected another meetinghouse, known as the "Lower Meetinghouse" or the "River Church", on the River Road, hoping to draw back the secessionists from the Center. (The exact location of the meetinghouse is not known, but it was close to the intersection of River Road and the present Sand Hill Road, barely a mile from the Union Meetinghouse in Underhill Center.) In 1829 a constitution was adopted to form officially the First Congregational Society. (Congregational Societies were established to tend to the worldly matters of raising funds to pay the ministers and to build and maintain the meetinghouses. Women were very active members of the churches but did not participate in the work of the societies.) The minutes record the names of the 34 men responsible for the preaching at the "River Church" and its maintenance and the 54 men responsible for the affairs of the "Old Meeting House" on the Hill Road. The members met at the "Old Meeting House" and called Reverend Phineas Kingsley to service, then adjourned to the meetinghouse on the river. For a short time services were alternated between the two meetinghouses, as were the Town Meetings.

~~The Second Congregational Society

In 1827 the more level "Creek Road" (now Route 15) had been surveyed and by 1840 it displaced Poker Hill as the County Road. The historic Birge Tavern closed in 1831 and business diverted to the Barney Tavern (417 VT Route 15)which opened in a residence in the Flats along the Creek Road. (It is now a private home across the road from the present fire station.) At the March Meeting in 1832 it was voted to convene all Town meetings at William Barney's Tavern, centrally located between the two meetinghouses. The Tavern continued to be used until the late 1840s. Underhill Flats was growing as a commercial center, especially under the leadership of John H Tower and Henry Oakes whose Tower & Oakes store and other enterprises were prospering. The dispersed Congregationalists, alternating worship between meetinghouses and divided by argument, were often not able to meet the salary of the minister without assistance from the Vermont Domestic Missionary Society. Then in 1837 a windstorm tore the steeple from the thirty-year-old meetinghouse in North Underhill rendering the building

unusable. On December 31, 1838 twenty four men organized to address the church problems. “We the subscribed inhabitants of Underhill and vicinity do hereby agree to form a society by the name of the Second Congregational Society in Underhill for the purpose of building and repairing a meetinghouse, settling and supporting a minister, according to the first section of an act entitled, ‘For the Support of the Gospel’, past October 26, 1797.” That same day Tower and Oakes leased to the Second Congregational Society, of which they were founding members, a parcel of land which became the site of the present church. It was next to their store (now an apartment house): “To have and to hold the said leased lot on farm premises for the use of a Congregational Meetinghouse so long as the said ground shall be used for that purpose, but for no other use, they yielding and paying yearly each and every year on the first day of January if demanded one Ear of Indian Corn. Dated at Underhill this 31st of December 1838.” John Tower also created a cemetery on part of his farm (now the Underhill Cemetery) and deeded it to the Second Congregational Society.

A few days later, at a meeting of the Second Congregational Society on January 4, 1839, the discussion concerned the advisability of moving a meetinghouse or rebuilding, but there were no funds even for preaching. Later in the year, however, they did move the Lower Meetinghouse from the River Road to the new location on the leased land in The Flats. The same year a determined group of the founding Congregational members salvaged parts from the wind-damaged original “Old Meetinghouse” and rebuilt it farther up the road, on the corner of what is now Page Road. (Presumably, this meetinghouse was still under the oversight of what was left of The First Congregational Society, but there are no records.) On October 25, 1839 this group requested to be dismissed from the Congregational Church of Christ in Underhill to form a separate church. The petition was at first denied, but then a Council was called to consider the matter. In spite of the concern that the division would further weaken the church, the separation was allowed. The congregation was later referred to as the North Church.)

Then in January 1840 the Second Congregational Society engaged Rev Sherman Kellogg, pastor of Montpelier Free Congregational Church, to conduct a three-week gospel meeting at their rebuilt church in Underhill Flats. All the churches in the vicinity were invited to participate. The revival was a great success and many new members joined the church. It led also to a partial reconciliation between the Congregational factions and the return of at least some members of the Second Congregational Church. There is no mention of the Second Congregational Church after this time. (The Second Congregational Society was not affiliated with The Second Congregational Church which had been established in Underhill Center. The latter seems not to have had a corresponding society, for it shared the Union Meetinghouse with the Methodist Episcopal denomination and never had a regular pastor. There are no records of this church and the only information comes from its correspondence with the parent church.)

~~Building Of The Present Church

In June 1843 the Reverend Simeon Parmalee began a vigorous pastorate in the First Congregational Church which lasted through 1856. A fire damaged the relocated meetinghouse in Underhill Flats in 1845. Under the strong leadership of Rev Parmalee funds were raised and by 1847 it was replaced by the present building in the fine location directly on the village green. The Congregational Church was now firmly established in Underhill Flats. For 100 years it played a prominent role in the life of the community. (The North Church continued until 1879 when the few remaining members rejoined the parent church. Some years thereafter the relocated North Meetinghouse was destroyed by fire.)

In 1885, through the efforts of The Second Congregational Society, in co-operation with the Ladies' Dime Society, the parlor and kitchen were added on the back of the building. (This addition is the present reception room). In 1889 the church incorporated and at the same time the name of The Second Congregational Society was changed to The Congregational Society. (In 1916, recognizing that the "purpose, object and business" of the church and the society were intimately connected, a new constitution was written to merge the two organizations.) There seem to be no records of the fund-raising Ladies Dime Society. However, in 1894 a women's group from the church purchased an organ, which still graces the sanctuary. Their fund-raising efforts were documented in a booklet entitled, Experiences of the Would-be Poetesses Connected with the Ladies Industrial Society and a Response from one of the Sufferers. Each lady had to raise a dollar for the organ fund and write a poem about how she earned it. (The first charge was the easier; writing the poems was a challenge - for the ladies and their families.) The organ was dedicated with ceremony and a dinner and the poems were read aloud to the great amusement of all, so much so that they decided to publish the collection. (Such a story it tells about the life of the times and the droll sense of humor for which Vermonters are renowned.)

~~Growth Of The Christian Commitment

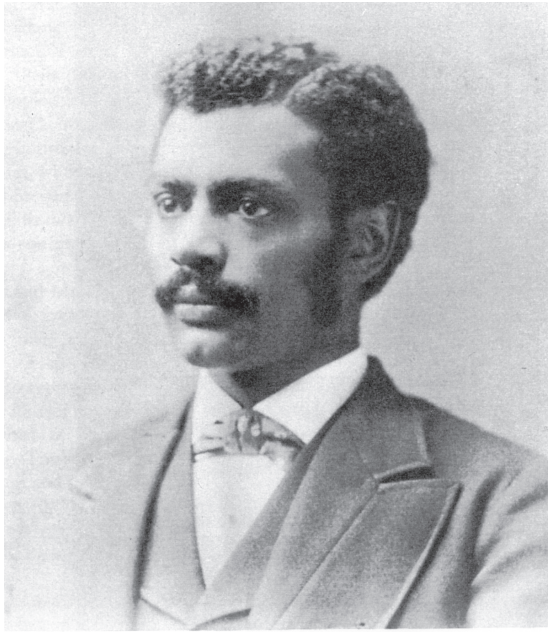
The population of Underhill had continued to grow until it reached a peak of 1655 in 1870. The Methodist Episcopal Church and the Freewill Baptists, who had organized in 1836, jointly erected a meeting house in Underhill Center in 1851. (In 1950 the building became the Underhill Town Hall.) Methodism had been introduced in the local area back in 1798 by the circuit preacher, Reverend Lorenzo Dow, who proselytized as far north as Canada. He was followed by the Mitchell brothers, preachers who organized a Methodist circuit of 186 members based in Vergennes. In 1799 the circuit was divided, with Underhill constituents part of the northern Essex Circuit. But it wasn't until 1857 that the Methodist Episcopal Church established a permanent building in Underhill Flats, followed in 1859 by the present church in Jericho Corners. Both churches were served by very busy circuit pastors, who also served other areas , such as Bolton. None stayed the course very long and there was constant turnover.

The original St Thomas Catholic church was built in 1855. (It was destroyed by fire and replaced by the present building in 1891.) The Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church was completed in the Riverside area in 1857, but it was not in continuous use until many years later (1928). There were also in Jericho two Congregational Churches, a Baptist Church and a Universalist Church. There was certainly no lack of Christian commitment in the area.



Underhill Flat - 1888

~~George Washington Henderson



In mid century three short-lived, but outstanding academic institutions were established in Underhill which not only served local students, but attracted boarding scholars: The Bell Institute, the Underhill Academy in Underhill Flats and Green Mountain Academy in Underhill Center (later used as a Town Hall, 1900-1950). The Congregational church occasionally drew upon the well-educated faculty of the academies for service as interim pastors and preachers.

After the end of the Civil War, the Underhill Academy had among its students a most outstanding young man. George Washington Henderson was born a slave in Virginia in 1850. During the war he escaped to the Grand Army of the Republic and was taken on as a servant by Henry Carpenter, adjutant in the Eighth Vermont Regiment. In 1865, then only fifteen years old, he accompanied Carpenter when he returned to his home in Belvidere, Vermont. While working for the family, the young man was helped to "learn his letters". He must have been an apt student, for the Carpenters made an arrangement for him to study at the Underhill Academy , then under the tutelage of Oscar Atwood. His boarding arrangements are not known, but he must have lived in the area, for on April 5, 1872, George Washington Henderson became a formal member of the Underhill Congregational Church. W. Scott Nay, later to become a beloved doctor and leading citizen in Underhill, was his school companion at the Academy and later remembered him in a letter to the UVM Alumni Weekly in 1936: "It was a most satisfactory privilege for me to protect him from the jibes of some discourteous students who, because of his color, thought themselves to be his superiors. It is needless to say that he outranked them all in scholarship as he excelled them in demeanor. His record has shown him to be a second Booker Washington."

After several years in Underhill, the young man went to Barre, graduating from the Spaulding Academy. He still remained a member of the Underhill church. He went on to study at the University of Vermont, where his career from then on has been quite well documented. At the University he was an outstanding student, graduating at the head of his class in 1877, the first member of his race to be formally elected to the scholastic fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa. He was leader of his class and a member of the Delta Psi fraternity (along with contemporary, John Dewey.) The 1877 commencement at which he received his A.B. degree was held in the College Street Congregational Church. He gave an honorary address at the ceremony, "The Economy of Moral Forces in History". The Burlington Free Press covered the event and commented, "Mr Henderson's effort, in point of interest and ability, as well as of earnestness and excellence of delivery, asked no odds of any other on the programme. When it is considered that its author was born a slave and twelve years ago had not learned to read, its maturity of thought and good taste in presentation must be considered truly marvelous."

In 1875-76, while he was a student at the University, he served as a teacher in the Jericho Academy. In the summers he worked on a farm in Waitsfield. After receiving his degree, he became a teacher and then the Principal of the Craftsbury Academy, along the way earning an M.A. degree from UVM, reading a paper on "Conservation". He went on to Yale Divinity School where in 1883 he received a B.D.degree and a Hooker Fellowship for graduate study in Berlin. He was

accompanied to Berlin with his new wife, the young Preceptress (teacher of drawing, music, elocution and bookkeeping) at the Craftsbury Academy. When they returned to Vermont , they settled in Newport, where Mr Henderson held the position of principal of the elementary school. It was in 1886 that he formally transferred his membership from the Underhill Congregational Church. His time in Newport was short, for tragedy befell, with the untimely death of both his wife and infant. Both are buried in a family grave in Orleans County. At this time, his former mentor at the Underhill Academy, Oscar Atwood (UVM 1864) w as president of Straight University (now Dillard) in New Orleans. He may have encouraged the young widower to come South, where he became an ordained Congregational minister in 1888, serving for two years as pastor of the Central Congregational Church. In 1890 he accepted the chair of theology at Straight University and pastorate of the University Church. In 1904, he became Dean of Theology at Fiske University, and in 1909 went on to Wilberforce University in Ohio, where he taught theology and classical languages until his retirement in 1932. Throughout his career he was in demand as a lecturer and editor. He died in 1936 and is buried in Wilberforce, Ohio. He often visited in Vermont with his second wife and kept his relationships with friends in the state. In 1999, he was honored with an historic site marker in Belvidere, as a "Minister, Educator,Champion of his Race".

Also, in 1999, the Vermont Conference of the UCC (United Church of Christ) established a George W. Henderson scholarship at Dillard University in New Orleans. "It honors an extraordinary gentleman whose life impacted so many and left a positive look on our history, and in whose memory we can give others an opportunity to make a difference."

~~Spiritual Revival

The opening of the railroad and the location of a depot in Underhill Flats in 1877 had created a thriving commercial center there, while the overall population in Underhill steadily declined following the Civil War, as did the general population of Vermont. In spite of the declining population, however, the many churches thrived and dominated life in the villages of Underhill and Jericho through the end of the century and the turn of the next. The nineteenth century was marked by the spiritual rebirth of the " Second Great Awakening" and fiery revival meetings which resulted in surges of new membership. 34 new members joined the First Congregational Church in 1828, 54 in 1840 (after Rev Kellogg's gospel meeting), 20 in 1855 and 1866, 34 in 1876, 22 in 1883. (There were also a few episodes where "false preachers" caused considerable unrest and temporarily drew off membership.) The Reverend S L Bates, Pastor Emeritus (1863-1871), wrote a discourse for the Centennial celebration of The First Congregational Church in 1901, from which much of the historical information related here has been taken. In his concluding remarks, he paid tribute to the Christian mission, (then and now), "This church like all others, has continually nurtured childhood, molded maturing youth, supported old age, comforted bitter griefs, illumined the darkness of death and carried souls up to a blessed immortality".

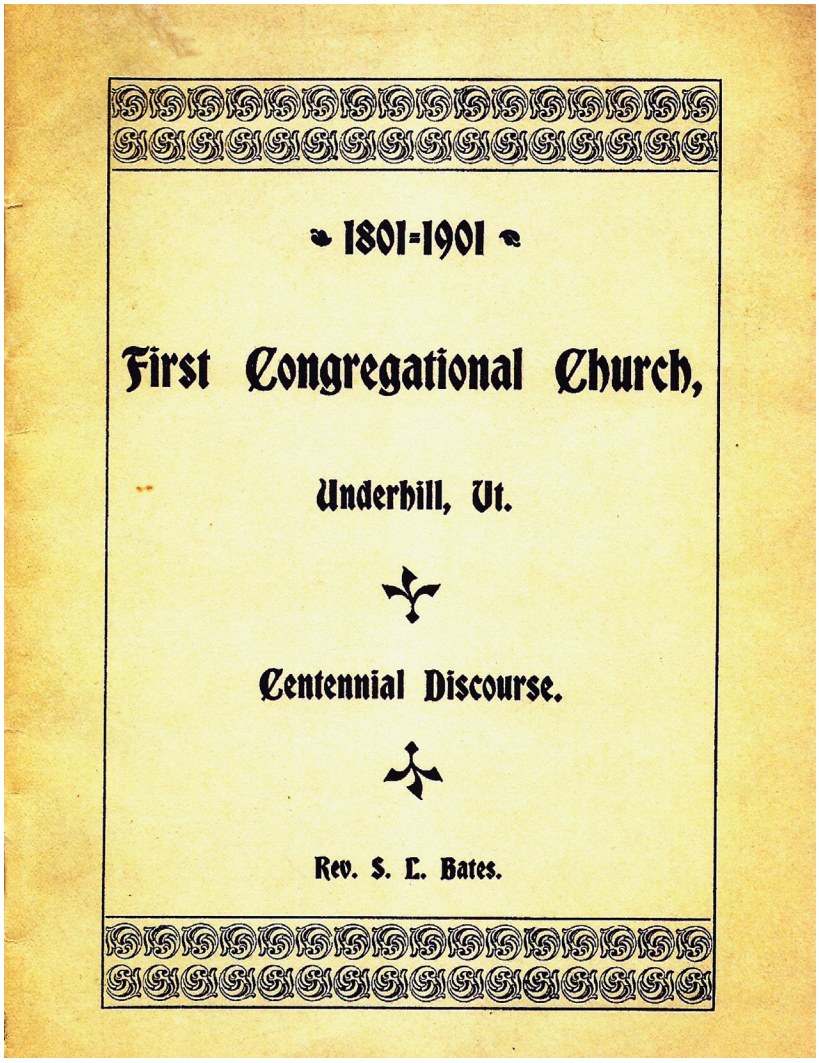
~~The Underhill Circuit

The Methodist Episcopal Church which was built on the Jericho side of Underhill Flats in 1857 was called the Underhill church to distinguish it from the Methodist Episcopal Church in Jericho Corners built in 1859. (It was also sometimes described as the Riverside Church.) Both churches had parsonages. The ME Church in Underhill Center did not have a parsonage. The three churches were members of the Underhill Circuit and shared the expenses of a circuit pastor, along with smaller groups of worshipers in North Underhill, Bolton and Lee River. The Histo-

ry of Jericho (1916) relates a description of the distribution of the labors of the pastor in 1869: " at West Bolton once in two weeks in the morning, Jericho Corners once in two weeks in the afternoon or evening (or five o'clock), the Flats once in two weeks in the afternoon, the Center once in four weeks in the morning, North Underhill, Jericho Center and prayer meeting at the Flats the remaining time." According to the same History of Jericho, during the period from 1858 and 1916 there were 25 different ministers! Few stayed for more than one or two years. The ministers were supplied to the Circuit by the Presiding Elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church organization in Vermont. They resided in one of the various parsonages.

On August 11, 1906 the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Flats and the drug store of Dr. W. S. Nay beside it were destroyed by a fire which threatened the entire village. At this time Underhill had no fire department, so a message was sent to Burlington, where a fire truck was immediately loaded on a flatcar and brought to Underhill on a special train. However, by the time the train arrived the wind had shifted and a light rain began to fall, preventing further destruction of the village. The following year the present structure, which later became the United Methodist Church of Underhill, was erected (at a cost of $2750, including furnishings and horse sheds.)

Through the years the Underhill Circuit consolidated to serve the churches in Underhill Center, The Flats, Jericho and Essex.(Some Methodists remember when their minister also preached at the CCC camp in Underhill during the 1930s.)


1801-1901

First Congregational Church,

Underhill, Vt.

Centennial Discourse.

Rev. S. L. Bates.

~~A Difficult Time

From 1911 to 194l, during the vicissitudes of the First World War and the Great Depression, The Congregational Church of Underhill was served by Reverend Dr William Cashmore, who was both a doctor of divinity and a doctor of veterinary medicine. He not only served his constituents' spiritual needs, he took care of their cows as well. The railroad had closed in 1938, many families had been displaced by the Federal purchase of land for the Ethan Allen Artillery Range, and by 1941 the Town of Underhill was in serious economic decline. The population was barely 700. In June 1941 at a special meeting where he announced his need for retirement Dr Cashmore spoke eloquently about the serious situation confronting all the Protestant churches. " In this narrow bit of a valley several churches are having a hard time because of the expanding of the Range and people being obliged to move away. Jericho Center Church is in a more serious condition than any others and must cease to exist unless a solution to the problem is found. Officers of the Conference say there are no funds to support it. Six separate churches in this locality are trying to exist." He suggested that the churches consolidate and meet the situation together.

The directors of the Conference suggested that there be two worship centers, one in Underhill and one in Jericho, served by two ministers working together. If such an arrangement could be worked out Dr Cashmore agreed to stay on as interim pastor if an associate pastor could be engaged to help. In October 1941 an agreement was made between the First Congregational Church of Jericho and the First Congregational Church of Underhill to form the Jericho - Underhill Larger Parish. Miss Louise Rodgers from Albany, NY was called as associate pastor to Dr Cashmore. She was not yet ordained, so a special Council of Ordination was called to take care of the problem. After one year she left for Bridport. The Jericho- Underhill Larger Parish was left with one minister and he could no longer carry on. Dr Cashmore suggested that the Congregational and Methodist churches in both communities should join together for united church services. (The Methodist Episcopal denomination had become the United Methodist Church in 1939.) The idea was explored but no agreement could be found and the matter was dropped. In 1942 in the midst of the war there was a shortage of ministers. There were 25 vacancies just in the Vermont Congregational Churches. In desperation the Larger Parish engaged a Harvard divinity student for the summer of 1943. That November Reverend George Beach came to serve the three churches, living in the Jericho Center parsonage. Dr William Cashmore finally became Pastor Emeritus, although he continued as an active member of the Underhill congregation. In January 1946 Dr Beach tendered his resignation. He was worn out and simply needed a rest. He was offered a year's leave of absence, but he reconsidered his resignation, provided that his wife , who was licensed to perform some official church functions, could be engaged as associate pastor.

~~ The Mansfield Circuit

In the summer of 1946 the Larger Parish and the Methodist Fellowship agreed to hold union services in July and August in alternate churches in Underhill Flats. Then in March 1947 Dr Beach announced his decision to resign by May first. A meeting was called attended by the Methodist District Superintendent, the Congregational Executive Minister and representatives from area churches of both denominations. There were six churches to be considered, three Congregational churches and three Methodist.The Methodist Churches in Underhill Flats, Jericho and Essex shared a minister as members of the Mansfield Circuit (formerly the Underhill Circuit). It was under the oversight of the Mansfield Parish Council. The Vermont United Methodist churches are members of the Troy Conference, part of the overarching United Methodist Church organization. Individual Methodist churches receive considerable support and backing from the parent organization which throughout the years has helped to carry parishes through vicissitudes. However, the Methodist congregation in Underhill Center had not survived the difficult times.

The Mansfield Circuit



Underhill Congregational



Underhill Methodist



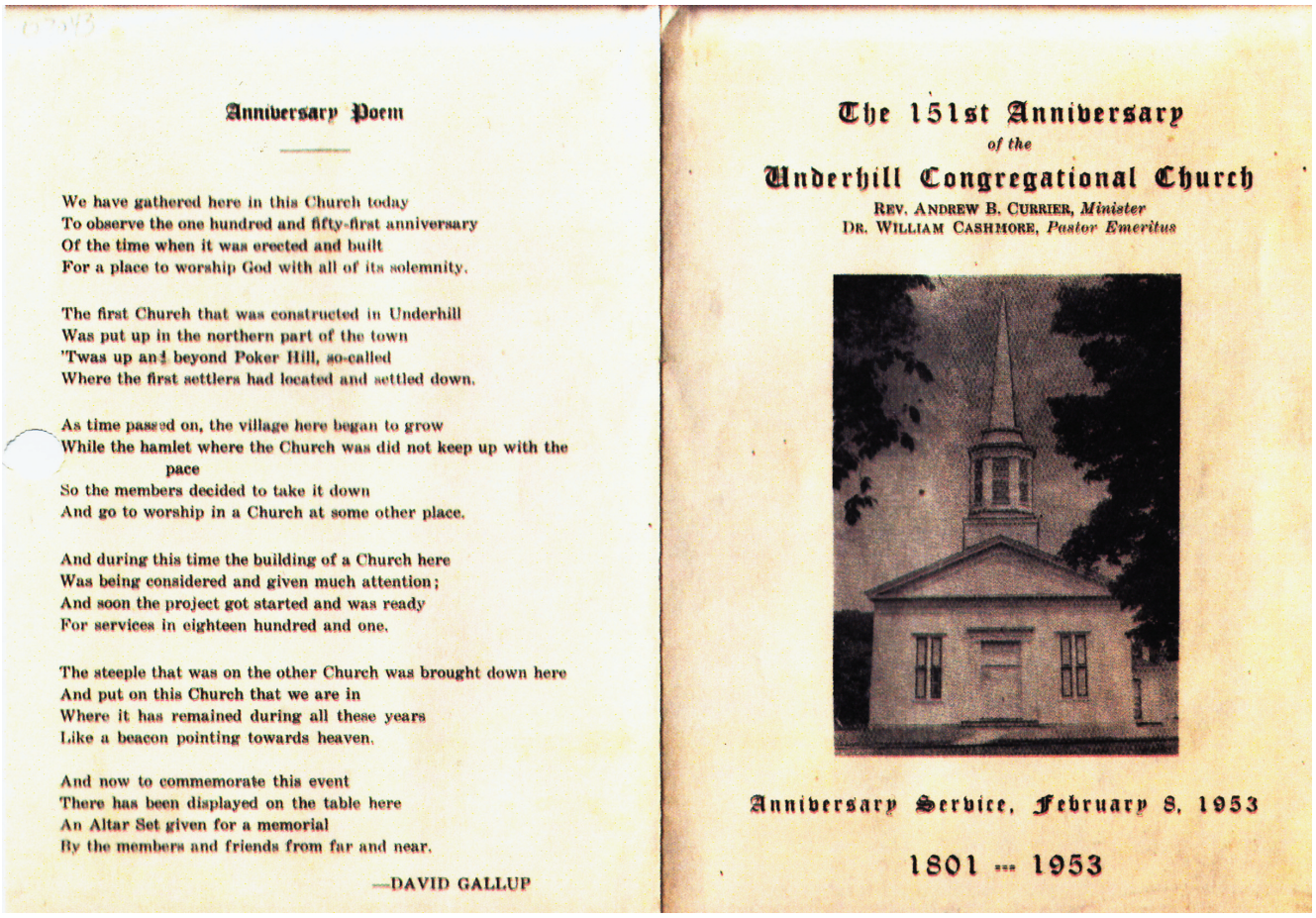
Jericho Methodist



Essex Center Methodist

~ The Yoke Agreement

Somehow the First and Second Congregational Churches in Jericho managed to consolidate and went their own direction. By the time Dr Beach left in May, a yoke agreement had been arranged by the Underhill Congregational and Methodist parishes. Under the special relationship the two churches would share the worship services and Sunday School. Each church would be used for six months of the year. The salary of the pastor was to be shared along with the Mansfield Circuit (which then included the Methodist churches in Jericho Corners and Essex). The details of other expenses were worked out. Each church would retain and maintain its own properties and would retain its own cash resources and endowment; each church would continue to pay its own denominational apportionments. New members would join either church, but the union services were to be held under Methodist leadership. Signing for the Congregationals were Eugene Metcalf, Elwood Clark, Edna Pollard, Marion Mead and Lillian Cross; for the Methodists, Charles Thompson, J.E. Foster, P.J.Kinsley, W.A.Wetherbee and H.W. Austin. The orginal agreement, dated May 1, 1947, was for one year. The trial arrangement lasted almost twenty five years. The First Congregational Church of Underhill became a member of The Mansfield Circuit.



Anniversary Poem

We have gathered here in this Church today
To observe the one hundred and fifty-first anniversary
Of the time when it was erected and built
For a place to worship God with all of its solemnity.

The first Church that was constructed in Underhill
Was put up in the northern part of the town
'Twas up and beyond Poker Hill, so-called
Where the first settlers had located and settled down.

As time passed on, the village here began to grow
While the hamlet where the Church was did not keep up with the pace
So the members decided to take it down
And go to worship in a Church at some other place.

And during this time the building of a Church here
Was being considered and given much attention;
And soon the project got started and was ready
For services in eighteen hundred and one.

The steeple that was on the other Church was brought down here
And put on this Church that we are in
Where it has remained during all these years
Like a beacon pointing towards heaven.

And now to commemorate this event
There has been displayed on the table here
An Altar Set given for a memorial
By the members and friends from far and near.

—DAVID GALLUP

The 151st Anniversary
of the
Underhill Congregational Church
Rev. Andrew B. Currier, *Minister*
Dr. William Cashmore, *Pastor Emeritus*

Anniversary Service, February 8, 1953

1801 — 1953

In 1960 Pastor LeFevre served four congregations and was responsible for 700 souls. After preaching for the combined worship in Essex, where he resided in the parsonage, he preached in Jericho Corners and then in Underhill. It was a formidable task to minister effectively to three communities, with separate churches, officers and programs. Pastor Le Fevre suggested that the two Underhill churches would be better served by a pastor living in the community, ministering to the two congregations. In 1962 a serious study of the Underhill Church situation was initiated. In 1964 the Mansfield Parish Council decided to dissolve the three point charge within three years. In 1966 the Reverend John Peterson reported, “There is no more important mission for

our church than to present a united witness in the community. The progress the Congregational and Methodist people have made toward reaching a united church is encouraging. The United Church Study Committee has met four times since May and drawn up a tentative constitution. It is searching to find a way to support a resident minister and plans to undertake a canvas of the community to ascertain the Protestant potential."

~~Underhill-Jericho Joint Worship

In 1967 the Underhill Women's Guild and the Methodist Women's Society of Christian Service agreed to form the United Women's Fellowship, a pillar of the church today. By the late '60s the population decline in Chittenden County had been reversed to such an extent that in 1968 the Essex Methodist Church was able to offer a full-time position to Reverend James Clark, who was then serving the entire Mansfield Circuit. The pressure was on for the other churches to find a resident minister of their own. The congregations rose to the challenge and in June 1968 engaged United Methodist minister, Reverend Marcheta Pebbles (later, District Superintendent), to serve the joint congregation in Underhill and the Methodist congregation in Jericho Corners. She took up residence in the Methodist parsonage in Underhill Flats and began a ministry which nurtured the spirit of growth toward a more lasting union.

During the years of joint worship, it came to be customary to use the Congregational Church in the cold months because it had a better furnace. It also had a kitchen, but since there was no basement, the water could not be used in the winter. The Methodist building was used in the summer. When the time came to change churches, the congregation would carry the hymnals from one building to the other, singing together "Blessed Be The Tie That Binds". (It was a project for some of the men to move the small, but heavy, organ back and forth for the seasons.)

There was a need in the town for a building to serve as a meeting house for the Senior Citizens. The small parish house next to the Methodist Church was available and with the help of some of the tradesmen in the community and the church youth group, the building was modified to include a kitchen, meeting room and toilet facilities, heated to be useful throughout the year. It served as the XYZ Senior Center until a social room was later created in the United Church.

~~The United Church Of Underhill

Formal discussions leading to the formation of the United Church of Underhill began early in 1973 and were held on a weekly schedule to formulate the Articles of Agreement which are the basis of the union. The Rev Donald Brushett, United Methodist District Superintendent and Rev Edward Treat, Executive Minister of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, were the denominational representatives in the process. (Nationally, the Congregational Christian Churches had merged with the Evangelical and Reformed Church to form the United Church of Christ (UCC) in 1957.) The United Church committee consisted of Marion Fay, Edwin Moore, Harold Moss, Tom Woodward and Marianne Worden for the Congregationals; Doug Keith, Leroy Keith, Ken Mitchell, Peter Mitchell, Mable Priest, Harold Sargent and Glenn Towle for the Methodists. The Articles of Agreement were adopted by vote of the congregations on July 25, 1973. They were signed for the Underhill United Methodist Church on September 28, 1973 and for the First Congregational Church of Underhill on December 10, 1973. On September 30, 1973 the Reverend Richard B. Crocker from the United Church of Christ ministry was called to serve the United Church of Underhill and a new era was launched. Reverend Crocker served fifteen and a half years.



Rev. Marcheta Pebbles and Rev. Richard B. Crocker, October Wedding, 1973

~~Consolidation Of Properties

At the beginning of the union the church owned two “meetinghouses”, two parsonages and the small Senior Center. One of the difficult points of agreement had been the disposition of the properties. While the Congregational Church owned its buildings, the Methodist buildings were actually the property of the United Methodist Church Troy Conference with headquarters in Saratoga Springs, NY. It took much negotiation and much good faith on all parts to persuade the Conference to deed the Methodist buildings to the new United Church. In 1974, in a formal ceremony at the annual Troy conference in Poultney, Vermont, the Methodist property deeds were delivered to Edwin Moore as representative of the United Church of Underhill. It was a momentous occasion.

The church members had decided to use the Congregational church building for the United Church and to sell the Methodist Church and both parsonages. In 1973 David Gallup, who owned the land behind the church with a large house thereon, was in a hospital; his property was for sale. Church members recognized that the house would be a fine parsonage and that the ell could be modified for Sunday School rooms, very much needed. In addition, the extra acreage would provide driveway and parking space and expansion potential. Marion Fay, Leroy Keith and Edwin Moore visited Mr Gallup to discuss the possible purchase of his property by the church. (It was an act of faith, for the Articles of Agreement had not yet been voted on, but the Congregational parsonage was available for immediate sale.) Mr Gallup was pleased to make the arrangement. Shortly thereafter he died. The deed was transferred on June 20, 1974. The former Congregational parsonage was sold in June of that year and the Methodist parsonage in December. The United Methodist Church building was sold to the United Christian Assembly in 1982, fulfilling a hope that the building could be maintained as a place of worship. Leroy Keith handled all the real estate transactions for the church.

~~Property Renovations And Improvements

As soon as the church received the deed for the Gallup property, work began to renovate the house to provide a parsonage, conference room and church school classrooms. Church members worked diligently for five months to complete the project and it was ready to receive the Crocker family in early December 1974. On New Year's Day 1975 the open house was attended by more than 100 visitors.

On October 15, 1978 the church membership voted to borrow $10,000 from the United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries for energy conservation and building improvement. In 1847 the Congregational building had been erected without a foundation and the facilities were primitive. There was no basement under the building; the huge sills were set on stones laid on the ground, which fortunately was well- drained sand. In all the 130 years the wooden structure had maintained its integrity. A hole excavated under the sanctuary held a hot air furnace with one grill for heating the church. The kitchen facility could not be used in the cold weather because the water lines were above ground and the only sanitary facility was a " privy" (truly, in 1979!) off of the front vestibule.

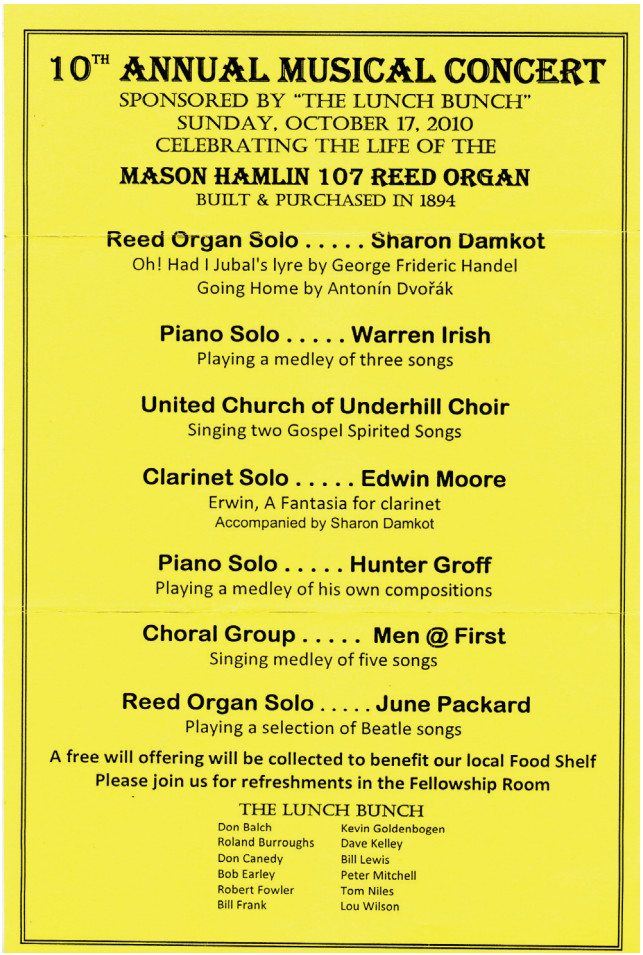
At the annual meeting on January 18, 1979 the members voted to undertake a project to excavate a basement under the church, build a proper foundation, install toilet facilities, create a kitchen and classrooms and to put in a full heating system. Groundbreaking for the project took place after the Easter service. With experts to raise the building and excavate the earth beneath it, the project proceeded. It was a queasy summer with the church perched high on huge timbers. On September 16, 1979 the cornerstone was symbolically dedicated by members of the Masonic Lodge and celebrated by the church membership. The church building now had a fully-weatherized basement with windows, a large kitchen facility, meeting room and classrooms. There were toilet facilities front and back, each with its own septic system, and the entire church was heated with a comfortable hot water system. In addition, new walks, a driveway and parking area were created. In 1988 the steeple was repaired and covered with copper. Later the church roof was replaced, a reception room was created behind the sanctuary, a wheelchair ramp was added. Members helped with painting projects on the buildings. For the first time the church property was surveyed and an onerous dispute regarding the line adjacent to the former Tower and Oaks Store was resolved. It took nearly ten years, with hard work and dedication by all the membership, those who gave of their time and effort and those who helped to raise the necessary funds, but the church properties were ready to serve the challenges to which the United Church was called to respond.

~Church Music

Throughout the years music has filled the United Church with a talented Choir, first under the directorship of the outstanding organist, Howard Wilson. Lois Nassau directed the choir and managed the music for the service for over 10 years, with Janet Gallagher as organist. When Lois retired, Janet became music director as well as organist. In 2000 a special vocal choir anthem was commissioned to celebrate the music ministry of the church and the dedication of long- time music director, Janet Gallagher: A Place in the Valley, by Nancy Price and Don Besig. Sandy Niles made a gift of handbells to the church and the resulting Handbell Choir is outstanding. Their performances add special musical contributions and make holiday times particularly festive in the life of the church.

The Mason and Hamlin reed organ, purchased in 1894 by the dedicated ladies of the church who each had earned a dollar toward the cost (and memorialized their efforts in the 'Dollar Poems') languished for many years during the periods of church renovation. Then in 1999, through the generosity of the family of Marylou Herr, the instrument was completely rebuilt and dedicated to her memory. The dedication concert paid tribute to the ladies of the 'Women's Industrial Society' and their book of 'Dollar Poems' was reprinted for all to enjoy.





10TH ANNUAL MUSICAL CONCERT

SPONSORED BY "THE LUNCH BUNCH"
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2010
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE

MASON HAMLIN 107 REED ORGAN

BUILT & PURCHASED IN 1894

Reed Organ Solo . . . . . Sharon Damkot
Oh! Had I Jubal's lyre by George Frideric Handel
Going Home by Antonín Dvořák

Piano Solo . . . . . Warren Irish
Playing a medley of three songs

United Church of Underhill Choir
Singing two Gospel Spirited Songs

Clarinet Solo . . . . . Edwin Moore
Erwin, A Fantasia for clarinet
Accompanied by Sharon Damkot

Piano Solo . . . . . Hunter Groff
Playing a medley of his own compositions

Choral Group . . . . . Men @ First
Singing medley of five songs

Reed Organ Solo . . . . . June Packard
Playing a selection of Beatle songs

A free will offering will be collected to benefit our local Food Shelf
Please join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Room

THE LUNCH BUNCH

Don Balch
Roland Burroughs
Don Canedy
Bob Earley
Robert Fowler
Bill Frank
Kevin Goldenbogen
Dave Kelley
Bill Lewis
Peter Mitchell
Tom Niles
Lou Wilson

~~Continuing Progress

In the succeeding years, the United Church of Underhill has become a major influence in the communities of Underhill and Jericho. Like the meetinghouse of yesteryear, the church building has become a center for citizens to meet, both for worship and for other important functions of the community. In addition to Sunday Worship, the Church welcomes people from throughout the community to many events and activities.

Primary among the events is the fall Underhill Harvest Market, traditionally held on the last weekend in September, with crafts, a country store, cider, a soup kitchen run by the United Women's Fellowship, a cookie factory, a book nook, antiques and collectibles in the "clutter barn", a flea market and entertainment all weekend long. Truly a community event, other church and community groups have joined in the Harvest Market with fund-raising sales, dinners and other activities stretching along Route 15 from the firehouse to the lumberyard and down Park Street to the Underhill Cemetery. Indeed, the Harvest Market has become a noteworthy event in the state and it has been estimated that 10,000 people have attended in some years, from near and far.



The United Church has supported both the United Methodist and United Church of Christ denominations in extending their work beyond the Underhill and Jericho communities and has given generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing and other causes. Church members have given of their talents in building houses for the Habitat for Humanity project, given blood in the Red Cross drives sponsored by the Lion's club, and participated in Crop Walk, the Heifer Project, Meals on Wheels, and the area Food Shelf Programs. The United Women's fellowship has been actively involved in service projects for the church and outreach, especially ABC Quilts for Children.

~Ecumenical Commitments

From the beginning The United Church has supported ecumenical programs. There has been a commitment to unity in whatever means it has been possible to share in worship or mission. In 1983 an Underhill-Jericho Ecumenical Ministry was founded which includes St Thomas Catholic Church, along with most of the Protestant churches in the two communities. Among other activities, the Ministry sponsors a food shelf and clothing distribution center and cares for local families in need.

~~Evolving Directions

Over the years revisions of some of the Articles of Agreement have been made, but, throughout the years the United Church has been guided by a Statement of Purpose which was formally adopted in 1983: "The purpose of the United Church of Underhill is to be a Christian community that offers spiritual growth to all and responds to the needs of people according to the teachings of Christ."

In 1998, the United Church voted to buy the adjacent building, originally built by the Knights of Pythias, later used as a Grange Hall, and finally serving as the Gifford Funeral Home for many years. In 2001, it was made useable for public functions and its first application was to house the Clutter Barn for the Harvest Market. The same year the church office was moved from the parsonage annex to new quarters in the basement of the church. The parsonage annex was renovated and acquired new life as a study for the pastor, who now has regular visiting hours for parishioners in an inviting environment.

In 1998 a Peace Pole was erected in front of the church reading, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" After the devastating tragedy of September 11, 2001, when peace was so drastically threatened, a new addition was made 1iturgy. The service begins with the lighting of a 'Peace Candle'. There is a silent prayer for peace and the congregation sings the hymn 'Let There Be Peace on Earth'. Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen has been an inspiring pastor since 2008.

~~The Future

In 1901 in his dissertation for the centennial celebration of the founding of the first church of Christ in Underhill on December 29,1801, the Reverend S L Bates challenged the congregation. "As we turn from the past we must face the present and look down through the future. Our backward look today suggests important lessons for you. Remember you are acting in the line of those who have gone before and for the welfare of those who shall come after. You stand in a goodly line. Others have labored and you are entered into their labor. The work committed to you is the Lord's work, and the Lord is your Leader. Dare you, then, in view of your responsibility to him and to generations to come, hesitate for a moment in doubt and discouragement, or expect anything less than success and victory? Your trust is surely a sacred one. It is yours to carry forward towards completion the work the fathers begun, to give greater vigor and efficiency through your lives to the truth upon which they builded, and, in your measure, to hasten the coming of our Lord's kingdom here and throughout the world."



40th Old Fashioned Harvest Market, September 27, 2014

John Moore, Penny Moore, Ed Moore, Betty Moore, Tom Moore, Rick and Linda Presson

REFERENCES

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The University of Vermont Alumni Magazine, April 1968

Kika McArthur, Book Design

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, Nathanial 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, 1st 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 1st 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.



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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.

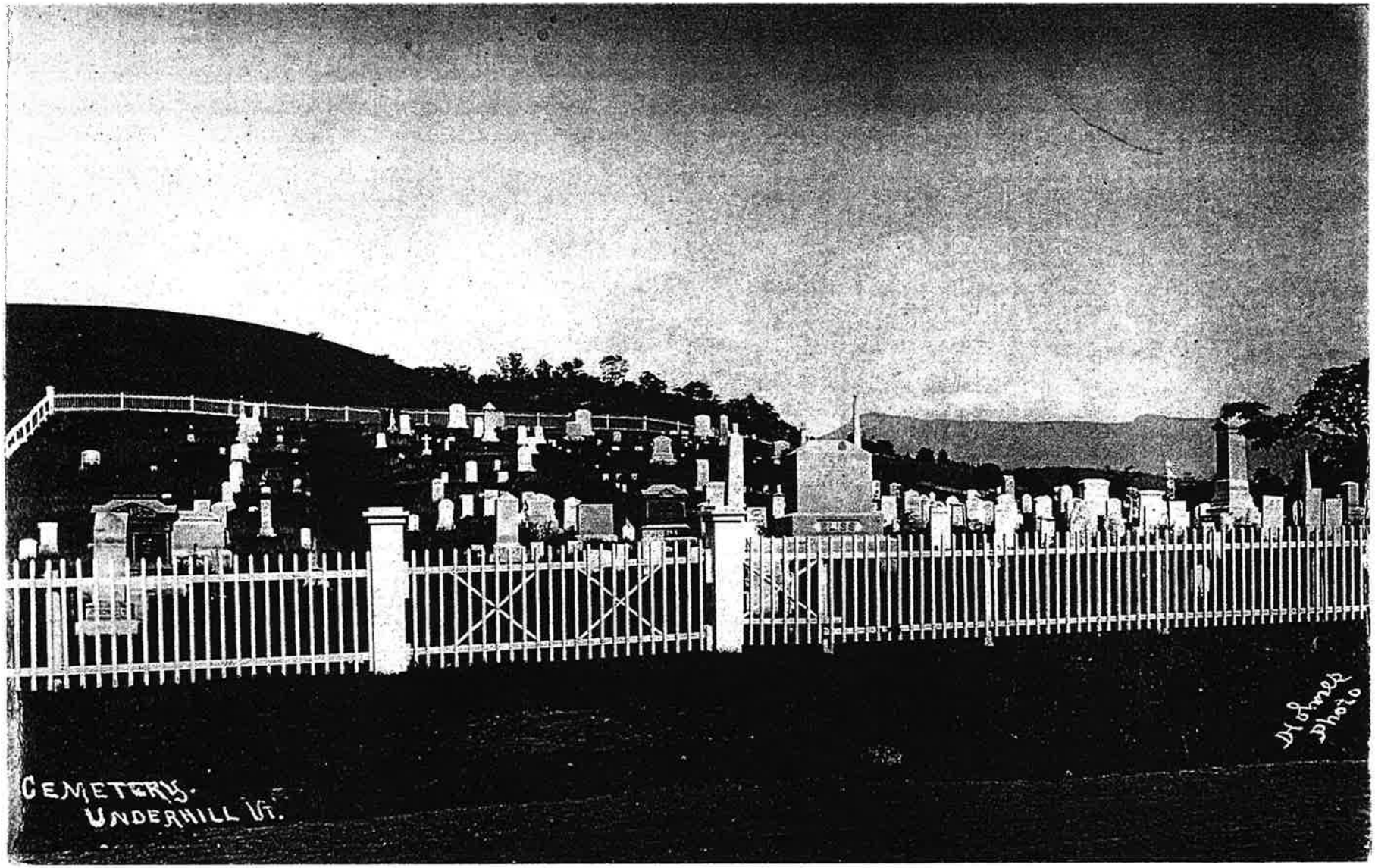
Burdick writes that "This cemetery has been under the control and management of the Said Society since the first purchase of land from John H. Tower in 1853."

(??? 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

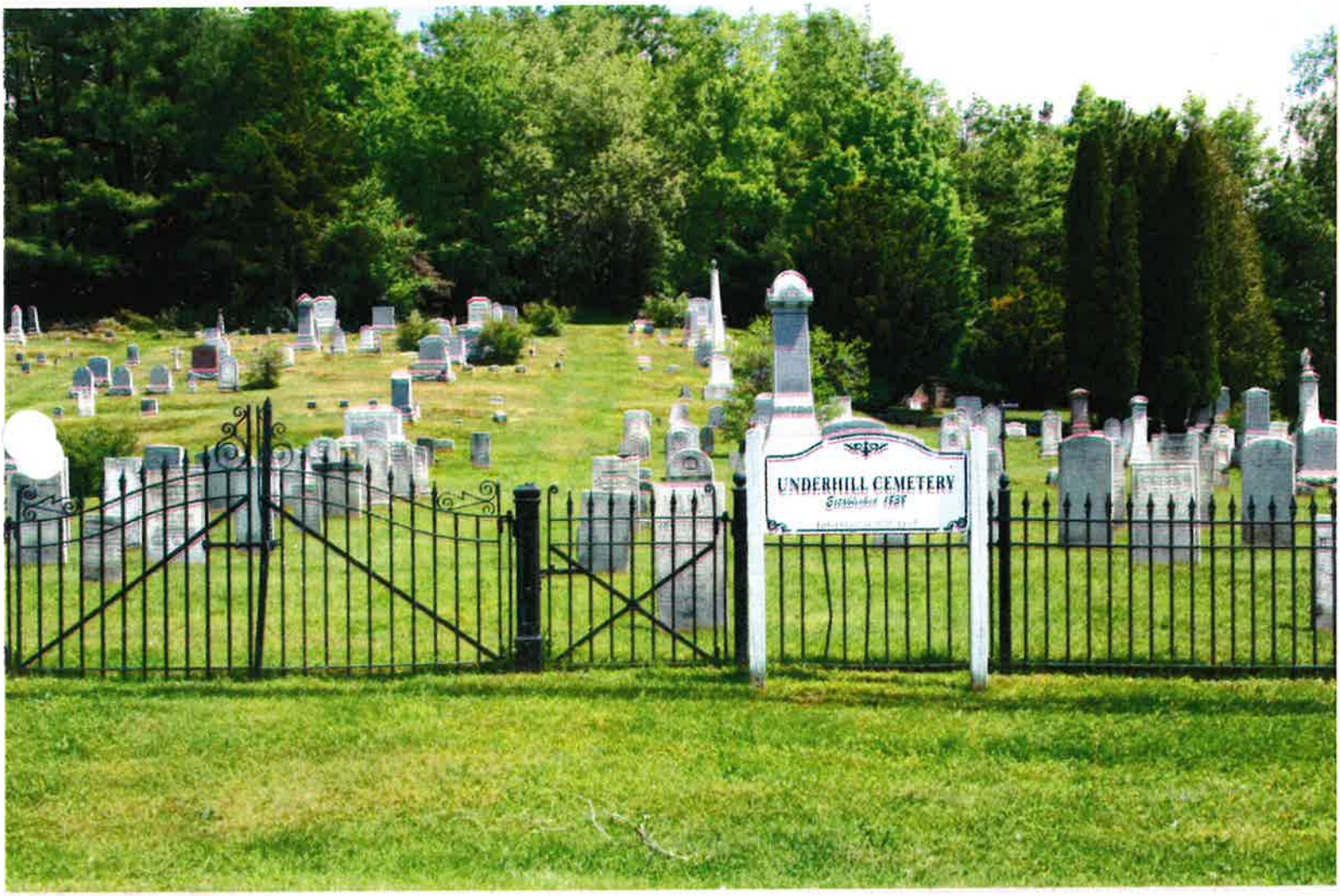
(Burials which precede Towers 1837 burial ground: 1809 Hiram Hicks; 1810 Polly Rogers; 1813 Juliette Church; 1819 Susan Mc Cormick)

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



UNDERHILL CEMETERY c. 1900


MEMORIAL DAY. UNDERHILL. VT. 1911.



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UNDERHILL CEMETERY

Park Street

1838

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)



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DORAN CEMETERY
Pleasant Valley Road
1846

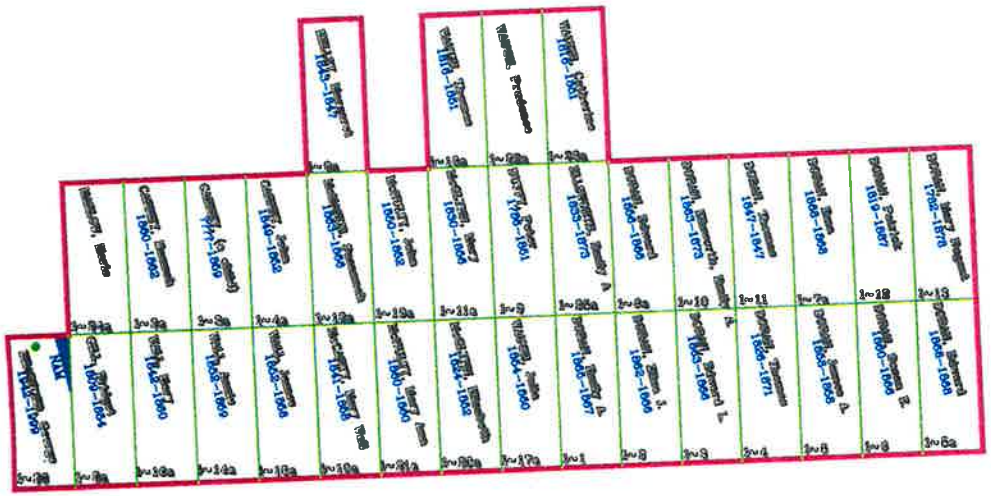
DORAN CEMETERY - GRAVE ASSIGNMENTS

363 PLEASANT VALLEY RD

VCS

Legend
- Section Lines
- Lot/Path Lines
- Grave Lines
- 1-3a Lot Number and Grave-ID
- Cremation
- Name of Interred
- Name of Owner
- Veteran

Grave Size 3' X 10'
Lot Size 16' X 10'; Section 3 only
Paper Size 13" X 19"



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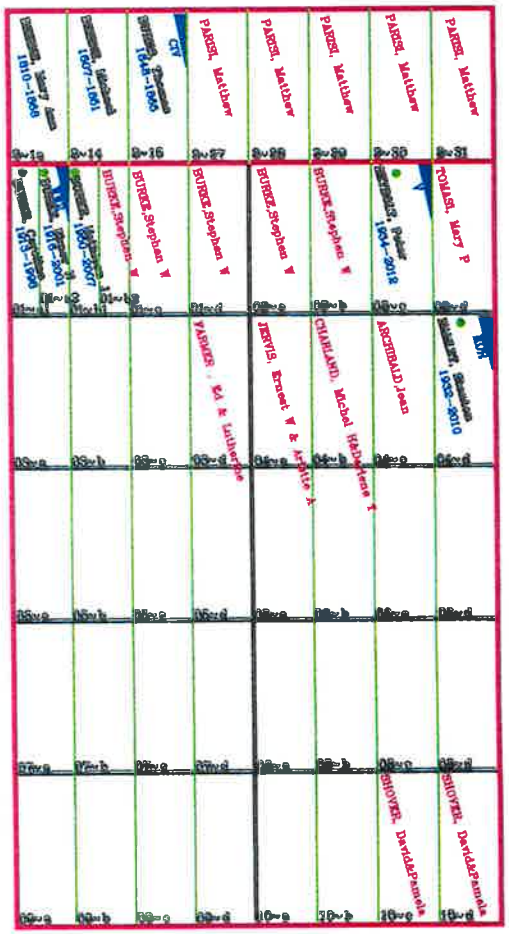


SECTION 3

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, Leddy, 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 $30.00, one acre of land, located on the east side of the "Settlement" highway. This, also, was deeded 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 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 Worchester, 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 [illegible]gue hit the area in 1866; Edward was [illegible] Susan five, Eliza three, and Emily two. These children, it is said, were all buried at night because of fear of spreading the plague. [illegible]

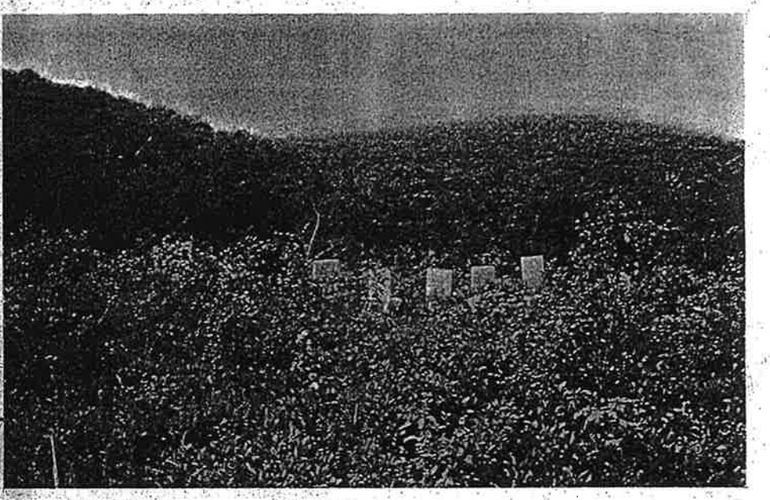
It can be seen in the census readings of [illegible] 1800's that the population of [illegible]rhill thrived and grew on lumbering and farming until 1850. From that date until 1880, the population grew very little and many died of typhoid and diphtheria. In 1880, the population barely was ahead of the 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.

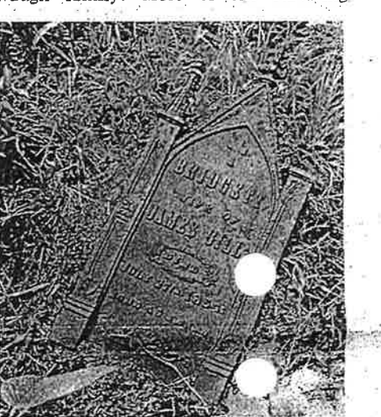
Thomas Burns, the son of Michael and Elizabeth Burns, died June 24, 1865, at the age of 17 years and 2 months. Ironic as it may seem, an inscription on his tombstone states, "Gone but not forgotten." It is believed that Thomas Burns was a Civil War soldier and died while in the service of the North. He lived with his folks at the present day Beckwith 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 McHughs, as well as the Burkes of Massachusetts, of w[illegible] most are now dead.



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

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 children moved to Worcester, Massachusetts to work in the factories. A granddaughter now lives in Trenton, New Jersey, and her married name is Waters.



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

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 burned to death in his home. He lived 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

(Continued on Page 16)



Patrick Doran's grave[illegible]ne lies amid the leaves and grass.

FAIRFAX

Maryann Raymond, Reporter

Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Ovitt Honored on 40th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Ovitt of Isle LaMotte, formerly of Fairfax, celebrated the 40th anniversary of their marriage April 29. To mark the occasion they were guests of honor at a surprise reception 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. Ovitt 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. Ovitt 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. Ovitt 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. Ovitt, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Ovitt Sr. of Sheldon, on April 29, 1930, in the First Baptist Church in Wyandotte, Mich.

They lived in Fairfax for several years where Mr. Ovitt 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 Ovitt of Parish, N.Y.

Roun out their family circle are 12 grandch...en 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 Groten, 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 Bruso, 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 varigated 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 attendents 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 McNall, 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 Btn, 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 Barkyoumb, 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. ... y Meunier; and Treasurer, Mrs. Kay ...

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 st... 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 Bouthilette, Betty Collins, Paula Montgomery, Jeffra 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 Lavallee 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. 29
Tomatoes, pkg of 3 lge. 39
Dark Bread, Tip Top, loaf 29
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
[redacted] 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.[1] 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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[1] 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 there own section or plot in the cemetery. All the headstones are made of marble, except for one, which is made of cast iron.[2]

Fourteen graves are those of children eighteen years old or under.[3] 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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[2] *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.*

[3] *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.[4] Underhill's increase in population could have been a result of this immigration.

BEIRNE/BURNS

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[4] *In 1845, the first cases of Phythophthora 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[7] 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[8], 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[9] 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.[10] "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[11] where the toxins produced by

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[7] *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).*

[8] *Doran is short for O'Doran who are from the provinces of Ulster and Leinster (MacLysaght 1985:77).*

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

[10] *Ellsworth is not an Irish surname.*

[11] *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[16] 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[17] 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[18] and Maria King[19]. In 1880 James, sixty-five, and Betsey, sixty, were living alone.

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[16] *The name Duffy or O'Duffy is found throughout Ireland (MacLysaght 1985:80).*

[17] *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).*

[18] *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[23] 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[24] 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[25] 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.[26]

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[23] *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 provence of Ulster (MacLysaght 1985:137).*

[24] *Wall is Norman name that is common both in Britain and in the provinces of Munster and Limerick, Ireland (MacLysaght 1985:154).*

[25] *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.*

[26] *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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Kika McArthur 2010

IRISH SETTLEMENT CEMETERY
Irish Settlement Road
1851



Kika McArthur 2010

ST. THOMAS CEMETERY
Range Road
1873

JERICHO-UNDERHILL WATER DISTRICT

Peter H. Mitchell
Harold E. Sargent
Marc Maheux

History of the Jericho-Underhill Water District

Compiled and prepared by Peter H. Mitchell, Marc Maheux, and Harold E. Sargent
2013

EARLY HISTORY: ORIGIN OF THE JERICHO-UNDERHILL WATER DISTRICT

Thorpe Private Water System

Beginning in the summer of 1894 Thomas Thorpe constructed a water system to serve the village of Underhill Flats and Riverside. The source was a spring located at 14 Blakey Road on the northwesterly side of the Roaring Brook. The location provided a gravity fall of 132 feet to the village. The spring with concrete spring box is still in use in 2013 for the residence at 14 Blakey Road; and remnants of the supply pipe running along Roaring Brook to the Flats were still visible in 2013. The supply pipe ran at least to the property at 22 Poker Hill Road, Underhill and continued along Roaring Brook almost to the Bridge on Vermont Route 15. Water service started in October of 1894. In the spring of 1895 hydrants were added to the system and the watering trough in the park at Park Street and Vermont Route 15 was built. In 1897 the railroad put in a new water tank at the depot which was supplied by the Thorpe system. A large cylindrical brick/stonewall water reservoir (and for a time wooden structures) were located behind 9 Meadow Lane, Underhill. This cylindrical reservoir may have been connected to the Thorpe system at one time. By the 1950s the land on which the reservoir was sited was part of the Orville Wrisley farm and the reservoir was said to have been a reserve water tank for the railroad; it was not connected to the water system. For many years the water system included a valve pit located behind the house at 10 Dumas Road, Underhill. It is not known whether this valve pit was part of the original Thorpe system which supplied the Flats village area; or was constructed later. It connected water mains on Poker Hill Road to mains in Underhill Flats until 1987 when it was removed.

Underhill Water Company

In 1925 the Underhill Water Company took over the Thorpe system. One of the backers of the Underhill Water company was Lucius C. Fowler, a local merchant. According to the grandson of L. C. Fowler, the Underhill Water Company was a stock company. Local merchants, water customers and maybe others were the stock holders. By this time the supply mains had been extended along Vermont Route 15 to its intersection with River Road (formerly Steam Mill Road), and then easterly along River Road to serve four houses. The water main ditches had been dug by hand; and hydrants had been added. L.C. Fowler was a major stock holder and served as the Director or Manager of the System until his death in 1936. In 1936 Perrin Fowler, the son of Lucius inherited the Fowler stock and became a major stock holder of the system; he took over the management of the system. In 1941 John W. Hitchcock deeded a 40 foot square at 379 Vermont Route 15 “with all springs of water thereon” to the Underhill Water Company. (The property at 379 Vermont Route 15 was known later as the Axel Ringwig Farm, and in the late 1960s was owned by J. Lee Murray). These springs became the water source for the Underhill Water Company. A cistern was located near the springs, and a shed accessed from Palmer Lane housed the water system pump, pressure tank and associated electrical equipment. At this time the system may have been owned or operated by Perrin Fowler or his father. At least in the mid 1940s the system was maintained by Stanley Hoag and his assistant Leroy Keith. In the 1950s the system may have been maintained by Archie Kirby. By the late 1950s there were problems with leaks in the distribution system. Some of these were the result of the piping and connections having been underground and in service for over fifty years. Also, by this time Perrin Fowler, according to his son was tiring of maintaining the system and welcomed the prospect of a public water system.

In 1961 the Jericho-Underhill Water District was formed by Act of the Vermont Legislature and it purchased the Underhill Water Company soon thereafter.

FIRST FIFTY YEARS: JERICHO-UNDERHILL WATER DISTRICT

District Incorporated

The Jericho-Underhill Water District (JUWD) was established as a municipality in 1961 by an act of the General Assembly of Vermont approved on July 31, 1961. The act is titled "No. 317 --- An Act to Establish and Incorporate The Jericho-Underhill Water District. [S. 133.]". The District was comprised of 65 parcels of residential and business land in Jericho (Riverside) and 50 parcels in Underhill (Underhill Flats). There is some overlap in parcels in part because along Park Street part of each parcel on the Jericho side is in Underhill. Based on these numbers the total number of customer properties in the original District would have been no more than 106.

In 1962 the JUWD purchased the existing Underhill Water Company system which had previously provided water to Riverside and Underhill Flats. The source was springs located at 379 Vermont Route 15, Jericho. The system included a cistern or reservoir, a pump, a pressurized tank and water mains. The pump and tank were housed in a small building accessed from Palmer Lane. By the late 1960s, according to a 1971 newspaper account the system was "plagued by inadequate distribution lines and lack of storage capacity. Water use had to be curtailed during the summer and there was insufficient capacity to serve planned residential development".

In 1969 the District entered into a Legal Services Agreement and a Loan Agreement with the US Department of Agriculture. This was the beginning of a system upgrade project to develop a new water source, provide adequate storage, and to update and expand the distribution system. At the time the District Board consisted of Leon Dumas, President, J. Lee Murray and Harold E. Sargent Trustees.

Property Acquisition

The District with the cooperation of several residents obtained property within its boundaries for this project. Wesley Jacobs granted an easement to the District for constructing a water main connecting the storage tank to the distribution system. Paul and Virginia Jones sold a lot at 47 Maple Ridge to the District for use as a storage tank site. Kenneth and Emily Mitchell sold the District approximately 2 acres and a right of way at 431 Vermont Route 15, Underhill for use as a well field. On March 17, 1970 the District obtained an easement and right-of-way for a waterline between Jacobs and Kittells land. This pipeline runs through the Park Street cemetery and allows water to flow by gravity from the tank on Maple Ridge Road into the distribution system. On July 22, 1970 the District received an option to purchase part of Lot #10 of the Maple Ridge Development from Paul E. Jones and Virginia N. Jones. At the time Leon Dumas was President of the District and agent for the JUWD. This option was for land for the Maple Ridge water storage tank. On April 22, 1971 a Deed conveyed a triangular lot to the District for use as the site of the 250,000 gallon tank. In exchange for the Maple Ridge land, the District agreed to provide water for the Maple Ridge Development which was owned by the Jones'. This included District responsibility to maintain water lines and the cistern that is the storage reservoir for homes in the Maple Ridge Development at elevations higher than the District tank. On April 30, 1971 the District received a Warranty Deed from Kenneth and Emily Mitchell. This deed for about 2 acres was for land on which to locate 10 or more shallow wells, for the site of a pump house, for a right of way for a water main connecting to the new distribution pipes laid along Route 15, and for access to the wells.

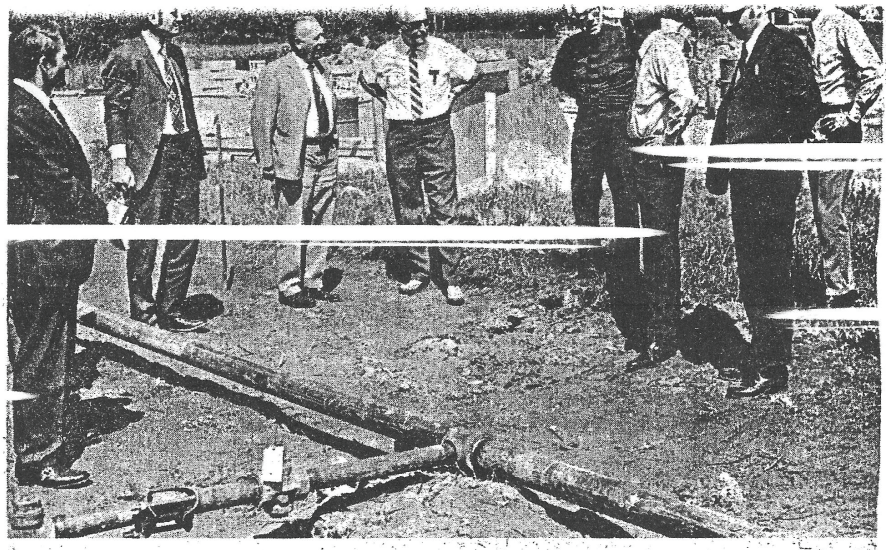
During this period but unrelated to the system upgrades, the District entered a formal agreement with Axel Ringwig. This agreement dated June 1, 1971 split the District's $187.21 cost

of repairing a line (along Palmer Lane?) with Ringwig; and provided for Ringwig to replace a section of line. This agreement was signed by J. Lee Murray, Harold Sargent, Leon Dumas.

Water System Upgrade

The District Board hired Fenton, Keyes and Associates of Providence R.I. to do the engineering and design for the system upgrade project. The design included a well point well field, distribution lines using 8" pipes, hydrants, and a 250,000 gallon welded steel storage tank.

The project was financed, according to a newspaper account at the time, with "a development grant of $152,000 from Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), a bond loan of $114,000 from FmHA, and a construction grant of $38,000 from the State of Vermont. The program is called the 'Aiken Rural Water Program' since Senator Aiken pushed it through Congress". The closing for the loan agreement with Farmer Home Administration (FmHA) occurred at the Underhill Fire Station in the summer of 1971. The loan closing was attended by Senator George D. Aiken as well as District, local and state officials.



STATE and town officials, led by Sen. Aiken (fourth from right) visit the pumphouse facility at Underhill Flats.

Underhill-Jericho Gets Water Loan

UNDERHILL FLATS — Sen. George D. Aiken was observer here Tuesday as a loan check for $114,000 in exchange for general obligation bonds was presented by the Farmers Home Administration to the Jericho-Underhill Water District for installation of its new water system.

The project is being financed with a development grant of $152,000 from FHA, a loan of $114,000 from the same agency, and a construction grant of $38,000 from the State of Vermont. The program is called the "Aiken Rural Water Program," since Aiken pushed it through Congress.

Led by Sherman K. Sprague, state FHA director, and J. Lee Murray, a trustee of the water district, the group including Aiken toured the new facility which is still under construction.

Work is proceeding as planned and it is expected the new system will be in full operation by September.

In addition to providing the residents of the district with drinking water and fire protection, the system will serve two new schools and is expected to stimulate the construction of new residential units within the water district.

Approximately 110 customers will be connected to the water system upon completion of construction this fall.

The new system was designed by Fentron G. Keyes Associates of Providence, R.I. It consists of a well field, pumping facility, 17,000 feet of distribution lines, and a 250,000-gallon tank on a nearby hill.

The new water system will replace the former Underhill Water Co., the existing water system purchased by the Jericho-Underhill Water District in 1962.

The old facility, which relied on springs for supply, was plagued by inadequate distribution lines and lack of storage capacity.

Water use had to be curtailed during the summer and there was insufficient capacity to serve planned residential development.



PRESENT for the check presentation are (from left) David J. Howe, Sen. Aiken, J. Lee Murray and Sherman K. Sprague.

Present during the loan closing at the Underhill-Jericho Fire Station were David J. Howe, chief of community programs; Richard H. Mansfield, FHA engineer; Robert Pratt, FHA district supervisor, all of Montpelier; Craig Buchanan, FHA county supervisor, Essex Junction; attorney Eric Schuppin, Jericho, and trustees J. Lee Murray, Harold E. Sargent and Leon Dumas all of Underhill Flats.

Figure 1. Jericho-Underhill Water District receives grant and loan from Senator Aiken

The construction for the new wells started in the summer of 1971 and was done by H.A. Manosh of Morrisville, VT and others. H.A. Manosh constructed a pumping facility and 17,000 feet of distribution lines. Lang–New England installed a 10 well point well field. The 250,000 gallon Maple Ridge Tank was built by Caldwell Tanks, Inc of Louisville KY. J. Lee Murray served as authorized District representative of new construction (until 1976). The system went into operation in the fall of 1971 and served approximately 110 customers.



Figure 2. Maple Ridge Water Storage Tank

Design of New System

The Distribution system included 8" asbestos cement mains along Vermont Route 15 from Browns River in Jericho to Dumas Road in Underhill, Raceway Road from Route 15 to the Creek, Willow Lane, Brookside Drive, River Road (sometimes called Steam Mill Road) from Vermont Route 15 to Park Street, Park Street, and Meadow Lane. Many customer connections to the distribution system were made using sub-mains and service lines some of which were galvanized with brass fittings; or black plastic tubing.

According to Harold E. Sargent a District Trustee at the time, the District received two bids for the distribution lines/mains: one for ductile iron, and the other for asbestos cement pipe. The FmHA which controlled the issuance of the loan and bonds, insisted the District install asbestos cement pipe because it was cheaper and FmHA assumed therefore more people could be served water. This was a short sighted decision because leaks developed due to incorrect tapping methods used on the asbestos cement pipe. The District spent years finding and redoing these taps. In addition, the District found the asbestos cement pipe shed asbestos fibers; and state and federal health authorities were unable to answer concerns related to ingesting asbestos fibers. Eventually it was determined asbestos fibers were not a health hazard when ingested in drinking water in small amounts.

The well point wells were approximately 10 to 20 feet deep. After some use it became apparent that surface water was entering the wells, indicating a possible source of contamination. To protect the wells a 10 foot high clay berm was built over the wells to seal them from surface water. The clay was dug from an adjacent field owned by Kenneth and Emily Mitchell.



Figure 3. Well Point Field and Pump House

The pump house contained two pumps each driven by 25 horse power electric motors. During the first few years of operation, the well field and pumps at times provided in excess of 200,000 gallons of water per day. The actual customer need was less than 25,000 gallons per day, but due to leaks many times that amount of water was needed. The pump house also included usage recording equipment and chlorination equipment; and was later fitted with fluoridation equipment.



Figure 4. Pump House

New Regulations

In 1971 the District adopted a set of Regulations. A significant provision found in the early versions of the Regulations was that any new water mains must be cement lined ductile iron, and any new service lines must be copper. This was to address the severe leak problems which were plaguing the system. The galvanized and brass fittings were corroding and the black plastic lines would fail due to freezing, system water pressure, or movement of the ground. The Regulations were amended in 1980, 1987, 1990, and several more times. The more recent amendments were to adjust water rates, change connection fees, and allow the Board to approve alternate materials for main and service lines.

System Improvements

On February 6, 1973 the District received a Deed from Paul and Virginia Jones for the Maple Ridge cistern, 987ft pipeline and 20ft right of way around the cistern and pipeline. This is the Deed for the Maple Ridge Road housing development water system and resulted in the District becoming responsible for maintenance of that water system.



Figure 5. Maple Ridge Cistern

In 1973 the District voted to fluoridate its water. This District fluoridation program has been conducted in conjunction with the State Department of Health. The State Department of Health provides equipment and testing supplies. The District buys the fluoride material and maintains the equipment. In July of 1978 the Old Pump House and Reservoir at 379 Vermont Route 15 (owned by J. Lee Murray at the time) was demolished. It was no longer needed as a backup to the new well field. The old pump was stored for many years at the Pump House at 431 Vermont Route 15. Until 1978 a short section of Poker Hill Road was served by a small plastic line. A covered valve pit on property at the end of Dumas Lane was used to control the water mains along Poker Hill Road. In 1978, Peter Allendorf, acting as a real estate agent for Wesley "Tippy" Jacobs, extended this line along Poker Hill Road to serve additional house lots along Poker Hill Road and to provide water to Barrett Lane. This work was done by Ralph Russin Excavating of Underhill. Allen Bolio constructed Barrett Lane at this time; GW Tatro Construction of Jeffersonville installed a 1 ½ inch water line on Barrett Lane. In 1979 there was a brown winter with very little snow. The well field was damaged by freezing and the District Board used bales of hay to insulate and protect the wells. Also, in 1979 the District reviewed the boundaries of all the properties within the District, to determine the overall District boundaries. This was needed because properties listed in the original legislative act had been subdivided and developed and the District boundaries were not always clear. Looking back over the 1970s the District obtained a new water source which was more reliable, had more capacity, and allowed development in the community. As with any system constant attention to details, implementation of improvements and attention to maintenance were accomplished. The Board was successful in handling these responsibilities.

New Water Source Study

Minutes of the 1980 District Annual Meeting indicate that the Board was concerned about the adequacy of the 10 point well field. There was discussion about replacing the pumping system and well field with a gravel packed well and submersible pump.

In 1982 a winter fire destroyed the Wheeler Barn located on property on Raceway Road. This fire drained the District water tanks and highlighted the inadequacy of the well field. Imme-

diately after the fire the Underhill Jericho Fire Department pumped water from Roaring Brook to refill the storage tank. For a period of several months after this fire, the Greenmont Lumber Company pumped water from its wells to maintain water in the storage tank. A public meeting was held to discuss the problems of the water system which included well field inadequacy and continuing distribution system leakage. As a result water rates were raised 30% to make various repairs. As of March 8, 1982 the District declared a moratorium on new customers within the District; this effectively halted development within the District. Also, a "Water Committee" of six persons, headed by Alan Morse was formed to look into the possibility of another source of water for the District. Gerard Adams of Underhill was hired to drill test holes to characterize the existing well field. It was concluded "there is little hope of improving the present well field". In 1983 the geo-hydrologist firm of Wagner, Heindel and Noyes was hired by the District to find potential water sources. In 1984 Wagner, Heindel and Noyes provided a report which identified possible well-site locations within the District. In 1984 the Board met with the Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation to discuss funding and construction of a new water source. The scope of work for locating a new well field was defined and sent to five firms requesting bids.

Maintenance Problems

Also, in 1984 several repairs were made to the system. The Pump House was insulated, painted and re-roofed; the well point berm was re-graded and seeded, a new roof was installed over the Dumas valve pit, one of the pumps was rebuilt, and the telephone communication lines between the Maple Ridge tank and pump house were replaced.

Further in 1984, divers from the Reliance Corporation were hired to inspect the Maple Ridge water storage tank and determine whether the tank needed repair or recoating. In 1985 the Maple Ridge tank was drained, sandblasted and painted inside and out. While the sandblasting and painting were occurring, the District maintained water pressure by continuously pumping from the wells; two pressure relief valves at low points in the system kept the pressure within acceptable limits. This work was done by the original tank construction company Caldwell Tanks, Inc of Louisville KY. Tragically, one of the painters slipped on wet paint and fell from the top of the 32 foot storage tank, breaking several bones. The person was severely injured, but survived and eventually recovered.

Annual reports from the early 1980s indicate that in many of those years several leaks were discovered and repaired. Experts from the North East Water Works Association conducted a leak survey; no additional leaks were found, but usage continued high. Marc Maheux, new system operator at the time, borrowed leak detection equipment from the Champlain Water District to assist him in his search for leaks. The 1985 Annual Report stated that average usage had decreased from about 146,000 gallons/day to about 74,000 gallons/day. Leak repair continued throughout the 1980s.

New Water Source

In 1985 the District received State funding to pursue a new water source. The District hired Webster-Martin Engineers of South Burlington, VT to do the engineering for a new source and other system improvements. The engineering work was done primarily by Jeff McDonald. A hydro-geologic evaluation in search of groundwater in sufficient quantity and quality for the District was conducted by Groundwater Associates of Arlington, MA. On Aug 5, 1986 the District concluded option agreements with Mary Bushnell and Merton and Grace Mills. These agreements made land available for the drilling and evaluation of test wells and observation wells by Groundwater Associates. These wells and this area were tested in 1989 and 1990 for use as a new District water source.

In February 1987 petitions to extend the water system up Poker Hill Road and along Barrett Lane were received by the District. The petitions resulted in engineering plans for a new water main crossing of Roaring Brook, replacing about 250ft of plastic line along Poker Hill Road with an 8" main, and adding a hydrant. The plans did away with the valve pit behind the Leon Dumas house on Dumas Lane. This work was included as part of the project to develop a new water source.

In 1987 exploratory test wells were drilled by Layne New England (later Hydro-Group, and then Layne again). The test wells near the pump house had high iron and manganese; test wells near Browns River had an estimated capacity of 250 gallons/minute with low iron and manganese. The Board prepared a voter check list and a District boundary map showing all property with in the District. Based on the information about the test wells and the recommendation of the Board, the District voters approved bonds of $400,000 for a new well near Browns River and for water main improvements along Poker Hill.

In 1987, an old chicken coop owned by the United Church of Underhill and located next to the United Church of Underhill Parsonage barn (at 9 Park Street, on the former Gallop Property) was donated to the District and moved to a site at the well point field. This building was refurbished and has been used since then by the JUWD as a storage facility for material and records. Over the years this building was repaired and painted by Chester Willey, Richard Eldred, Jim Kozlowski, and others. It was painted once by Boy Scouts of local Troop 627.



Figure 6. Storage Building

On April 13, 1987 the District received a Water Line Easement Deed for the Wonderhill Estates Development along Harvest Run Road; the development required an extension of the water main along Harvest Run. This development project of Allen and Alonna Bolio was allowed by the Board in spite of the moratorium because a new water source had been located and the voters had approved by vote the bonds to finance development of the new source. Three houses in the development were added to the system in 1987 and more since. On Oct 8, 1996 the District receive the final Easement Deed for this development.

District Acquires Land for New Source

On January 12, 1988 the District received a Warranty Deed from Merton and Grace Mills; and on June 23, 1988 the District received a Warranty Deed from Mary Bushnell. These documents resulted in the District obtaining: land in Underhill for new wells, land for a treatment/control building, and land for an access road within the District and convenient to existing mains. Part of this agreement was for the District to extend the water line along River Road to serve the Bushnell property at 58/63 River Road. On Oct 3, 1988 the District received a site plan from Pe-

ter Hartwick for the Valley's Edge Development. Approval of this plan was dependent on completing the development of a new District water source. The development included a loop extension of the District main on Raceway Road to serve Valley's Edge Road and 28 new houses.

Construction for New Source

In 1989 Blow and Cote of Morrisville VT completed the construction associated with the new production well, control building, and main; the production well was drilled by Hydro-Group of Massachusetts. The new gravel packed well produced only 150 gallons/minute. This was disappointing because based on information obtained from the 6 inch gravel-developed test well it had been expected to produce about 250 gallons/minute. Also, in the summer of 1989 Blow and Cote completed Poker Hill and Dumas Lane valve pit work of "Contract #2". The Poker Hill work done on Contract #2 included crossing Roaring Brook, installing a hydrant, installing about 50 feet of pipe and a valve on Poker for future extension, and connecting the copper pipe (installed by Peter Allendorf on Poker Hill Road in 1978) to Barrett Lane. This improved the water service and fire protection to customers in that area, eliminated the valve pit and made that part of the system more reliable.



Figure 7. Production Well Mound



Figure 8. Control Building

During the summer of 1989 while the construction was going on, a new service line was being installed at Sinclair Towers Inn, 389 Vermont Route 15. A contractor was working on the service line when the connection to the main failed and blew out. This resulted in a stream of water being

directed at a third story window of the Inn with such force that the window was broken and water was sent streaming into the third floor of the building. The main was quickly shut down, but the water damage was considerable. The damage repair costs were recovered through the District insurance.

Looking back on the 1980s the system required considerable maintenance. The 1982, 1987 and 1988 Annual Reports mention wells points being back flushed or cleaned and being brought back on line. An item from 1988 was the construction by Kenneth Mitchell of a berm to protect the pump house and the storage shed from flooding by the Roaring Brook. In 1989 a leak in the line supplying the Maple Ridge cistern was found and repaired. It is also interesting to note that during the connection moratorium of the 1980s, the District made some exceptions before a new source was located. One exception allowed the addition of service to create an apartment at an existing customer residence; another allowed a new connection to a store that had suddenly found its well un-usable.

As mentioned above even though the water production of the new well was disappointing, work on the new well continued in 1990. It was discovered found that the new gravel-packed well had not been drilled in the gravel formation that served the test well. The engineer decided to place the gravel-packed well closer to the center of the well site for better sanitary protection. Efforts were made to develop the production well using a technique known as hydro-jetting. Output increased a few gallons per minute but the well was still rated at 150 gallons/minute. Concurrently, the controls for the well, the pump and the equipment for water treatment had been debugged and the new well went on line in the fall of 1991.

Second Well Developed

Due to the limitations of the new well, the Board decided to install a production pump to the original 6 inch diameter exploratory test gravel well, creating a second production well for the District. The Board applied for and received State approval. The pump and additional main connections and controls were installed. The second well went on line in March of 1992, and was rated for 150 gallons/minute. Both wells pumping at the same time are rated for 290 gallons/minute total. The two production wells are used alternately during normal system operation; having two production wells improves the reliability of the system to provide water. Around this time the Mary Bushnell property was added to the District and served with water.

The Valley's Edge main extension was completed in the summer of 1992. The District received a Warranty Deed from Peter Hartwick dated Oct 31, 1994. The warranty deed from a developer is generally given to the District after a year of operation and results in the District taking responsibility for the maintenance of that part of the system. In 1992 the District approved a 6" main extension for the six lot Creekside Road Development of Warren Palmer. The development required an extension of the main and connections to each house. The District regulations require a fee for the tie-in of the main and for each connection. Warren Palmer sued the District saying that as a developer he should not be required to pay both fees. The Board was represented by Vince Paradis of Bergeron, Paradis & Fitzpatrick, LLC of Essex Junction VT and in 1995 the Board prevailed in the suit; the development and connection fees contained in the District regulations were upheld as valid as interpreted by the Board. The Creekside Development resulted in the addition of 6 customers.

Well Head Protection Study

In 1992 the Board authorized spending $1200 as its share of an EPA sponsored $16,000 demonstration study of the geology surrounding the District wells. The purpose of the study was to

understand the geology of the wells and to define a well-head protection area using numerical methods. The study was conducted in 1992 by Wagner, Heindel and Noyes, Inc of Burlington, VT. The study modeled the clay layers between the surface and the depth at which ground water is withdrawn for District use. These impeding layers have low leakage and protect the ground water from surface contaminants. The model was calibrated and checked against measurements from existing wells within the water shed. After review and revision a final report dated 1994 was issued. The final report includes a map defining a 200 foot isolation zone, a 25 year time of travel zone, and the water shed boundary.

Increased Testing

Many significant changes to District operating requirements occurred in the early 1990s due to new State and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules. In 1992 the District was required to test for fluoride daily instead of weekly as in the past. In 1993 the District was required to test for lead and copper at 20 home/business locations; this testing has continued periodically at the same locations to the present. In 1993 the State began charging every District 1 cent for each 1000 gallons of water pumped to pay for implementing the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act; this water-pumped fee has increased to 2 cents per thousand gallons in 1994 and has increased in the years since. By 1995 testing for volatile organics, synthetic organics, radon and other elements or materials resulted in substantial new costs for the District; with the benefit of knowing the quality of the water provided to customers.

In 1993 the Maple Ridge Tank was inspected by divers from Civil Engineering Associates of Shelburne VT. The divers inspected the tank and took pictures showing the condition of coatings and the sediment in the tank. The interior coatings were in good condition, and very little sediment had accumulated. The exterior of the tank needed touch-up painting.

Computerized Records and Maps

In 1993 the first District computer was purchased and put into use. In 1996 Marc Maheux started compiling digital records of District data for historical purposes. The records included service locations using Map Info, water usage, and testing results. In 2006 Marc created the District Website hosted by Dream Host. This site now provides public access to notices, regulations, forms, test results, operational data, minutes of meetings, and other information. The site is constantly updated and contains the most recent data.

Operating and Maintenance Issues

During the cold winter of 1993/1994 the District spent $13,000 on pipe thawing. The cost included the purchase of thawing equipment to speed up the thawing process. As a result the District identified about 20 houses and businesses many along Vermont Route 15 which were prone to freezing. The Board authorized these houses to run a trickle of water to prevent the freezing of service lines. The District billed these customers based on their past average use and not for the additional water used to prevent freezing. In the years since, many of these lines have been buried deeper or insulated, but the practice of running a trickle of water to prevent freezing is still used by a few customers when authorized by the Board.

In 1994 the Board decided there was a need to install dual check valves at houses located at higher elevations within the District. The purpose of the dual check valve is to prevent water from within a premises being withdrawn back into the system when high flows occur due to hydrant use in fighting a fire. Such high water use may pull water from swimming pools, heating systems, hot water heaters, or mud puddles where a hose has been left. By 1996 dual check valves had been installed at 22 houses and are now required for every new connection added to the District.

In 1995 the District extended service to a property with a long driveway on Maple Ridge Road. A sub-main through the property at 38 Maple Ridge was replaced to provide adequate water for this new connection; and at the same time the District improved the connection to the residence at 38 Maple Ridge. The project started in the summer of 1995 with an agreement letter by H. Sargent and the owners. The summer was very rainy; grass seed did not take hold and erosion along the ditching occurred. Further landscaping was done and the issues were finally resolved in 2001.

Source Protection Plan Created

In 1996 the first Source Protection Plan was approved by the State. This plan is required by the State's agency of Environmental Conservation and assesses potential sources of contamination of the District water source. The assessment involves contacting property owners within the watershed and understanding whether their septic, fuel storage, fertilizer, pesticide, or animal waste practices could contaminate the District wells. The District provides property owners with information about the District wells, good practices, and asks for their cooperation in safeguarding the District water sources. The plan was written by Marc Maheux based on information he compiled from questionnaires and interviews. This plan shows the various zones from which water District originates and potential sources of contamination. This document has been updated every three years since.

More Computerized Records

In 1997 the District started a project to precisely locate curb stops, waterlines, and main valves within the system. This information is helpful when it is necessary to operate a valve in a routine or emergency situation. It is especially useful in winter when snow or ice may cover curb stop or valve access. During good weather each valve was located, a photograph was taken showing the relationship to the residence or surrounding landmarks, and locating measurements were recorded. It took a couple of years and several people to gather all this information. The information was organized by property code and printed. Paper and electronic copies were distributed to the Chief Operator and Board Members. This information is stored digitally so it can be accessed easily, and updated as needed.

Low Water Pressure

In 1998 the District installed sealed atmospheric tanks at four high elevation houses. This was done to prevent backflow into the system and to improve water service at these residences by increasing water pressure.
Backflow was prevented by an air gap between the system and the tank.

District Recognized on TV

In the spring of 1999 the District officers were interviewed on television during Vermont's Drinking Water Week. Harold Sargent, President and Marc Maheux, Chief Operator appeared on the "Across the Fence" program of WCAX-TV. The District was used as an example of a small groundwater system typical of many in the state. "Across the Fence" is sponsored by the University of Vermont Extension Service.

Brown's River Challenge

In 1999 the District stabilized 120 feet of Brown's River Bank near the control building. The Board had become concerned because the river bank was eroding and the river edge was moving toward the control building. There was also concern that the river bed would erode and

expose pump control circuit conduits or the force main and they would be vulnerable to damage by floating debris or ice. The state Agency of Environmental Conservation approved the Board's plan for stabilization which was consistent with state requirements. Rip-rap was placed along the river's edge. The effect was that the river bank moved away from the control building for many years. The river bed erosion was perhaps slowed, but did not stop. Within a few years the pump control circuit conduits were exposed.

The summer of 1999 was very dry and many private wells were either dry or low. The District made water available to these people and also sold water to the Town of Underhill for use by people in Underhill Center. To make the process of obtaining water easier for those in need, Marc and Jane Maheux allowed people to draw water from a faucet at their business, Countryside Florist, 419 Vermont Route 15, Underhill.

Looking back over the 1990s the major accomplishment was switching to a new water source: two deep wells. These wells have provided excellent quality water and at present more than enough for continued development in the community.

Major Leak Repaired

In early February 2000 daily water usage in the system doubled indicting a leak. Temperatures were well below freezing and the ground was snow covered. The District asked for customer input as to the locations of wet spots or other indicators of a leak. On February 18th a customer reported that while snowmobiling in the vicinity of the outdoor ice rink at the Underhill ID School Building, he got wet from water under the snow. The weather was so cold that there should have been no water at that spot. Curb stop location information was used to locate and shut off the water to the school. The leak was repaired the next day. It was found that the service line to the school was not very deep and went under the ice rink. Water had been applied to the ice surface daily, and eventually worked its way to the service line causing the service line to freeze. The school agreed to place the ice rink in some other location in the future.

In June of 2000 half a dozen customers all served by the same sub-main spur on the west side of Route 15 in Underhill reported that the water pipes in their houses were vibrating. This vibration was traced to a fluttering toilet tank valve at a business at 413 Vermont Route 15. The fluttering valve apparently excited a resonance in the spur.

Poker Hill Water Mains Upgraded, Tanks Cleaned

During the summer of 2000 extensive work was done along Poker Hill Road. The project known as Contract II or the Poker Hill Extension had been designed and approved in the 1990s at the same time as the new well effort. This work on Poker Hill Road was coordinated by Marc Maheux and conducted by J. Durbrow Excavating of Underhill and E. J. Prescott of South Burlington, VT. The work included installing 900ft of 8" ductile iron pipe, 2 hydrants, 2 future connections, and 4 road cuts. Unexpectedly, blasting was needed to remove a very large boulder blocking digging of the pipe ditch. This project which was completed Aug 31, 2000, extended the main from lower Poker Hill Road, and improved customer flows and fire protection.

In 2001 the District tanks were inspected and cleaned by divers from Underwater Solutions (?) of Massachusetts. Again not much silt was found, but it was recommended that the tank be repainted in the next few years. Acting on the recommendation from the tank inspection, the Board hired Phelps Engineering of Middlebury to prepare a plan for painting the tank and to make recommendations for constructing a second tank to make tank maintenance easier.

District Budgeting Formalized

For fiscal year 2001 the Board for the first time prepared and the District adopted an annual Water District budget as a planning and reporting method. Also the District joined the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) and through that cooperative organization bought workmen's compensation insurance, property insurance, and liability insurance for officers.

District Recognized for Outstanding Operation

In 2002 the District's "Public Water System Permit to Operate" was renewed for 5 years. During the re-permitting review, the State Water Supply Division found that "the system is one of the best operated and managed systems in Vermont". Several improvements were made in 2002. The telephone line telemetry between the Maple Ridge tank and the control building was replaced with a radio signal system. This reduced the telemetry cost because it was no longer necessary to rent a telephone line. The District began a plan to replace aging water meters over a ten year period by replacing approximately 25 meters with newer models. Also in 2002 the District took another step in computerizing its operations and began using Quick Books software for accounting and reporting of financial status.

In response to heightened security concerns which occurred after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, the District removed maps and other detailed information about the water system from its website. Also, the District reviewed its emergency response status.

District Builds Second Storage Tank

In 2003 Michael and Sylvia Forsberg of Underhill made an unsolicited offer to the District of land on Poker Hill Road in exchange for water service. A survey by Brad Holden of Underhill showed that the land on Poker Hill Road was at the same elevation as the based of the Maple Ridge Tank. This meant that the District could add a second tank to the system which would improve storage, fire flows, increase reliability and make system maintenance easier and less costly. Based on the design work of Phelps Engineering and their estimate of costs for the engineering and construction costs a series of public meeting were held to explain the project. As a result in April 2003 the Voters of the District approved a new bond at lower interest rates of $640,000.00. This money was to be used to payoff the old bonds (which happened in July 2003), construct the new Poker Hill water tank, extend the 8" main along Poker Hill Road to the tank, provide a 4" sub-main to serve houses near the new tank, and paint the Maple Ridge Tank. On May 12, 2003 the District received a Quit Claim Deed from Michael and Sylvia Forsberg for the Poker Hill Tank Site. With this in hand the Board distributed bid documents prepared by Phelps Engineering. When bids were received, it was found that all bids were much higher than the estimated cost. The Board began working with Phelps Engineering to reduce the cost of the project. The design of the tank was changed from a glass-lined tank to a welded steel tank primarily because of concerns with freezing; but this reduced cost somewhat. NL Chagnon Contractors of Winooski was selected to do the construction. With NL Chagnon assistance the Poker Hill service building next to the tank was designed, avoiding the cost of a structural engineering design. Also, it was decided to delay the Maple Ridge tank painting.

Construction started in November of 2003. As mentioned above, NL Chagnon was the Contractor; and Pittsburg Tank and Tower of Henderson KY constructed and coated the tank. Phelps hired an observer to make sure the construction followed the engineering plans. Marc Maheux represented the District for this project and worked to coordinate the work of the engineers and contractors. Additional cost was saved when Marc assumed many of the duties of the observer. Concrete was poured in the cold and snowy winter weather of December 2003 under a heated tent. The steel tank

was erected and welded in January 2004. NL Chagnon installed the main extension using directional boring. Directional boring was started in February 2004 and was difficult because of the boulders located in the path of the bore. Several times it was necessary to use a backhoe to open a ditch so the pipe could be laid. Also, it was difficult to pull the tracing wire through the boring without breaking it. As a result the tracer is not functional over all sections of the main extension. Most of the heavy construction including the sub-main was completed by spring; and equipment was installed in the service building. The equipment in the Poker Hill service building includes booster pumps which pressurize tanks and the sub-main to provide pressure for several houses near the tank in elevation.



Figure 9. Poker Hill Storage Tank

Coating of the tank was delayed until warm weather in late May. The tank was coated Sherwin-Williams NSF approved coatings. In July 2004 substantial completion of the Poker Hill Tank project was reached and the tank was put into service. Several new customers along Poker Hill Road were connected to the system. As the summer weather became hotter, coating curing problems became evident. The coatings emitted volatile organic compounds (VOC's) into the tank and the water was not safe to drink. The District drained the tank to let the coatings cure; when the tank was refilled in the fall of 2004 the water was still not usable. The tank was unused during the winter of 2004/2005 and the entire year of 2005. During the summer of 2005 the tank was drained several times in hopes that the heat would cure the coatings further. Not until the middle of 2006 had the VOC's lowered to an acceptable level. The Poker Hill Tank was returned to full service in September 2006.

It took a several years to work the bugs out of the booster pump arrangement in the Poker Hill service/pump building. A surge tank was installed, and the controls were reprogrammed.

Infrastructure Upgrades and Improvements

In 2004 Park Street was dug up for repairs and relocation of sidewalks; and sidewalks were installed along River Road. The District took this opportunity to make upgrades and repairs. Service lines were placed deeper or insulated. By chance the District found and repaired a long time undetected leak at the westerly end of Park Street. Water usage immediately dropped by several thousand gallons per day.

In 2005 the District made several adjustments along Route 15 so the sidewalk could be upgraded. The first section was between Jolley's Store at 341 Vermont Route 15 and Raceway Road; then a couple of years later between Raceway Road and Palmer Lane. Curb stops were located and repaired when required and protected by risers; hydrants were checked, service lines susceptible to

freezing were insulated. Plans have been made for the Palmer Lane to Underhill Town line sidewalk section, but as of 2013, this had not yet been started.

In August and September of 2005 the Maple Ridge storage tank was recoated by Marcel A. Payeur, Inc of Sanford, ME. First the old coatings were removed by sandblasting. The external coatings contained lead and lead abatement procedures were required and used. The sandblasted tank was inspected and judged to be in good condition. Finally the new coatings (Tnemec brand) were applied. The new coatings cured quickly and the tank was in use by the end of September 2005. In conjunction with the recoating, the exterior ladder was shortened and a ladder guard added. Lightning surge protection was added at the Maple Ridge tank.

In 2005 The District agreed to allow an 8" extension of the main along Dickenson Street to serve property which David Villeneuve intends to develop. This extension is still pending in 2013.

In 2006 a new hatch was added to the cistern on Maple Ridge, and flapper valves were added to the tank and cistern overflow. This was in response to a state inspection and recommendation. The Boy Scouts of Troop 627 as a community service project painted the District storage building located at the well field.

In 2007 it was noticed the electrical power and control line conduits installed under Brown's River in the early 1990s had become exposed. These conduits provide power to the well pumps and send control signals between the Control Building and the pumps. The conduits had been exposed due to erosion and movement of the Brown's River. There was a concern that the power or control wires could be damaged during the winter or during flooding. In October 2007, the District removed the electrical lines from the conduits under the river and rerouted them overhead on telephone poles. In September 2008 the District noticed further erosion of the river bed and placed stones over the conduits and main which go under Browns River.

In August 2008 the District pulled the well pumps from both production wells. The wells were inspected by video camera and found to be in good condition. The old pumps were replaced with new as these had been in the ground in service for 16 or 17 years. Once in a while the District receives a complaint of an odor of hydrogen sulfide from the water; in 2008 the District tested periodically for hydrogen sulfide but generally it was not detected. These odor complaints tend to be are few and seasonal.

Water Main Extended

In 2007 the District allocated water to the Jacob's Hill housing development of Phillip Jacobs. The water main was extended from Harvest Run up Jacob's Hill Road and two hydrants were installed. The main was put into service in November 2009; and 5 customers have been added to the District. This development is expected to expand in future years.

Matching Funds

In early 2009, the District applied for American Recovery and Reconstruction Act (ARRA) money for several projects. ARRA was a federal government program for "shovel-ready" projects to stimulate the economy out of the "Great Recession". Initially the District funding need score did not make the funding cut; but upon appeal the District proposal for automatic sampling of chlorine in the system boosted the score and the District did qualify for funding. At a warned meeting in May 2009 the District voters authorized a loan of $145,000 for several projects: replacing the water main under Brown's River, installing backup generators for the Control

Building and Poker Hill, automatic sampling of chlorine and upgrade and replacement of meters for outside reading. This funding of which 57% was reimbursed by the ARRA stimulus program allowed the District to make needed improvements and long term investments in the District infrastructure. Under the provisions of the program all the work had to be completed by the end of 2010.

The engineering for replacing the water force main under the Brown's River was done by O'Leary and Burke of Essex Junction, VT; and the directional boring construction by Bore-Tech of St. Johnsbury, VT. The new force main is 12 inch diameter high density poly ethylene (HDPE) pipe. It was placed under the river bed several feet lower than previously and should provide reliable service for many years. Backup generators were purchased for both the Control Building and the Poker Hill Tank; the Control Building generator was installed by Wayne Russin Excavating Company of Underhill and the Poker Hill generator by Reliant Electric Works of South Burlington. In their first few years of operation the generators had already proven useful during several power outages, one of which lasted two days. The installation of the automatic chlorine sampling equipment required installing a 600ft sample line so that the sampling was done at the entry point of the system. The District for many years has maintained a low background level of chlorine in the water. This equipment will allow better control of the chlorine concentration. All the meters within the District were replaced and contain a feature which allows reading from outside the house. The reading is done using an electronic reader which records the water usage in a memory. Because the reading is done outside the house, the time and effort to read the District meters has been reduced substantially, and because the reading is done electronically there are fewer errors. After reading all the meters, the content of the memory is moved into software that computes customer bills. Marc Maheux has adapted the billing software to support computer based billing of District customers.

The District completed the ARRA projects within the allotted time in 2010 but it took until 2012 before the District received all the government money promised.

Recent Development
In July of 2010, the Board allocated water to Peter Geise for 4 lots to be developed along Vermont Farmhouse Road in Underhill; this has resulted in customers being added to the District.

2011 to 2013

Leaks and Repairs
On a cold day in January of 2011 a leak was found on Palmer Lane. The repair required working in a water filled hole. The repair was coordinated by Marc Maheux and done by contractor Wayne Russin Excavating of Underhill.

Over Memorial Day weekend in 2011 the Poker Hill tank was hit by lightning. This destroyed the electronic drives of the booster pumps in the Poker Hill building, resulting in low water pressure for the several houses on Poker Hill Road which are only slightly lower than the tank elevation. In response the District purchased and installed another pump to provide pressure over the weekend. In the following weeks the electronic controls were replaced and the variable frequency drive driven pumps put back into operation. The booster pipe header was replaced and improved and the new extra pump was installed as a backup.

In the fall of 2011 the District tanks and cistern were inspected by divers. The tanks and coatings were found to be in good condition. A small amount of accumulated sediment was removed from each tank.

In January of 2012 on a cold morning a leak was noticed at the Brown's River Middle School. The leak was undermining the driveway in front of the school and needed to be repaired. Marc Maheux arranged for the school to be closed early so the water to the school could be shut off for the repair. The Middle School administration got approval to close early, notified parents and obtained buses to take the students home. Wayne Russin Excavating started the work late morning and completed the water line repair and driveway re-grading by the end of the day. Water quality testing was required (?) and completed

During the summer of 2012 the District installed a sub-main along Route 15. This was to replace some aging parts of the system and also to reduce the likelihood that water lines might freeze. This work was done by Wayne Russin Company; and coordinated by Marc Maheux. During the summer of 2012, the District buildings were painted by Don's Custom Painting of Jericho.

Fluoridation Questioned

In 2012 the District decided to reconsider fluoridation. A customer had been discussing this issue with the District for a couple of years. The District had started fluoridation after a 1973 vote in favor. In preparation for the vote a public hearing was held. At the hearing voters and experts spoke both in favor of fluoridation and against fluoridation. The District vote was held in November 2012 in conjunction with the Presidential vote; so there was a large turnout. The result of the vote was to continue fluoridation

UNDERHILL ZONING/JUWD

The Jericho Underhill Water District is the basis for the Residential Zoning District in Underhill Flats. The revised zoning regulations adopted in 1973 used the Underhill section of the Water District as the boundary for the zoning district. Residences with water from the JUWD require one acre of land; residences with a private well require 2 acres. The requirements have remained the same throughout the years. The map boundary of the Residential District is also unchanged, although the JUWD has since greatly expanded

Proposed revisions of the Underhill Residential District which would adjust the map boundary and allow denser development within the district were rejected by the voters in 2014. The Underhill Planning Commission is working on the problem.

SUMMARY JERICHO-UNDERHILL WATER DISTRICT – 2013

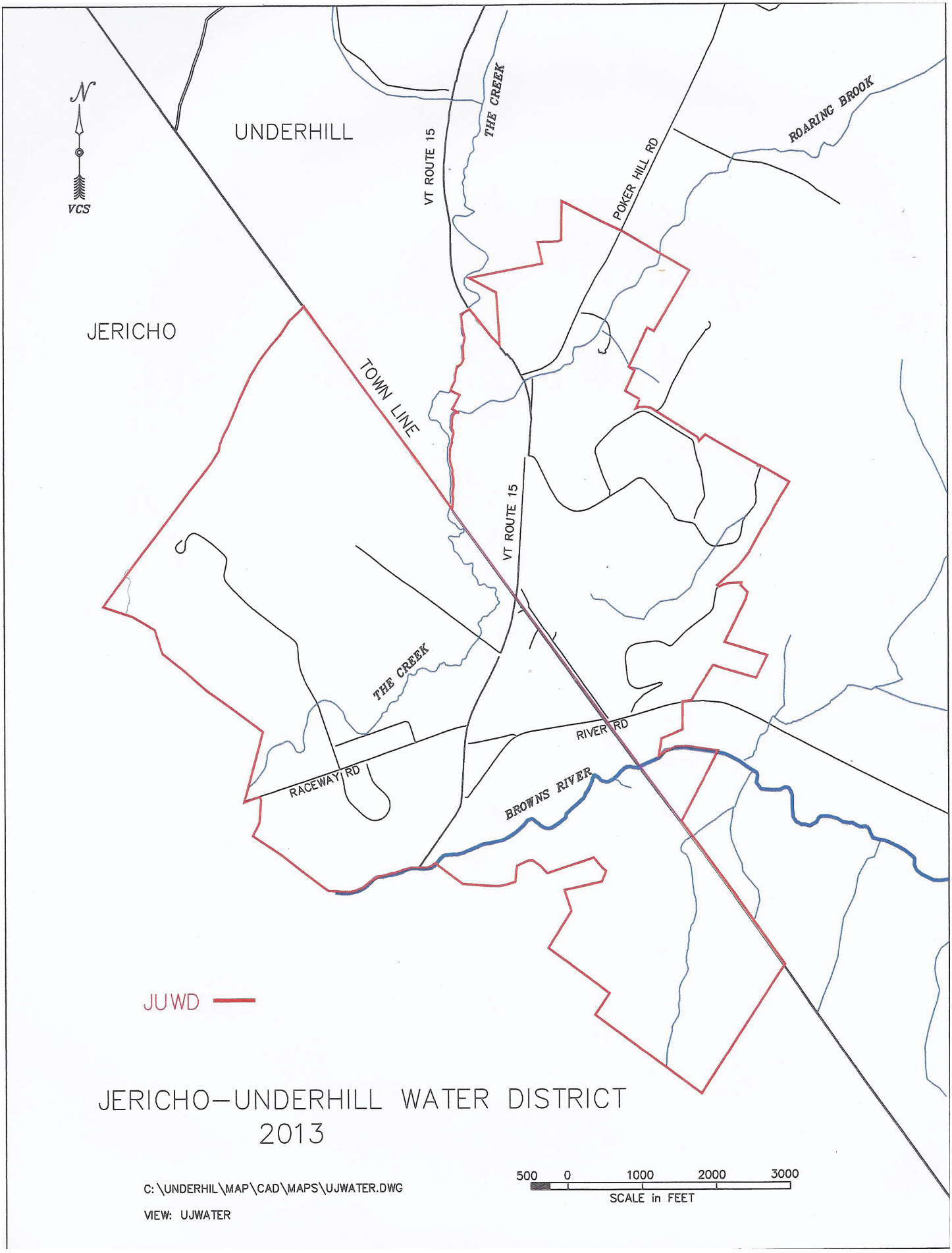
The Jericho-Underhill Water District is a municipality which provides drinking water and fire hydrant access to about 310 households, schools and businesses in the Riverside section of Jericho and the Underhill Flats section of Underhill. The District estimates it serves approximately 800 residents plus school children (grades kindergarten to eighth). An outline of the District boundaries is shown in Figure 1.

The District water source is classified as ground water and is delivered by two gravel wells about 175 feet deep located within the District. The source water originates in the area which includes the valley extending from Underhill Flats easterly to Underhill Center all the way to the ridge of Mount Mansfield. In addition to wells, the District maintains two water storage tanks, approximately 8 miles of water distribution mains, a control building, a storage building, a pump house, and an unused well point field.

The water is treated with chlorine as a safeguard against microbes, phosphate to sequester iron and

manganese, and fluoride for dental health. The water is tested in accordance with State requirements for fluoride and chlorine daily, phosphate several times a week (that is almost daily), bacteria monthly, nitrate annually and for various organic and inorganic contaminants on an annual or longer periodic basis.
The District delivered an average of 52,370 gallons of water per day in FY2012. The quality of the water is excellent and it has a pleasing taste.

The District Board consists of the following elected officers: President, two Trustees, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, and Collector. The District Board meets monthly and holds a warned Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is presided over by an elected Moderator. The District elects three Auditors who conduct an annual review of the financial statements. The system is operated and maintained by a certified Chief Operator and Assistant Operator according to State mandates as well as Regulations adopted by the District. For FY 2012 the expense and capital improvement spending was $119,076. The estimated cost of water for a family of four in FY2012 was $480.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VT ROUTE 15
THE CREEK
POKER HILL RD
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TOWN LINE
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Figure 10: Jericho-Underhill Water District Map 2013.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The authors thank Betty Moore of Underhill Center for her encouragement, suggestions, and editing of this history. PHM, MM, HES.

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* Fowler, Jim. e-mail accounts dated 5-6-2013 and 5-7-2013 provided courtesy of Randy Clark
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First Fifty:

* Newspaper Clipping from 1971
* JUWD Annual Reports and Meeting Minutes
* Deeds and Documents in JUWD safe deposit box
* Conversations with present and former members and staff of the District and with present and former community residents. Names included Marc Maheux, Harold E. Sargent, Randall Clark, Douglas Keith, Leroy Keith, and Peter Mitchell.

Next Fifty:

* JUWD Annual Reports and Meeting Minutes
* Betty Moore e-mail 8-1-2014

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Today:

* JUWD Annual Meeting and Reports FY 2012.

THE UNDERHILL JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT
100 YEARS

By
RANDY H. CLARK

A COMMUNITY TRAGEDY

The date was August 11, 1906 when a defective kerosene stove started a fire which consumed four buildings on the Jericho side of the community of 'The Flats'.
The home of Walter Grace, the drug store and residence of Dr. W.S. Nay, the 60 year old Methodist Church and the Masonic Grange building were all destroyed. Other homes were saved by pulling down the horse sheds behind the church and wet blankets were spread on the roofs of some of the nearby houses. Even The Congregational Church on the other side of the village park was threatened. The Burlington Fire Department responded quickly, sending by train both a steamer and manpower to help with the emergency. Meanwhile, the community Citizen Bucket Brigade was trying to keep the fire from spreading. The BFD had made the train trip in 35 minutes, but it was too late to save the involved buildings. Their equipment pumped water from the Browns River to wet down the remains. For the four destroyed buildings the damages were estimated at $15,000. Insurance covered $9000. The buildings were all rebuilt.



Only a few chimneys remain after the fire consumed these buildings



These buildings replaced the ones lost in the fire of 1906

ORGANIZATION OF THE UNDERHILL FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief Elbridge Nealy

It was not until 1913 that a formal fire department was organized for the community. Elbridge Nealy, a storekeeper on Park Street and Frank Ladue, who operated a barber shop in the same building, were the prime organizers. Mr. Nealy became the first department chief and served for 16 years. The first firefighting equipment consisted of a 75 gallon chemical tank mounted on a pair of wagon wheels and pulled by the firefighters. It was stored in Nealy's building between his jewelry store and the barber shop. It could only be used in Underhill Flats/Riverside area; Underhill Center was too far away to be serviced.

The tank worked by filling it with water and adding powdered soda. In the top was a glass bottle containing hydrochloric acid. During a fire the tank was turned over, the acid would mix with the soda water and the chemical reaction which occurred built up pressure in the tank and forced the water out of the attached hose.



1913 Chemical Tank



The Underhill Fire Station located on Park Street

In 1927 the Fire Department modernized, adding two forty gallon chemical tanks and motorizing the equipment with a 1923 Model TT Ford. The department could now travel faster and farther.



1923 Model TT Ford Fire Truck with two 40 gallon tanks



Chief Elwood W. Clark

In 1929 Elwood Clark, proprietor of the Underhill Garage, became department chief, serving for four years.

In 1933 Howard P. Davis took over as chief. (He was the local sheriff and a high bailiff in the Burlington court system). He served as chief until 1952.



Chief Howard P. Davis

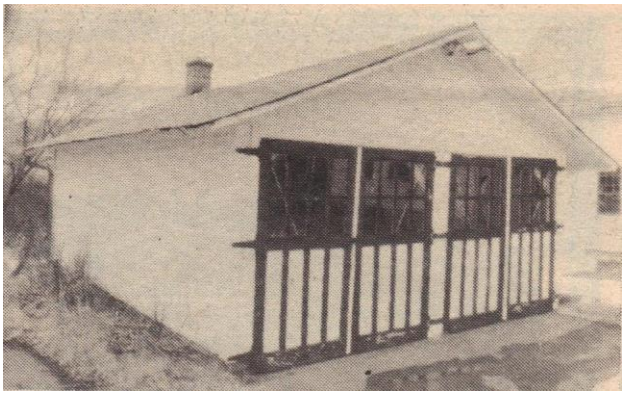


1927 Packard converted to Fire Truck

During this period the department responded to eight to twelve fires a year. In 1934 a heavier, faster 1927 Packard coupe with a rumble seat was purchased for $250. The rumble seat was removed and the chemical tanks were installed.

A new firehouse was built in 1936 to house the newly acquired Packard. The location was just over the Town line on the corner of Park Street and Route 15 in Jericho.

The Packard was able to respond to all areas of Underhill and Jericho, the farthest distance being about 9 miles. (The Packard was also used during wartime in the 1940s for notification of a possible air raid. The fire men would drive with no lights at a high rate of speed and warn people of danger with a shrieking, ear piercing exhaust whistle.)



The Fire Station built in 1936 RT15 and Park St

More water power was needed and a 500 gpm Civil Defense pumper mounted on a trailer was purchased. It effectively poured out a strong stream of water, but the trailer did not work well. It had to be hitched onto the Packard making the response time slower and it slowed down the Packard, too. The Dept decided to buy an Army surplus 1942 Chevrolet Four wheel drive and mounted the new 500gpm tank on it. The cost for the pump and hose was $2500. It was a tremendous expense, but provided a big boost in the fire fighting capabilities. About the same time Elwood Clark and Ed Ward developed a



1942 Chevrolet Army Surplus 4x4 with 500 GPM Pump

nitrogen pressure system for expelling the water from the two forty gallon tanks, replacing the messy, time-consuming soda and acid method.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

During these times the eight to ten men who went to the fires were notified by telephone. A person having a fire would call by phone if he had one, or a neighbor would call the telephone operator at the office, which was located behind the Fire Station in what was then the home of Genevieve King. Genevieve's mother, Alice King, was the telephone operator; she would call each fireman and report where the fire was. (Genevieve's father was a fireman and her brother was chief from 1958-1970.)

A NEW STATION

By 1949 the 1942 Chevy truck had become too big for the fire station. Space was at a premium. The men did not even have places along the wall for hanging their new coats and helmets. Tucked in between the Packard and the Chevy on the floor were about ten 80 pound milk cans (painted red) filled with water. When there was a fire, Orville Wrisley would load them into his pickup truck and haul them to the fire. That was the water supply.



New brick Fire Station built with mostly volunteer labor 1952

Archie and Mae Kirby who owned the Brick Store on the green in the Flats donated a parcel of land on which to build a new fire station. By 1952 a new station had been built on the property, 30 x 60 feet with room to spare. It was brick and concrete with a metal roof and cement floor, accomplished mostly with volunteer help.

INCORPORATION- A NEW ERA

In 1950 the firemen decided to form a corporation to limit their liability. The Underhill-Jericho Fire Department Inc. was chartered as a legal non-profit corporation in the State of Vermont. The document was signed by Howard P. Davis, E.W.Clark, and Orville Wrisley. (Orville C. Wrisley was elected chief in 1952 and served until 1956.) After the Department became incorporated the fire-fighters were paid for their services: $1.00 per hour and a minimum of $1.00 per call.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Jericho-Underhill American Legion contributed a resuscitator costing about $400. In the mid '50s twenty sets of raincoats and helmets were purchased; the men were so proud, they wore them to march in the Memorial Day parade.

DIAL TELEPHONE COMES TO TOWN

The dial telephone was introduced to Underhill and Jericho in 1955 and local operators no longer had to take emergency calls. A fire number was established: TW9-2560. (TW stood for Twin Oaks, the name of the exchange.) The phone system consisted of three red phones: one at the home of Chief Maitland Root; one at the home of 2nd Assistant Chief Ed Ward; and one at the Underhill Garage (owned and operated by Elwood Clark, then 1st Assistant Chief.) When a call was received a new warning-alert system atop the fire station (which cost $1000) would be activated by a person at the red phone location. This seemed like the ultimate in communication. Push a button and the alarm could be heard over half a mile away.

FUND RAISING

In 1956 the UJFD held its first fund raiser. A toy donkey was decorated with fifty $1.00 bills and raffle tickets were sold. (10 cents per ticket, 3 for 25 cents, 12 per dollar.) A fund raising dance was held at the Hen House in Underhill Center and the first Labor Day Barbeque was held at the park in the Flats. The chicken was cooked over an open pit by Cedric Wetherbee. (It rained toward the end of the event; tables and chairs for 125 people were moved into the Underhill Garage across the street.).Citizens donated rolls, salads and pies and money, which helped to make the fund raising event a success. The Labor Day Bar-B-Q became a tradition, now held at the Browns River Middle School., and Bill Wetherbee, Cedric's nephew, has continued the cooking for many years. On Labor Day 2012, 1000 guests were fed.



Honorary UJFD First Assistant Chief Ed Ward (age 101), Chairman of the UJFD's First Firefighter's Fund in 1956 presents Bill Wetherbee a 50 Year Award. Wetherbee owns and operates Wetherbee's Bar B Q Service and standing next to Wetherbee is his mother, Marion; next to Ward is Wetherbee's father, Manley. Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark is doing the announcing. Wetherbee's have always cooked our Chickens.

FIRST TANKER TRUCK

It was decided that there was room in the new Fire Station to house a second truck. The plan was to replace the milk cans with a tank truck. In 1957 an 850 gal. Chevrolet oil tanker was made over as a water truck at a cost of $750. Maitland Root became Fire Chief in 1957, serving until 1962.



1952 Chevrolet 850 gallon converted fuel oil truck to tanker



Chief Maitland Root

NEW CHIEF NEW TRUCK

Robert T. King had joined the UJFD in 1956. (He was State Auditor of Accounts and he brought organization to the fire dept.) Bob King was voted Chief in 1962 and served until 1970. In the early '60s then as Assistant Chief, Bob King established a truck committee which traveled all over the State of Vermont looking for a truck which would fit the budget of a small department. In March 1963 the voters of Underhill and Jericho approved the purchase of the first professionally - built fire apparatus in fifty years of operation. In January 1964 the new truck was delivered.



Chief Robert T. King

The fire truck body was made by the Peter Pirsch and Sons of Kenosha, Wisconsin. It was on a 1963 International Model V196 chassis with a 220 horse power specially built fire truck engine with 5 speed transmission, power steering and a No Spin rear differential. It had a 750 gpm Hale, 2 stage pump and two high pressure fog reels (a new concept in fire fighting). There was a 24 foot extension ladder, a 14 foot roof ladder, a 500 gallon water storage tank, and room for 1500 feet of 2 1/2 inch hose. (Total cost $14,000.) The department was so pleased; it held an open house for viewing.



1963 International with a 750 GPM pump and 500 gallons of water

The 1942 Chevrolet was remodeled by Bill Mead, Bob Clark and other volunteers by removing the hose and installing a 666 gallon water tank. The truck's four -wheel drive capability made this unit excellent for grass and brush fire fighting and continued to be used for another ten years. The 1927 Packard had served its useful life, was advertised for bid and sold for $427.00. (It probably should have been saved for its heritage value.)

BOY SCOUT SPONSOR

In 1965 the UJFD became the sponsor of the local Boy Scout Troop 7. Underhill Jericho Troop 207, as it is now designated, is the largest troop in Vermont and has been very active with community projects in both towns. Since about 2000 the boys have participated and helped out at the fire department on a monthly schedule.



Troup 7 Boy Scout Flag

OFFICIAL APPROVAL

In the late 1960s the Underhill Jericho Fire Department became officially ISO approved. As a result, the insurance cost for community members was lowered by about 20 percent.

HAZARDS

During the 1960s there were abandoned house fires and fires set in the road with hay or tires, mostly on Cabbage Night or Halloween. One such fire almost became deadly for the firefighters. When putting out one of the road fires with only a booster line, they found a gallon sized mayonnaise jar filled with gasoline. Fortunately, it did not explode, for it was the equivalent of 7 sticks of dynamite. After that incident, ALL fires were treated with a minimum of 1 1/2 inch line (120gpm) and full bunker gear.

FIRST NEW TANKER

In the late 1960s another committee was formed to design a new professionally built tanker truck. In 1970 a new International model 2010A with a 2000 gallon water tank was delivered with a midship Hale 350 gpm pump. It also carried an extension ladder, a roof ladder and a portable 1500 gallon water tank. The body was built by Middlesex Fire Equipment in Montpelier, Vermont. It was Well- engineered and its heavy duty 501 cu.in. engine, in combination with 5 speed transmission and a two speed rear axle, moved the truck safely, but not too fast, to its destinations. (Purchase price $17,000)



1970 International 2000 gallon tanker with 350 GPM pump

The old Chevrolet tanker was retired and put out for bid and sold to the North Troy Fire Department. It was later sent to the Catamount Race Track in Milton, where it was used as a water truck. It had a long, useful life.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS

The 1970s brought new communication ideas and the installation of two-way radios in each truck. In addition, twenty portable "black boxes" were acquired which were kept by each fireman in his car or at home. When the fire alarm sounded a radio tone was heard on the black boxes and all the firemen were alerted at once. It was a great improvement and the firemen did not have to be contacted by phone.

A SAD TIME



Chief William Mead

In 1970 Bill Mead replaced Bob King as Chief of the Department. In September Bob died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 55. It was a shock and a sad loss for everyone; he had been such an important, active member of the department and of the community. Donations sent in Bob's memory were used to start a uniform fund, which has furnished hats, shirts and badges to all members. Then in July 1971, another tragedy befell. Chief Bill Mead was thrown from his horse, hitting his head and fracturing his skull. He was treated at the scene by Dr. R.D. Towne and rushed to the Mary Fletcher Hospital in a station wagon by Randy Clark and Terry Root. He died of his injuries later that day. He was only 47. The UJFD had lost two outstanding Chiefs, who had given Freely of their time to the department for over twenty years.

THE DEPARTMENT REGROUPS



Chief Randall H. Clark

With such serious loss of leadership, the organization had to regroup and move forward. New officers were elected: Chief, Randall H. Clark; 1st Assistant Chief, Gerald Adams, 2nd Assistant Chief, Terence Root; Captain Dave Sullivan, and Lieutenant Paul Ward. The annual budget at the time was about $8,468. Chief Randall was employed at the Underhill Garage, owned by his father, Elwood, who was still a member of the UJFD. The family business supported the Fire Department by allowing employees to respond to fire call emergencies and pay them regular wages while they were at the call.

WATER SUPPLY PUMPER

An important decision was made to purchase 2000 feet of four inch hose (LDH) which would move more water than the commonly used four 2 1/2 inch lines. The 660 gal tank was removed from the Chevrolet and a hose body installed. (One cold winter night, responding to mutual aid call in Bolton the truck arrived without the hose, which had slipped off after a bump by Snowflake Bentley's house. It was quickly retrieved.) Otherwise, the hose proved to be an asset to fire fighting efforts and it was decided to purchase a water supply truck. A 1977 International four wheel drive truck was purchased and front- mounted with a 1000 GPM Hale pump, 500 gallons of water, a hydraulic operated reel for the four inch hose and a hydraulic pump. (Cost $45,000)



1977 International 4x4 with 1500 GPM pump and 2000 feet of 4 inch hose on a reel

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING



Muster Team: L-R, Front to Back: Tim Clark; Loni Morse; Shawn Danaher
Mike Greenough; Dwight DeCoster; Rob Cormier; Randy E. Clark; Todd Fisher

Toward the end of the '70s, the UJFD started participating in the State-wide Fire Department Games. These are activities which improved skills used in the work of the department. Competition with other Vermont Fire Departments and winning trophies improved practice incentive and added fun to the demanding hard work involved.

In 1972 Kitty Clark, Cis Dumas and Nora Root started the UJFD Auxiliary. They brought food and water to the fires for the firefighters and organized family activities for the department members. The group had grown to 14 members when it was discontinued…30 years later (2002) for reasons of insurance liability. At that point the members became full members of the department not only contributing their own specialties, but helping out with fire emergencies, as well.



Ladies Auxiliary Banner

In 1976 Firefighter Raymond Shaw founded the UJFD Firefighter of the Year Award. Then in 1986 the Award Committee added the Fire Officer Award. The Support Specialist Award was added in 1993. These are awarded annually for outstanding work for the department; improving dept efficiency; participating in extra training; involvement in community and civic affairs. The winners of the annual awards are sent to the Vermont State Firefighters Association to be judged state-wide. Those that have received VSFA Awards are: Fire Chief of the Year: Randy H. Clark, 1986; David Tillotson, 2001; Randy E. Clark, 2007. Fire Officer of the Year: Tim Clark, 1996, 1999, and 2001; and Micheal Greenia, 1997. Fire Fighter of the Year: Michael Begin, 1982; Randy E. Clark, 1985; Alan Morse, 1994; Kitty Clark, 1998; and Jackie LaVanway, 2007. Senior Fire Fighter: Randy H. Clark, 2007.

PETER A. RIVERS MEMORIAL STATION

For over ten years the possibility of building an auxiliary fire station in Jericho had been discussed. Many sites had been assessed. Then in the mid '70s Alice and Donald Rivers offered 3 acres of land in Jericho Center on Brown's trace. They also offered free fill, since the site was a bit wet. With the assistance of the National Guard and local contractors the site was filled at no expense to the department. The fill was allowed to settle for several years. Then in 1981 under the direction of 2nd Assistant Chief David Villeneuve, firemen and local contractors constructed a 2400 sq ft brick veneer Fire Station with two bays. David served as volunteer general contractor and with his expertise, the station was built for $70,000, much lower than any bid price. In the spring of 1982 the new station was dedicated in memory of Peter A. Rivers, father of Donald Rivers.



Pictured in front of the new Peter A. Rivers Memorial Fire Station in 1982 are the members of the building committee: L-R: Firefighter Marc Maheux; 2st Assistant Chief David Villeneuve; 1st Assistant Chief David Sullivan; Captain Jack Lewis; Lieutenant Mike Bordeaux; and Chief Randall H. Clark

IMPORTANT EQUIPMENT

The new Jericho Station needed a qualified pumper to meet the insurance requirements for lowering the rates within 5 miles of the station. A truck committee was formed to study present and future needs and made recommendations. It was decided to buy a new custom 5 man cab Duplex attack pumper. It was the first dept truck with an aluminum body, diesel engine (6V92 Detroit 335 horsepower) and automatic transmission. The pump was a 2000 GPM Hale. Other equipment included new synthetic hose which did not need to be dried, four air packs, nozzles, adapter, ladders (one 35 Feet), generator, hand lights, even chimney cleaning equipment. The body was built in Ocala, FL by Emergency One. (Total cost of the unit $145,000.)



1982 Duplex Custom 5 man cab with an E-One Aluminum body and a 2000 GPM pump

After three years without major expenses, another new pumper was needed. The Ethan Allen Firing Range was approached for help with the project, but that fell through. A new 1986 International replaced the old 1963. It is similar to the 1982 pumper, but with 3 man commercial cab. (Cost $134,000) The 1963 truck was sold to the Fairfield Fire Dept for $12,750.



The old 1942 Chevrolet was not performing well and had seen its useful life. The members unanimously voted to give the old truck to Chief Randall Clark as a token of respect for the many years of service he had given the UJFD. He has kept it in condition for use in parades.

1985 International with 2000 GPM pump and E-One Aluminum Body

As more and more responses became automobile accidents that sometimes require extrication of trapped occupants, it was decided to buy a used four wheel drive 1985 Chevrolet with a utility body for carrying extrication tools, along with a generator and lights to illuminate the scene of the accident. (Total cost $10,000.)



1985 Chevrolet 4x4 our first Rescue Truck

By 1987 the budget had risen to $144,000. It covered the cost of all expenses, two fire stations, five pieces of first line equipment, thirty firefighters, fire police and dispatch. (Cost per community household about $50.)

The aging 1970 tanker was replaced in 1989 with a new International built by American Eagle with an aluminum body. It is equipped with 1700 gallons of water and a 40 gallon Foam tank to better handle car and flammable liquid fires. (Cost $95, 000.)

The 1977 water truck which needed considerable maintenance was replaced in 1993 by a new 4x4 International diesel with an Emergency One aluminum body. It has a 1250 GPM front mount pump and reels for both 1 3/4 " and 3" hose. (Cost $120,000; old '77 was sold to the Huntington Fire Dept for $40,000.)



1990 International 1700 gallon tanker with 480 GPM pump and foam capabilities with aluminum body by American Eagle



1993 International 4x4 1250 GPM pump and 2700 feet 5 inch hose on a reel, aluminum body by Emergency One

PARADE SPONSOR

In the mid '80s the UJFD became the formal sponsor of the annual Memorial Day Parade. The parade venue alternates between Underhill and Jericho. It includes Veterans, Army vehicles, Boy and Girls Scout Troops, the Mt Mansfield High School Band and others who wish to pay tribute to the honored Veterans.



UJFD Fire Department Members march in Annual Memorial Day Parade 2001

FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Prevention has always been a part of the UJFD however in the late 1980s Kitty Clark became actively involved and with other members of the UJFD helping she took it to the area schools; Boy and Girl Scouts; Harvest Market; Fire station tours and developed one of the area's best Fire Prevention programs by using videos; smoke detector training; Stop, Drop, and Roll; color books; rulers; pens; balloons; and you name it…they did it. The secret to good fire prevention of adults is to teach their kids and that they did. Clark served as Chairperson until 2013.





Fire Prevention Class visits the Fire Station in 1998, Pictured are Kitty Clark and Milton Stamp

GIFT OF A LIFETIME

For years Donald Rivers had played Santa Claus at the family Christmas parties and had been a great supporter of the UJFD. He died in 1985. The following year, Mary Rivers invited the UJFD Chiefs for a morning visit at her home on Browns Trace; Chief Randall Clark, 1st Ass't Chief David Villeneuve and 2nd Ass't David Tillotson were there. How astonished they were when she offered to give to the UJFD her entire farm: 125 acres of land, the house and barn. The gift is a splendid resource for the department.



Mary Alice Rivers gifted her farm consisting of 125 acres including this house and barn located in Jericho

NEW LEADERSHIP and A NEW FIRE STATION

In January 1987 after nearly 16 years as Chief, Randall H. Clark chose not to seek re-election and was promoted to Honorary Chief. David Tillotson was elected the new Chief. He had previously served as fireman, Lieutenant, Captain and Second Assistant Chief.

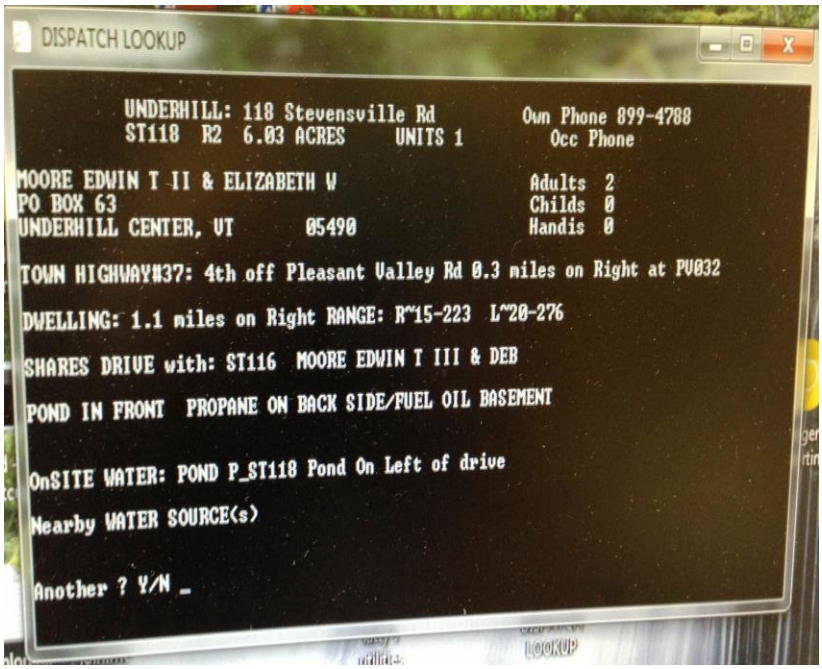


In 1993 Tillotson appointed a "New Underhill Station" committee to study the needs of the department and the community and to look ahead 50 years. After four and one half years of many hours of studying, planning, and then supervising construction, a new 10,800 sq ft brick veneer building with a metal roof was dedicated on December 14, 1997.The building was constructed on the site of the old building and land purchased from Wesley Jacobs and Marion Gleason. (Cost of land and building, $680,000.)



The Building Committee stands proud in front of the new (1997) Underhill-Jericho Fire Station: Life Member, First Assistant Chief Dave Sullivan; Dispatcher Kitty Clark; Life Member, Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark; Life Member, Chief Dave Tillotson; Life Member, First Assistant Chief Lee Dumas and Captain Micheal Greenia

COMPUTERIZED DISPATCH SYSTEM



Sample Home Owners Information

The new fire station not only has room for the rolling stock and equipment, but offices for dispatch and management, and a fine room for department meetings and training programs. The offices were equipped with computers and the dispatch system began a new era. Thanks to E.T. Moore Computer Services of Underhill and Betty Keefe, Lister in Jericho, the information from the Grand Lists of both towns were combined into one 911 database. The number of occupants, phone numbers, stored hazardous materials; location of the nearest water supply was all made available on the screen. For Underhill, the dimensions of the buildings and driveways are also shown. Kitty Clark, who had been managing the

dispatch system since 1987, had a powerful tool to manage the dispatch quicker and with much more information. The two towns were mapped and each 911 parcel identified. The computer can bring up the map of the 911 location, and print out map showing the location of the emergency, along with a data sheet with the residential information, location directions to the place, and distance to the nearest water source. A copy of the printed map and data set can be given to the firemen to expedite their work.

The system has been upgraded several times and Johannes Jobst, a highly dedicated member of the fire department, keeps the equipment running smoothly. Kitty Clark is the dedicated member available 24/7 to respond to all of the emergencies and alert the firefighters. Bill Kuschel actually transferred the original Home Owner information from note books to a computer in the early 80s.

FIRE DEPARTMENT WEDDING

On July 6, 1996 UJFD Lieutenant Michael Greenia and UJFD Ladies Auxiliary Cindy Cross were married in a Fire Department wedding. Greenia joined the department in 1984 and Cross became a member of the UJFD Ladies Auxiliary after they started dating in 1992. Cross arrived at the UJ Fire Station in a 1939 American LaFrance Fire Truck. Captain Tim Clark and Firefighter Tom Millette of the UJFD were Groomsmen and several members of the department witnessed the ceremony while in full dress uniform. After pictures the newly married couple left for the reception at the bride's parents in the American LaFrance.



Bride and Groom, Micheal and Cindy Cross Greenia, pose for pictures with members of the UJFD 6/6/96

NEW LEADERSHIP

In January 2001 Chief Tillotson was promoted to Honorary Chief and Randall E. Clark was elected department Chief. Other officers elected were Leon Dumas as First Assistant Chief; Tim Clark, Second Assistant Chief; Dwight DeCoster and Loni Morse, Captains; Shawn Danaher Sr and Scott Carroll, Lieutenants.

The annual budget was up to $232,000 of which Jericho makes a contribution of 60% and Underhill 40%. The proportions are based on the number of calls, property values and population of the two towns.



Chief Randy E. Clark

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENTS



1995 Chevrolet 4x4 with crew cab and utility body w/Jaws of Life

In 1995 the 1985 Chevrolet 4x4 was replaced with a 1995 Chevrolet 4x4 equipped with a crew cab. Volunteers removed the body from the 1985 and equipped it for the new truck. (Total cost $35,000) The new truck carried the "Jaws of Life" and associated extrication equipment.

In 2002 another truck committee was formed to research the replacement of the 1982 pumper. There was also becoming a strong emphasis on extrication and rescue services. A new pumper and a rescue truck were leased for $176,000 and $141,000, respectively. The Department now had a mountain rescue team, a water rescue team, extrication equipment. Both trucks could carry five people safely to the emergency.



First 2002 International Crew Cab Model 7400 Built By Navistar International, truck has a 1250 GPM pump; carries 1000 feet of 5 inch hose and has an aluminum body manufactured by Emergency One.



2002 International 5 Man Cab w/aluminum body; carries extrication equipment

GRANTS



2003 John Deere Gator

In 2003 an $8,000 grant from the Smokeless Tobacco Companies afforded purchase of a John Deere Gator. That Gator was traded and a 4x4 Gator was purchased and Mat tracks added with a $10,000 Grant from the TUMS company. The UJFD purchased a 70 gallon slide in unit for off road abilities. Also purchased was a Rescue-Bogen for carrying people or equipment.

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Les Kanat, our Grant writer has been successful in obtaining over $400,000 in Federal grants for emergency responders: including Freddie, the talking fire truck; Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, for all firefighters; Hydraulic rescue tools; video equipment and much more.



"Freddie" Remote Control
Talking Fire Truck

FIRST FIFTY YEAR MEMBER

In 2007, the UJFD retired its 1986 International pumper from front line service with a 5 person cab, 1250 GPM pump with an Emergency One aluminum body mounted on an International commercial chassis. This truck became Engine 6 to be housed for 6 months in Underhill, 6 months in the Jericho Station.

On June 7, 2007 a special ceremony was held to honor Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark for 50 years of service, the first 50 year member in the history of the UJFD. Clark was honored when he learned that Engine 6 had been renumbered to Engine 11 which was his Firefighter number when he joined the UJFD in 1957 at the age of 16. The rear cab doors and a plaque on the panel commorate Honorary Chief Clark and a celebration with all the members and their families were there for the dedication ceremony.



Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark shows his appreciation with his name on Engine 11



Engine 11 a 2007 International; Crew Cab; 1250 GPM Pump; Attack Pumper Dedicated to Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark for 50 Years of Service to the UJFD. Honorary Chief Clark was Firefighter 11 when he joined the UJFD in 1957.

A new truck was put into service in 2008. Squad 51 is a 4 wheel drive F350 one-ton Ford. It carries first aid supplies and firefighting equipment. It is also equipped with a snowplow for station maintenance and emergency driveway clearing. The truck serves as a Command Post for incidents requiring command. (Cost $52,000).



2008 Ford 4x4 Used by On Duty Personal for EMT/Firefighter

NEW AUXILIARY

After 30 years of service, the Ladies Auxiliary disbanded in 2002. Charter members Kitty Clark and Cis Dumas were still actively participating. A new UJFD Auxiliary was created with membership open to anyone who is related to a UJFD member and who is 16 years or older. The auxiliary assists line officers or committees, provides emergency child care, plans family functions, shuttles equipment and drinking water to emergencies, and prepares food for emergencies. At an advance level, they serve as traffic control, dispatch backup, and help with Fire Ground Operations.



Kitty Clark and Cecile Dumas 1998

ESSEX RESCUE

In 2006, an Essex Rescue ambulance was housed at the Underhill Station. It was a backup to be driven by trained firefighter if other Essex ambulances were not available The relationship expanded and by May of 2009 Essex Rescue had one or sometimes two people at the Underhill Station on call to run the ambulance from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Essex Rescue depends on volunteers to "First Respond" the calls on weekends and evenings, ambulance coverage coming from Essex.



2005 Ford Essex Rescue Ambulance

In 2010 the Underhill Station was remodeled to accommodate two bedrooms (2 persons each) in hope of having a fulltime 24/7 ambulance staff. An office was made into a 'dayroom' for comfortable quarters for the ambulance staff during the day. The relationship between the two organizations continues to grow.

FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

Lieutenant Kurt Flynn, from Newport Center, became the first full-time Administrator and EMT First Responder of the UJFD in October 2007. The increase in ambulance emergency calls now requires a full-time responder. Lt. Flynn served for six months. Lt. Flynn resigned and UJFD volunteer, Joe Greenough filled the post, until a regular replacement could be found. Lieutenant Harry Schoppmann III was hired as a Full-time Firefighter/EMT in October 2008. He maintains the office on regular hours, especially providing real-time emergency alerts, adding to the



Lieutenant Kurt Flynn

efficiency and services of the Department. In 2012 the second full-time person was hired. Firefighter/EMT Corey Koenig and is shared with the Essex Rescue. The department call volume had risen to 377.

LEADERSHIP CHANGE



Chief Todd Fischer

Chief Randy E. Clark was promoted to Honorary Chief in January 2011, having served a term limit of 10 years. The term limit had been added to the bylaws with the hope of keeping the department growing with new ideas and enthusiasm. He was replaced by Chief Todd Fischer from Jericho.

The UJFD yearly budget is voted on at every March Meeting in Underhill and Jericho. (Underhill 40%; Jericho 60 %.) The budget approved by the taxpayers for 2012-13 is $507,535. This pays all of the expenses: buildings, trucks, day to day operating expenses, including two full-time people.

FIRST FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNERAL

In the 2012 Underhill Town Report, tribute was paid to David L. Sullivan, who had been a dedicated member of the UJFD for 46 years. He had served many years as Department Assistant Chief and received honors from the UJFD, including Life Member. (He had also served the Town as Fire Warden for many years.) David passed away on May 30, 2012 and the UJFD conducted a "Firefighter's Funeral" in his honor, the first for the department. Calling hours for Former Assistant Chief Sullivan were held at the Underhill Fire Station. The day of the funeral, his body was carried on Engine 5, leading the motorcade to St. Thomas Church. Procession to his burial in the St. Thomas Cemetery on Range Road was led by members of the UJFD and he was given full department honors, as well as military honors for his service in the U.S. Navy. The siren which had served the Underhill station for many years was sounded at the cemetery. It was a fitting tribute to a very special person.



First Assistant Chief Dave Sullivan

2013 PUMPER TANKER

In 2011 Chief Fischer named a New Truck Study Committee to replace the aging 1985 Pumper. After meeting for over a year the committee recommended that we purchase a Pumper/Tanker and would be considered our Water Supply Pumper. The truck that was purchased is a 2013 International model 7600 tandem axle and has a 475 horsepower diesel engine; an Allison automatic transmission; a 1250 GPM pump; 2650 gallons of water; 2000 feet of 5 inch large diameter hose; as well as a 35 foot ladder; and a 2500 gallon portable tank. (Cost $350,000)



2013 International; 475 hp diesel; automatic transmission; tandem axle; 2650 gallons of water; 2500 gallon portable tank; 1250 GPM pump; and 2000 feet of 5 inch large diameter hose. Cost $350,000

HONORARIUMS

MARY ALICE RIVERS

In December 1987, Mary Alice Rivers was awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. "In appreciation for the donation of her farm consisting of 125 acres, a barn and house in Jericho Center, this property is to be used in the best interest of the UJFD."



Mary Alice Rivers

GRACE MILLS

In December 1988, Grace Mills was awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. "In appreciation of your commitment of time answering the Red Phone at Riverside Store for over 20 years."



Grace Mills

JANICE WOODARD

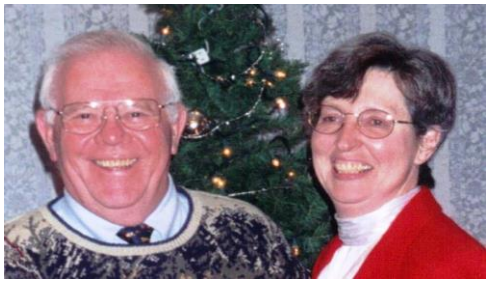
In December 1993, Janice Woodard was awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. "In appreciation of Your commitment of time responding to emergency calls with the UJFD as a First Responder as a member of Essex Rescue."



Janice Woodard

TOM AND RUTH WOODARD

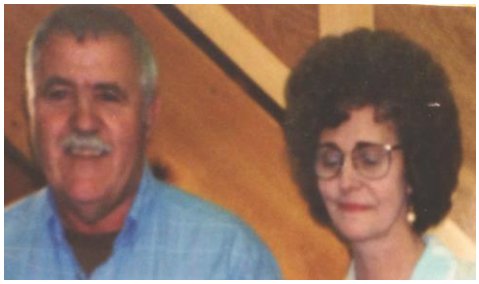
In December 2000, Tom and Ruth Woodard were awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. "In appreciation of your outstanding and continued support throughout the years."



Tom and Ruth Woodard

GERALD & LILLIAN DESSO

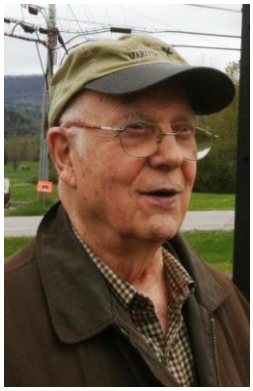
In December 2001, Gerry & Lil Desso was awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. "In appreciation of answering the Red Phone for over 20 years."



Gerry and Lil Desso

EDWIN T. MOORE

In December 2003, Edwin T. Moore was awarded Honorary Membership in the Underhill Jericho Fire Dept. "In appreciation for your many years of untiring work, designing, maintaining, and training our computer mapping, homeowner information system."



Edwin T. Moore

BOB KING MEMORIAL

Membership in the Bob King Memorial will be voted by a majority of the members present at any regular meeting. The following qualifications are required:

- Death while an active member of the Department, or
- Death after serving five (5) years of faithful service to the Department.





Memoriam Flag on Chief King's Grave w/bronze marker

A plaque will hang on the wall of the fire station with the names of those Department personnel and the year in which they died. The Clerk will keep the plaque current.

In 1965 the UJFD decorated the graves of these members with a bronze marker and an IN MEMORIAM Flag. The flag is replaced annually. Those members are:

1945	Elbridge Nealy		Judson Sanitmore	1949	Max Bogue
1951	John Gagnon	1951	Howard Haylette	1954	Parker Rice
1956	Perley King	1960	Frank Ladue	1961	Lyle McGinnis
1962	Maitland Root	1964	Howard Davis	1967	Harold Pouliot
1968	Fred Seymour	1970	Robert T. King	1970	Robert Bolio
1971	William Mead	1972	Harland Machia	1974	Elwood Clark
1975	Richard Millette		Raymond Ellsworth	1976	Harry Russin
1976	Arthur Seymour	1979	Earl Bartlett	1982	Harold "Joe" Breen
1984	George Thuren	1986	Harold Irish	1987	Raymond Bolio
1987	Andrew Dulude	1989	Walter Godfrey	1991	Orville Wrisley
1992	William Cook	1995	Robert Tourville	1997	Carlyle Hunt
1997	Rollin Bolio	1998	Melvin Bordeaux	1998	Robert Clark
2005	Michael Forsberg	2005	Charles Garrapy	2006	Grace Mills

2007	Edward Ward	2007	Buel Metcalf	2007	Wendell Metcalf
2012	Peter Allendorf	2012	David Sullivan	2012	Lillian Desso
2012	Mary Alice Rivers				

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

HONORARY FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Prior to 1987 Honorary membership may be conferred by a majority vote of the U-J members present at any regular meeting or annual meeting. The criteria was members which had made a significant contribution to the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department. Those members are:

Howard P. Davis	Charles Garrapy	Paul Ward	Rollin Bolio
Neil Wright	Melvin Bordeaux	Harold Irish	Walter Godfrey
Elwood Clark	Wendell Metcalf	Harold "Joe" Breen	Alan Morse
Edward Ward	Robert Clark	Andrew Dulude	Mike Bordeaux
Orville Wrisley	Terrence Root Sr.	Raymond Bolio	Robert Tourville
Thomas Morse	William Cook	Gerard Adams	George Thuren
Harvey Bagshaw	David Villeneuve	David Moore	David Langlois
Dennis White	William Kuschel	Michael Begin	Mark Kettenacker
Jack Lewis	Marc Maheux	Carlyle Hunt	

LADIES AUXILIARY FIVE OR MORE YEARS-PRIOR 2001

Shiela Aiken	Sis Bordeaux	Kitty Clark	Cis Dumas
Kathy Kuschel	Dorcus Lunderville	Bonnie Morse	Rachel Langlois
Carleen White	Peg Breen	Sandy Tillotson	Barb Fleming
Ellie Begin	Christal Clark	Donna Jacob	Tammy Kelley

LADIES AUXILIARY PAST MEMBERS

The following auxiliary members not previously listed but definitely took an active part in the organization, they are:

Amy Muir	Sheri Dumas	Jill Bromley	Michele Begin
Sally Byanski	Chris Newton	Alice Rivers	Barb Clark
Tammy White			

FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

In 1976 Firefighter Raymond Shaw started the Firefighter of the Year Award, qualifications for this award are: Those who has through their efforts: helped increase the development and efficiency of the department; dedicated their time to their department above and beyond the time required for meetings and drills; has shown initiative in going to fire schools and other classes and courses dedicated to improving their efficiency in firematics; and has shown community involvement in participating in affairs involving the fire department and other civic groups within the community. Those members are:

1976	Terry Aiken	1977	Ass't Chief Lee Dumas	1978	Capt.Dave Villeneuve

1979	Marc Maheux	1980	Dave Moore	1981	Mike Begin
1982	Randy E. Clark	1983	Mark Kettenacker	1984	Randy E. Clark
1985	Don Porter	1986	Don Porter	1987	Jason Nassau
1988	Mike Medlar	1989	Mike Greenia	1990	Russ Clark
1991	Loni Morse	1992	Robert Stone	1993	Alan Morse
1994	Tom Millette	1995	Dwight DeCoster	1996	Andi Forsberg
1997	Dp. Kitty Clark	1998	Milton Stamp	1999	Milton Stamp
2000	Randy E. Clark	2001	Mike Greenough	2002	Nathan Goldman
2003	Spc. Les Kanat	2004	Nathan Goldman	2005	Mat Champlin
2006	Jacki LaVanway	2007	Mat Champlin	2008	Johannes Jobst
2009	Nate Goldman	2010	Tom Dipietro	2011	Calvin Caswell
2012	Sean McCann				

The Fire Officer of the Year was started in 1987 and follows the same criteria as Firefighter of the Year, those officers receiving that award are:

1987	Chief	Dave Tillotson	1988	Captain	Dave Berger
1989	1st Ass't Chief	Randy E. Clark	1990	Chief	Dave Tillotson
1991	Captain	Brian Clark	1992	Captain	Tim Clark
1993	1st Ass't Chief	Randy E. Clark	1994	Lieutenant	Loni Morse
1995	Captain	Tim Clark	1996	Lieutenant	Mike Greenia
1997	1st Ass't Chief	Lee Dumas	1998	Captain	Tim Clark
1999	2nd Ass't Chicf	Tim Clark	2000	Lieutenant	Scott Carroll
2001	Chief	Randy E. Clark	2002	Captain	Loni Morse
2003	Chief	Randy E. Clark	2004	Captain	Mike Greenough
2005	1st Ass't Chief	Tim Clark	2006	Chief	Randy E. Clark
2007	Captain	Todd Fischer	2008	2nd Ass't Chief	Todd Fischer
2009	1st Ass't Chief	Todd Fischer	2010	Chief	Randy E. Clark
2011	2nd Ass't Chief	Mat Champlin	2012	1st Ass't Chief	Mat Champlin

The Fire Police of the Year was also started in 1987 and follows the same criteria as Firefighter and Fire Officer, those fire police receiving that award are:

1987	Charles Garrapy	1988	Charles Garrapy & Don Porter		
1989	Buel Metcalf	1990	Charles Garrapy	1991	Linda Billado
1992	Scott Greenia	1993	Linda Billado	1994	Paul Millette
1995	Paul Millette	1996	John Turchek	1997	John Turchek
1998	Mike Charter	1999	Mike Charter	2000	Paul Millette
2001	Mike Charter	2002	Mike Charter	2003	Mike Charter
2004	Jason Nassau	2005	Jason Nassau	2006	Jason Nassau
2007	Frank Popeleski	2008	Frank Popeleski	2009	Frank Popeleski
2010	Frank Popeleski	2011	Frank Popeleski	2012	Frank Popeleski

LADIES AUXILIARY APPRECIATION ANNUAL AWARDS

The Auxiliary also established an award in 1986 following on the same lines as the Firefighter, Fire Officer, and Fire Police Awards, those ladies receiving that award are:

1986	Cis Dumas	1987	Sandy Tillotson	1988	Barb Fleming
1989	Gloria French	1990	Christal Clark	1991	Sandy Tillotson
1991	Christal Clark	1992	Tammy White	1993	Christal Clark
1994	Lisa Carroll	1995	Kitty Clark	1995	Sandy Tillotson
1996	Kitty Clark	1997	Christal Clark	1998	Donna Johnson
1999	Kate Clark				

PEOPLE BEQUESTING FUNDS TO THE UJFD AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Tax free contributions can be given at any time to the UJFD as it is a 501 C (3) tax exempt organization, several people over the years at the time of their death have contributed, those people are:

Joel Boyce	Chief Robert King	Chief William Mead
Aurill "Daisy" Mead	Mildred Shangraw	Lieutenant George Thuren
Benjamin Boisvert	Margaret "Peg" Breen	Wayne Bourne
Charles Garrapy	Grace Mills	Buel Metcalf
Elinor Merrill	Peter Allendorf	David Sullivan
Mary Alice Rivers		

VOLUNTARY FIREFIGHTERS - 100 YEARS

For 100 years the towns of Underhill and Jericho have been served by volunteer firefighters who are community members. The commitment of these volunteers is unlike any other organization. First of all is the responsibility to be on call for emergency situations 24/7 when you are in the area, regardless of your family obligations or involvement in events, no matter the time of day, the weather or how long the emergency requires. You are required to have the appropriate training for the work, which involves many hours. There are regular organizational and informational meetings weekly (UJFD every Tuesday evening), as well as drills. Service on committees which better the department or research new equipment involves everybody on the team. The dedication of the UJFD team is outstanding; everybody proud of the achievements and extremely hard working. It is the great good fortune for the Towns of Underhill and Jericho to have one of the best trained, best equipped and most highly respected Fire Departments in the State of Vermont.



Dedicated to the preservation of life and property through fire suppression, education and prevention.

PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE UJFD TODAY JULY 1, 2013

Honorary Chief	*Randall H. Clark	Honorary Chief	*David Tillotson
Honorary Chief	*Randall E. Clark	Chief	Todd Fischer
1st Ass't Chief	Mathew Champlin	2nd Assistant Chief	*Timothy Clark
Captain	Dwight DeCoster	Captain	Andreas Forsberg
Captain	Harry Schoppmann III	Lieutenant	Parker Ripley
Lieutenant	Johannes Jobst	Dispatcher	*Kathleen Clark
Firefighter	Calvin Caswell	Firefighter	*Brian Clark
Firefighter	Shawn Danaher Sr.	Firefighter	*Lee Dumas
Firefighter	Bradford Fischer	Firefighter	Morgan Fischer
Firefighter	Nathan Goldman	Firefighter	*Micheal Greenia
Firefighter	Travis Hale	Firefighter	Christine Hallock
Firefighter	Todd Hallock	Firefighter	Erich Kasprik
Firefighter/EMT	Corey Koenig	Firefighter	Shawn Martell
Firefighter	Sean McCann	Firefighter	Eric Merchant
Firefighter	Loni Morse	Firefighter	John Ouellette
Firefighter	Calab Parent	Firefighter	Leroy Spiller
Firefighter	Andrew Stevens	Firefighter	Joshua Stukes
Firefighter	Philip Surks	Firefighter	Jacob Weber
Firefighter	Aldin Zbacnik	Auxiliary	Catherine Clark
Auxiliary	Christal Clark	Auxiliary	Thomas Dipietro
Auxiliary	Cecile Dumas	Auxiliary	Sherry Fischer
Life	*Frank Fleming	Auxiliary	Pamela Martell
Auxiliary	Jacki Merchant	Auxiliary	Jason Nassau
Specialist	Julie Jacob Ochs	Fire Police	Frank Popeleski
Auxiliary	Patricia Stevens		

*Life Member 25+ Years

PAST MEMBERS OF THE UJFD

Howard P. Davis	Charles Garrapy	Paul Ward	Rollin Bolio
Neil Wright	Melvin Bordeaux	Harold Irish	Walter Godfrey
Elwood Clark	Wendell Metcalf	Harold "Joe" Breen	Alan Morse
Edward Ward	Robert Clark	Andrew Dulude	Mike Bordeaux
Orville Wrisley	Terrence Root Sr.	Raymond Bolio	Robert Tourville
Thomas Morse	William Cook	Gerard Adams	George Thuren
Harvey Bagshaw	David Villeneuve	David Moore	David Langlois
Robert Dennis	Denis White	William Kuschel	Michael Begin
Mark Kettenacker	Max Bogue	Kurt Flynn	Parker Rice
Harry Russin	John Gagnon	Gabriel LaRose	Donald St Pierre
Charles Latimer	Hector Marcoux	Melvin Bordeaux	Roger Ward

Harland Machia	Douglas Ward	Bruce Duba	Steve Eddy
Bruce Ward	Richard Wrisley	Donald Nolan	Herbert Ellsworth
George Newbury	Roger Gleason	Lyle McGinnis	Fernand Comtois
William Cook	John Russin	Peter Allendorf	Robin Bartlett
Lee Abernethy	Douglas McClellan	Peter McClellan	Harold Pouliot
Marcel Lehouiller	Willaim Metcalf	Fred Powell	Roger LeDuc
Charles Moore	Richard Millette	Maurice Lehouiller	Peter Chamberlain
Thomas Titus	David Sullivan	Charles McLane	Raymond Bliven
James Beams	Michael Jacobs	Daniel Langlois	George Johns
Greg Currier	Larry Bordeaux	Carey Todriff	Edwin Blanchard
John McCarthy	Elwood Bourne	Steve Bordeaux	Norman Lanman
Phil Stead	Allen Bolio	Ed Scribner	Peter Pease
Jack Lewis	Marc Maheux	Carlyle Hunt	Lonnie Burke
Robert Trombly	Stephen Clark	Eugene LaFountain	David Dumas
Scott Carroll	Trevor Brooks	Milton Stamp	Lisa Larabee
Keith Newton	John Trombly	Thomas MacCarthy	John French IV
Scott Greenia	Jamie Valyou	Scott Charter	Robert Cormier
Jeremy Godles	Joseph McGonagle Jr	Carolos Russin	Jason Wolcott
Jim Fortune	John Turechek	DJ McGonagle	Chad Gregson
Alex Spencer	Al Breault	Phil Noyes Jr.	Kristen Tessier
John Larabee	Linda Billado	Rory McGonagle	Ryan Cieslak
Colleen Danaher	Brian Citro	Ray Hurlburt	William Moore Jr.
Seth Bortz	Carey White	Christy Cieslak	Amy Greenough
Jason Lawton	Aaron Newton	Dan Koshinsky	Brian Mathieu
William Kuschel	Stephen Sylver	Steven Dumas	Tammy Clark
Alan Morse	Dale Bishop	Paul Sulva	Karen Danaher
Lorri Sulva	Michael Begin	Michael Byanski	David Berger
Robert Stone	Paul Millette	Michael Forsberg	Jeff Spencer
Michael Charter	Dana Jewell	Rodney Kelley	Tom Millette
Shawn Danaher Jr.	Mike Greenough	Bryan Bourgeois	Donald Porter
Michael Medlar	Steve Codding	John Jacob	Scott Carroll
Russ Clark	Les Kanat	Mike Neill	Kay Greenough
Joseph Greenough	Raymond Shaw	Dale Bolio	Herbert Button
Andrew Decker	Terry Aiken	Gary Lunderville	George Lehouiller
Joanne Porter	Kate Newcity	Scott Newton	Dan Girard
Wesley Ward			

APENDIX

By

Betty Moore

No history of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department can be complete without acknowledgement of the particular contributions of the Clark Family. The years of service given to the volunteer Fire Service by generations of this special family would total 252 years. Generations of Clarks have devoted nearly all of their spare time and commitment to the advancement and skills of the Department. It is a commitment and devotion passed down through the generations from Patriarch Elwood Clark. Many of the UJFD volunteers have worked first at the Underhill Garage, then its successor Clark's Truck Center, which for the last 85 years have paid their employees, sometimes as many as 8, while at emergency calls.

The following family list is part of the development of our two towns which will live in historical memory:



Tim Clark	Russ Clark	Kitty Clark	Randy H. Clark	Brian Clark	Randy E. Clark
30 Years	18 Years	27 Years	56 Years	31 Years	33 Years

Not pictured above: Randy H. Clark's father, Elwood Clark 47 years; and brother Bob Clark 10 years

Private Academies In Underhill

Elizabeth Weichel Moore
2013

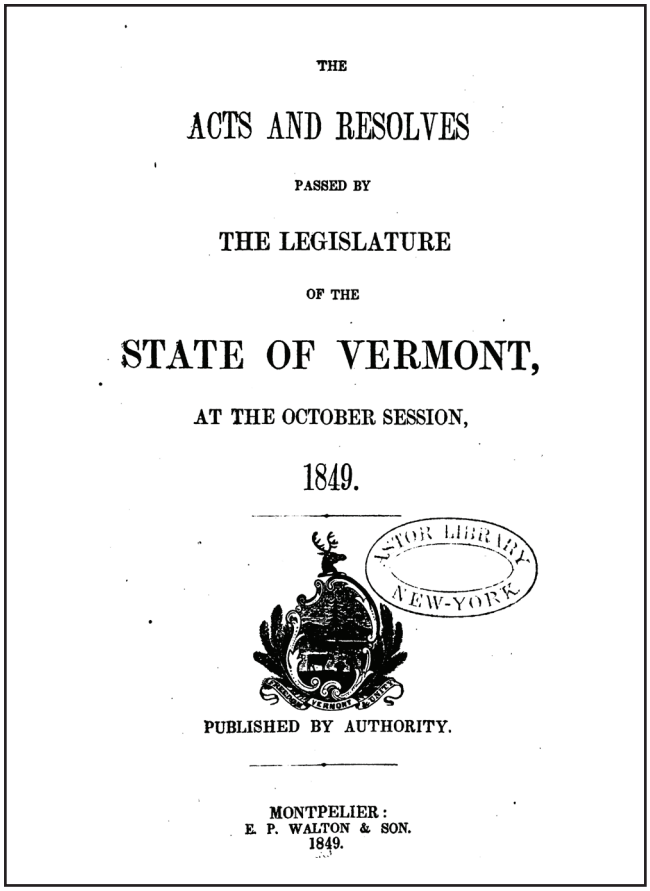
~~ Private Academies

Although all the towns in Vermont were laid out with many neighborhood school districts, each individually supported by the families in the district, early on in the State private academies were established in order to provide teaching in more diverse and advanced subjects than it was possible to accomplish in the local one room schools. Throughout the 1800s, private academies were established all over the state, some for advanced high school training, others including elementary grades, as well. Many had scholars as faculty and attracted students from out of town who boarded nearby. Sometimes, the academy teachers were used as interim pastors in local Protestant churches.

In the mid 1800s, Underhill supported three such private academies, very well respected. According to the 1916 ' History of Jericho', a school was started in Underhill Flats by Joseph Swan Cilley and his wife in the house formerly occupied by Joseph Kingsbury . "Here was laid the foundation of what was afterwards called, The Underhill Academy".

~~ The Bell Institute

On October 26, 1849 the Vermont Legislature passed an 'Act to Incorporate Bell Institute'. "John H. Tower, Jerome J. Beardsley, Martin C. Barney, John Story, Luther Brown and Daniel O. Sawyer, their associates and successors, are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, for the maintenance of an academy for the purposes of education.....to be known by the name of Bell Institute, to be established in Underhill.....The first meeting of said corporation shall be holden at the house recently erected in the village of Underhill Flat, in the Town of Underhill, for an academy building, within three months from the passage of this act; and the said John H. Tower is authorized to call said meeting....."



THE

ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF VERMONT,

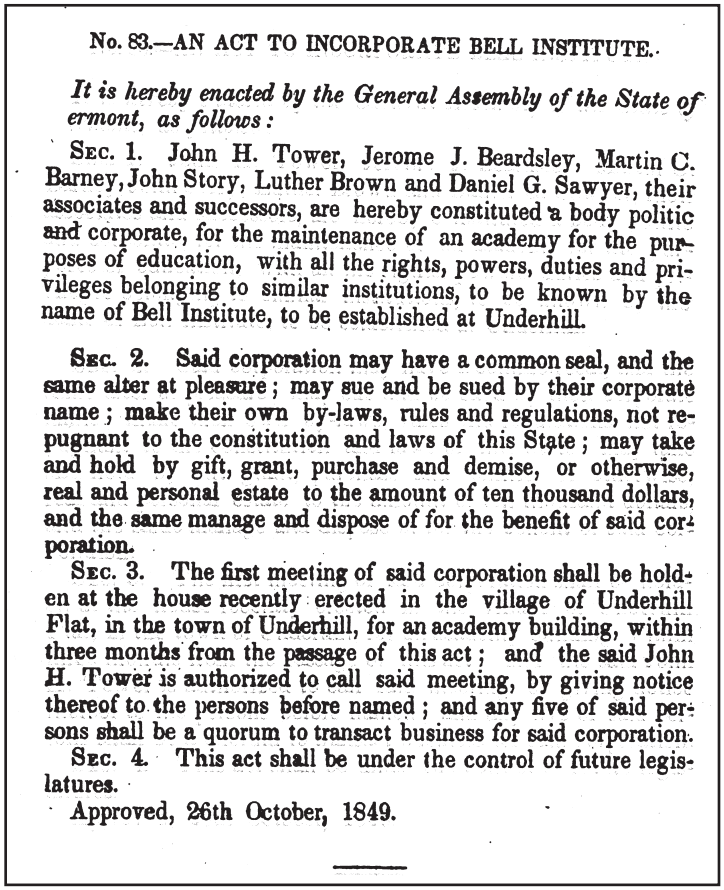
AT THE OCTOBER SESSION,

1849.

ASTOR LIBRARY NEW-YORK

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

MONTPELIER:
E. P. WALTON & SON.
1849.



No. 83.—AN ACT TO INCORPORATE BELL INSTITUTE.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of ermont, as follows:

SEC. 1. John H. Tower, Jerome J. Beardsley, Martin C. Barney, John Story, Luther Brown and Daniel G. Sawyer, their associates and successors, are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, for the maintenance of an academy for the purposes of education, with all the rights, powers, duties and privileges belonging to similar institutions, to be known by the name of Bell Institute, to be established at Underhill.

SEC. 2. Said corporation may have a common seal, and the same alter at pleasure; may sue and be sued by their corporate name; make their own by-laws, rules and regulations, not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this State; may take and hold by gift, grant, purchase and demise, or otherwise, real and personal estate to the amount of ten thousand dollars, and the same manage and dispose of for the benefit of said corporation.

SEC. 3. The first meeting of said corporation shall be holden at the house recently erected in the village of Underhill Flat, in the town of Underhill, for an academy building, within three months from the passage of this act; and the said John H. Tower is authorized to call said meeting, by giving notice thereof to the persons before named; and any five of said persons shall be a quorum to transact business for said corporation.

SEC. 4. This act shall be under the control of future legislatures.

Approved, 26th October, 1849.

BELL INSTITUTE,

UNDERHILL, VT.

PRINCIPAL, CHAUNCEY H. HAYDEN, A. B.

FIRST ASSISTANT, MISS ADDIE D. HALE.
(Of Smith College)

INSTRUCTOR IN MUSIC, A. W. TERRILL.

School Year 35 Weeks.

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

TUITION:

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

Tuitions Due the Middle of Each Term.

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

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

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

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

~~The Underhill Academy

Three years later, on November 23, 1952, the Vermont Legislature passed 'An Act to Incorporate the Underhill Academy' "Section 1. There is established and constituted, at the village of Underhill Flat, a high school, to be known by the name of The Underhill Academy.....Section 5. The first meeting of said corporation shall be held at the Academy building in the town of Underhill, within three months from the passage of this act, and the said John H. Tower is authorized to call said meeting....."

The notebook containing the minutes of the meetings of the trustees of the Underhill Academy does exist. On November 5, 1852, the proprietors of Underhill Academy agreed to *"Associate ourselves together .....for the promotion of Scientific and Library improvements under the corporate name and seal of Underhill Academy.....The object of this Association Shall be the support of an Academy in Underhill Flat and to furnish the same with suitable rooms and an apparatus for Illustrations and Experiments on the Natural Sciences and also to provide teachers for Said Academy and we hereby agree to adopt and to be governed by the following Constitution....."*

The reading of the Constitution - Article by Article- was called for and after amending arts. and reading arts. - together with filling the Blank with the name of Underhill Academy in the preamble - the same was unanimously adopted & the Secretary was requested to offer the same for signatures and the following subscribed to Said Constitution, to whit ----
J.H.. Tower, Thaddeus Murdock, E.H. Byington, G.B. Bliss, Hiram Dow,
J.H. Tower Jr, E.S. Whitcomb, William Thorpe, Joseph Wells, Joseph Kingsbury, A. Butts, J.H. Bostwick, A. B. Perry

In addition to the Articles of Constitution, the notebook contains the warnings and minutes of meetings for the election of trustees. It has no information about the teachers, students, or subjects taught, or its relationship to the Bell Institute, which is never mentioned. Only one advertisement has been found for the Underhill Academy, dated 1865, with B.C. Ward as Principal. It does not mention teaching in the natural sciences.

A similar flier for the Bell Institute, dated 1883, lists as Principal, Chauncey H. Hayden, A.B. (He also served as an editor of the 1916 'History of Jericho'.) In fine print the flier announces that the trustees are that year reopening a school in the Bell Institute offering Higher English, Languages and college preparation.

THE

ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY

The General Assembly

OF THE

STATE OF VERMONT,

AT THE

OCTOBER SESSION,

1852.

ASTOR LIBRARY
NEW-YORK



PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

MONTPELIER:
E. P. Walton & Son, Printers.
1852.

No. 101.—AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE UNDERHILL ACADEMY.

SECTION 1. Location and name of Corporation.
SECTION 2. Members and purposes of corporation.
SECTION 3. Powers of corporation.
SECTION 4. Trustees may increase their number, fill vacanies, and appoint teachers and officers.
SECTION 5. First meeting. Quorum regulated.
SECTION 6. This act subject to control of future Legislatures.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows :

SEC. 1. There is hereby established and constituted, at the village of Underhill Flat, a high school, to be known by the name of the Underhill Academy.

SEC. 2. John H. Tower, Joseph Wells, Joseph Kingsbury, S. W. Tower, Hiram Dow, James L. Whitcomb, John Story, Levi French, William Thorp, Henry Mead, C. F. Halsey, J. D. Sands, George B. Oaks, James Whitcomb, H. B. Day, S. S. Brown, L. H. Bostwick, E. S. Whitcomb, S. M. Mead, S. B. Bliss, Amos Eastman, J. H. Woodward, Josiah Bass, Asa L. Lane, Ziba Church, S. M. Merrill, and their associates and successors, are constituted a body politic and corporate, with all the powers and privileges belonging to similar institutions, by the name of Underhill Academy.

SEC. 3. The said corporation may have a common seal, and the same alter at pleasure; may sue and be sued, make their own by-laws, rules and regulations for the government of said corporation and of said Academy, not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this State; may purchase, take and hold real and personal estate, to the amount of ten thousand dollars in real and five thousand dollars in personal estate.

SEC. 4. Said corporation may increase the number of trustees to a number not exceeding thirty, and may supply any vacancy that may happen by death or otherwise, at any meeting regularly warned for that purpose, and held agreeably to the rules and regulations which may be adopted by said corporation; and they shall have power to appoint, select, support, all such teachers and officers as they may find necessary for the government and welfare of said institution.

SEC. 5. The first meeting of said corporation shall be holden at the Academy building in the village of Underhill Flat in the town of Underhill, within three months from the passage of this act, and the said John H. Tower is authorized to call said meeting by giving notice thereof to the persons before named, at which meeting seven members of said corporation when met, and at any subsequent meeting, shall be a quorum to transact any business whatever.

SEC. 6. This act shall be subject to the control of any future Legislature.

Approved, November 23, 1852.

At its peak the Underhill Academy was said to have had 175 pupils. The school often had soirees with recitations, debates and musical programs, but unfortunately no programs seem to have been saved.



Underhill Academy
Bell Institute

B. C. WARD, Principal.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT,	$3 00
COMMON ENGLISH,	4 00
HIGHER ENGLISH,	4 50
GREEK and LATIN;	5 00
FRENCH, $3,50--with other studies,	2 00

TUITION PAYABLE AT THE MIDDLE OF THE TERM.

No charges made for less than one half a Term, and no deduction made except in cases of protracted illness.

BOARD can be obtained at a reasonable price.

ROOMS will be furnished those wishing to board themselves.

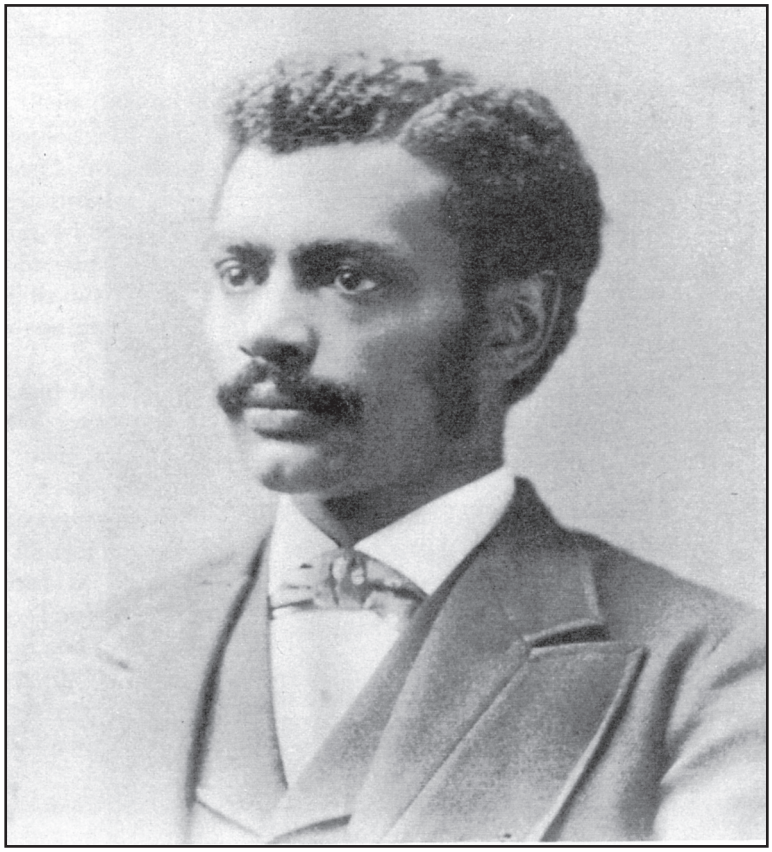
Pupils are requested to be present at the opening of the term, as no classes will be formed after the first week.

UNDERHILL, Vt., July 31st, 1865.

Fall Term commences Aug 31st 186

~~George Washington Henderson

After the end of the Civil War, the Underhill Academy had among its students a most outstanding young man. George Washington Henderson was born a slave in Virginia in 1850. During the war he escaped to the Grand Army of the Republic and was taken on as a servant by Henry Carpenter, adjutant in the Eighth Vermont Regiment. In 1865 then only fifteen years old, he accompanied Carpenter when he returned to his home in Belvidere, Vermont. While working for the family, the young man was helped to "learn his letters". He must have been an apt student, for the Carpenters made an arrangement for him to study at the Underhill Academy, then under the tutelage of Oscar Atwood. His boarding arrangements are not known, but he must have lived in the area, for on April 5, 1872, George Washington Henderson became a formal member of the Underhill Congregational Church. W. Scott Nay, later to become a beloved doctor and leading citizen in Underhill, was his school companion at the Academy and later remembered him in a letter to the UVM Alumni Weekly in 1936:
"It was a most satisfactory privilege for me to protect him from the jibes of some discourteous students who, because of his color, thought themselves to be his superiors. It is needless to say that he outranked them all in scholarship as he excelled them in demeanor. His record has shown him to be a second Booker Washington."



George Washington Henderson

After several years in Underhill, the young man went to Barre, graduating from the Spaulding Academy. He still remained a member of the Underhill church. He went on to study at the University of Vermont, where his career from then on has been quite well documented. At the University he was an outstanding student, graduating at the head of his class in 1877, the first member of his race to be elected to the scholastic fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa. He was leader of his class and a member of the Delta Psi fraternity (along with contemporary, John Dewey.) The 1877 commencement at which he received his A.B. degree was held in the College Street Congregational Church. He gave an honorary address at the ceremony, "The Economy of Moral Forces in History". The Burlington Free Press covered the event and commented, "Mr Henderson's effort, in point of interest and ability, as well as of earnestness and excellence of delivery, asked no odds of any other on the programme. When it is considered that its author was born a slave and twelve years ago had not learned to read, its maturity of thought and good taste in presentation must be considered truly marvelous."

In 1875-76, while he was a student at the University, he served as a teacher in the Jericho Academy. In the summers he worked on a farm in Waitsfield. After receiving his degree, he became a teacher and then the Principal of the Craftsbury Academy, along the way earning an M.A. degree from UVM, reading a paper on "Conservation". He went on to Yale Divinity School where in 1883 he received a B.D.degree and a Hooker Fellowship for graduate study in Berlin. He was accompanied to Berlin with his new wife, the young Preceptress (teacher of drawing, music, elocution and bookkeeping) at the Craftsbury Academy. When they returned to Vermont, they settled in Newport, where Mr Henderson held the position of principal of the elementary school. It was in 1886 that he formally transferred his membership from the Underhill Congregational Church. His time in Newport was short, for tragedy befell, with the untimely death of both his wife and infant. Both are buried in a family grave in Belvedere. At this time, his former mentor at the Underhill Academy, Oscar Atwood (UVM 1864) was president of Straight University (now Dillard) in New Orleans. He may have encouraged the young widower to come South, where he became an ordained Congregational minister in 1888, serving for two years as pastor of the Central Congregational Church. In 1890 he accepted the chair of theology at Straight University and pastorate of the University Church. In 1904, he became Dean of Theology at Fiske University, and in 1909 went on to Wilberforce University in Ohio, where he taught theology and classical languages until his retirement in 1932. Throughout his career he was in demand as a lecturer and editor. He died in 1936 and is buried in Wilberforce, Ohio. He often visited in Vermont with his second wife and kept his relationships with friends in the state. In 1999, he was honored with an historic site marker in Belvidere, as a "Minister, Educator, Champion of his Race".



Oscar Atwood

~~Establishment of the Green Mountain Academy

A flier for the Green Mountain Academy, with J.S. Cilley, Principal, is dated 1853, with Martin Wires, Chairman Trustees. It states that the Institution was established 'in the past year' (1852, the same year as the Underhill Academy) in Underhill Center. It lists a Primary Dept and 'liberal arts' curriculum, similar to the Bell Institute. However, it was not until November 14, 1855, that the Vermont Legislature actually passed an 'Act to Incorporate the Green Mountain Academy'. "Section 1. There is hereby constituted a high school to be located at Underhill Centre....." The incorporators included Martin Wires, along with L.S. Stevens, Riley Haniford, two Terrills, two Woodworths and other prominent citizens of Underhill Center.

In 1886 J.J.Monahan, a lawyer, Underhill Postmaster and important civic contributor, wrote the early history of Underhill for the Rann Gazeteer. In his history he stated that Underhill had only two private academies, Bell Institute in the Flats and Green Mountain Academy in Underhill Center. He never mentions The Underhill Academy, and he lived almost directly across the road from the school building. Subsequent historical writers repeated his statement and the record became very confused. It would seem that both schools occupied the same building and had their own faculty and curriculum. The record is clear that the Underhill Academy owned the building, took care of its maintenance and decided what would be done with it.

In 1853 J.S. Cilley left his position as Principal of the Academy in the Flats to become the first Principal of the Green Mountain Academy in Underhill Center, even before the new school was officially chartered. He served there for five years as an outstanding educator. At one time the school had as many as 120 students, some out of town boarders. (Cilley went on to take a similar position at the Williston Academy)



THE

ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF VERMONT,

AT THE

OCTOBER SESSION,

1855.



PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

MONTPELIER:

E. P. WALTON, JR., PRINTER.

1855.

No. 105.—AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE GREEN MOUNTAIN ACADEMY.

SECTION
1. Location and name of academy.
2. Corporators and their powers.
3. Further powers of corporation.
4. Number of trustees may be increased to thirty. Power of trustees.
5. First meeting. Organization. By-laws. Number necessary for a quorum at meeting.
6. This act to be under the control of future legislatures.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows:

SEC. 1. There is hereby constituted and established a high school to be located at Underhill Centre, in the county of Chittenden, to be known and called by the name of the Green Mountain Academy.

SEC. 2. Martin Wires, C. M. Bates, B. M. Burbank, Riley Haniford, Alfred Bicknell, L. M. Stevens, Calvin Howe, A. L, Terrill, Edward Haniford, Franklin Woodworth, John Terrill, Rapha Woodworth, Timothy Terrill, John Choate, Silas Sears, Myron Bronson, William Powell, A. F. Burdick, I. D. Beeman, and Harvey Dickerson, of said Underhill, and their associates and successors, are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, with all the powers, rights, privileges and duties belonging to similar institutions, by and under the name specified in section one of this act.

Sec. 3 and 4.....

SEC. 5. The first meeting of said corporation shall be holdhn at the Academy in said Underhill, on the first Tuesday in June A. D. 1856, at six o'clock in the afternoon, at which meeting a majority of the corporators named shall be necessary for a quorum to do business; they shall organize by the election of a president of the corporation from their own number, and a secretary; when organized they may make by-laws, rules and regulations, appoint officers, and set times for annual and other meetings for the transaction of such other business as pertains to the objects of the corporation: *Provided*, that at any regular meeting, subsequent to the meeting above named, twelve members shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 6. This act shall be under the control of any future legislature to alter, amend or repeal, as the public good may require.

SEC. 7. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, November 14, 1855.

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 inst., under the charge of

J. S. CILLEY, Principal,

Who will promptly secure such assistance as the interest of the School may require. He has already engaged the services of

Miss MARY WOODWORTH, Teacher of Music.

Miss CHARLOTTE SAFFORD, Teacher of Painting and Drawing.

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.
Common English Branches,	3,00.
Higher Branches, including Languages,	3,50.
Music, with use of Piano,	8.00.
Crayoning and 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.

MARTIN WIRES, *Chairman Trustees.*

Underhill Center, February 10, 1853.

~~Closing of the Academies in Underhill

In 1856 The first Vermont State Board of Education was created. The State required that high school education be made available for all children. In 1857 High Schools opened in St Johnsbury, Rutland, Burlington, St Albans, Williston and Montpelier. The private academies soon were not able to compete and most became part of the public school system or closed altogether. (A few outstanding ones have managed to survive until the present day as a public/private hybrid, but mostly independent of the State Education System.) Green Mountain Academy closed in 1881. Underhill Academy held on until 1892. The date of closure of the Bell Institute is unknown.

Dec. 19, 1893 . The Trustees of Underhill Academy met at their building according to Adjournment. On motion of ??? A.F. Burdick the Central Committee of the Trustees of Underhill Academy were instructed to arrange with the Committee of the Underhill Graded School District to allow them the use of the building for School purposes.

Adjournment without date.

F.S. Jackson , E.S. Whitcomb Jr, Secretary Protem

~~The Underhill Jericho Incorporated District

In 1893 the State chartered an Incorporated School District (I.D.) for the population center which was rapidly growing in Underhill Flats and spilling over into the neighboring area of Jericho, called Riverside. The expansion was in response to the service of the newly arrived B. and L. Railroad. That same year, (1893) the trustees of the Underhill Academy appointed a committee to arrange for the use of the building for the Underhill Graded School District. (For a while, the upstairs of the building had been rented to the local Grange.) The I.D. included Jericho District 2 and Underhill District 3, approximately 50 families in each district.

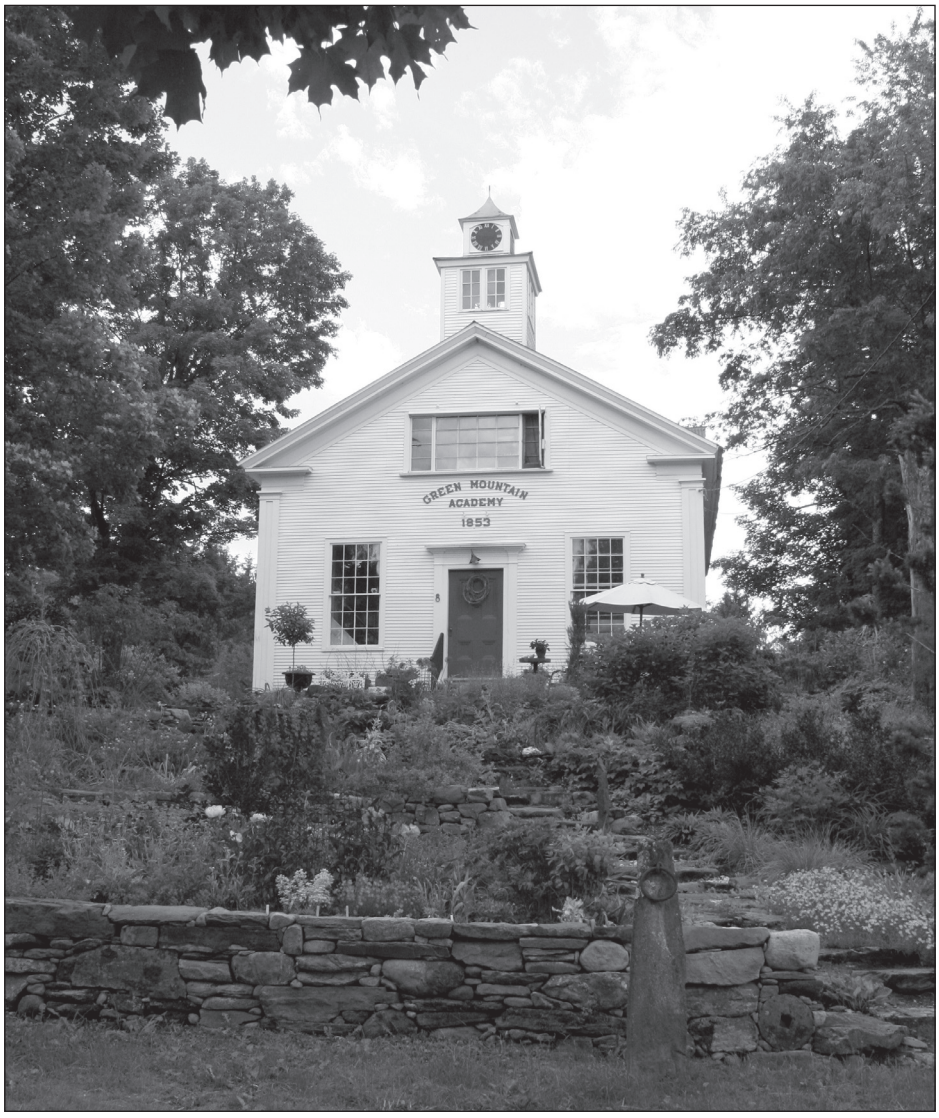
From 1893-1972, the Academy building served as the I.D. Graded School. (A new I.D. School was built on the Jericho side of the border, remodeled in 1972). From 1920-1947 the Academy building served as the local High School. (1947 was the last graduating class.) The Mount Mansfield Union High School opened in 1947 as the new High School for five local communities: Underhill, Jericho, Richmond, Bolton and Huntington.



~~Academy Buildings

The Underhill Academy building was built on a plan similar to many local academies: a two story central pavilion capped by a bell tower and two side wings. The building was sold for use as a business location in 1972.

The Green Mountain Academy had a prime location in Underhill Center on a small sandy knoll with a fine mountain view. There was no basement and the sills were set on large stone slabs set on edge. The inside of the building was barn construction with two stories each with one open room. The exterior was a pleasing neoclassical design, with a bell tower. The Academy was occasionally used for Sunday Mass for the local Catholic Community until they were able to build their own church next door. The original Catholic church burned in 1890 and the academy building, which no longer housed the school, was sometimes used for worship until the new church was built. The Town bought the building and it was used as a Town Hall from 1900 - 1949, when the Town Hall moved to the former Union Church in the Center and renovated it. It has been used as the Town Hall ever since. In 1951 when the District #5 school burned, the building was again used as a school until the new Underhill Central School opened. The building was sold to artist, Roy Kennedy, who remodeled it for his home and studio. It is still in the Kennedy family, 8 Green St.



Kika McArthur 2013

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The Story of Stevensville Underhill, Vermont

By
Elizabeth W. Moore
October 2013



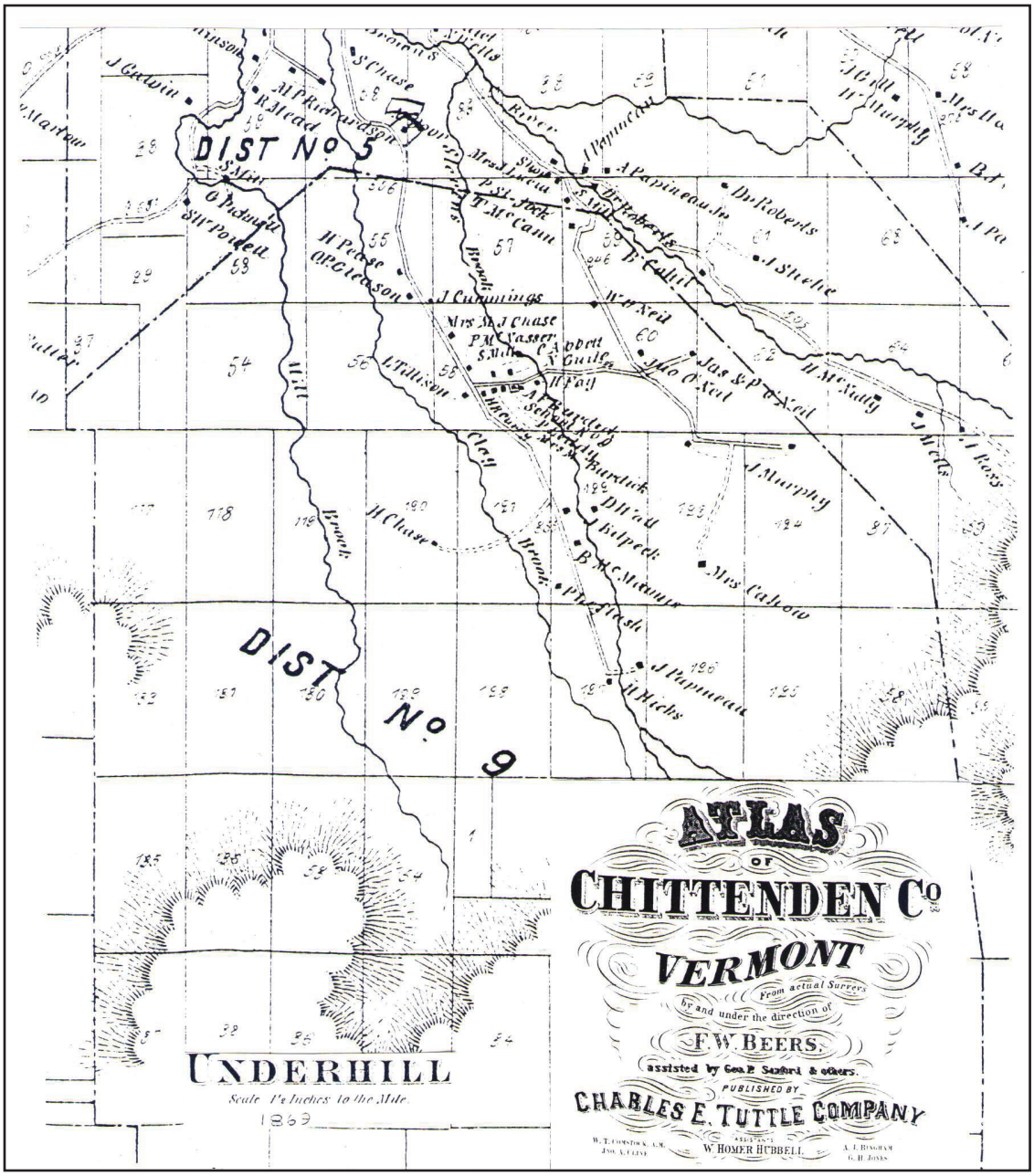
Nebraska Notch, Stevensville Section of Underhill, c. 1940

~ ~ PREFACE

The physiography of Underhill is a series of parallel hills and valleys which has lead naturally to the creation of individual neighborhood hamlets, each with its own familiar name, social life, and history. The area on Mt. Mansfield called Stevensville took its name from lumberman Luther Stevens, who in the mid 1860s managed two lumber mills and associated logging operations. The sawmills were on a tributary of the Browns River which became known as Stevens Brook. As the logging community grew, it became known as Stevensville and the road to Union Village (later, Underhill Center) on which Luther Stevens built his fine home became Stevensville Road. The brook was later officially called Stevensville Brook.

The Stevensville area was primarily School District #9, which was much enlarged with the addition of some of the lots from the Town of Mansfield when it was split between Underhill and Stowe in 1839. The area encompasses all of the upper watershed of the Stevensville Brook. It includes the Butler Lodge and Taylor Lodge trails, as well as a large section of the Long Trail. A distinguishing feature is Nebraska Notch with Sugarloaf Hill, as well as other spectacular geologic sites. The steep Clay Brook ravine distinctively separates Stevensville from the neighboring hamlet of Beartown, although some of the upper uninhabited area of Beartown appears on the map to have been part of the original School District #9. The Mansfield State Park occupies most of the original Town of Mansfield lots.

From its early beginnings over 180 years ago as a logging community with several sawmills, a wood products factory and a group of about 30 working families with an attractive schoolhouse, to a short-lived period of sheep and potato farming, then for more than 50 years an often described “exclusive” summer colony as well as a winter ski destination, it has evolved into a full time residential suburb which includes a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility. The evolution was man-made, as the natural habitat was altered over the years.



~ ~ THE LOGGING COMMUNITY

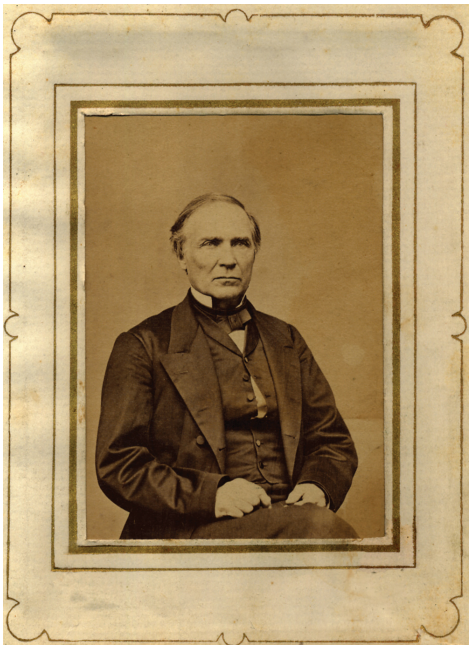
The historical ecology of the Upper Stevensville Brook Watershed has been studied and documented in great detail for the Vermont Department of Parks and Recreation by forester Charles V. Cogbill (ref. 1, June 1996). A copy of his preliminary report is in the Town vault. The following history of logging is primarily summarized from his work.

The Town of Mansfield was chartered in 1804, straddling both sides of the mountain. From the beginning it was an unviable economic and political arrangement. The lots were usually associated with absentee landowners with no real interest in developing the property. In fact, the lots were not used and were effectively unowned. For the next 20 or 30 years the lots near the Underhill side were obtained at vendue sales for back taxes by nearby residents. In particular, one Azarius Williams accumulated rights to over 3000 acres on the mountain. As the market for lumber spread with the increase in Vermont population in the early 1800s, the spruce timber on the easily accessible west side of the mountain, together with the availability of water power, drew the interest of business investors. Clearing began as early as 1827. In 1836, Azarius Williams sold his forest land, including the Stevensville drainage, to David Read of St. Albans, who accumulated more acreage and took as partner, John Wheeler of Burlington, for his 'self estimated' 15,000 acres in the region.

To solidify their claim Wheeler and Read had the land surveyed and confirmed ownership of 8376 acres in Mansfield. Then in 1838 these entrepreneurs bought some fields in Underhill (later Maple Leaf Farm) from J. Lee and J. Brown and built a sawmill on the property (1840). Shortly thereafter, they sold interest in the mill along with 3500 acres of land to Henry P. Hickok, a lumber businessman from Burlington. Hickok took on Luther M. Stevens as a junior partner, with 1/3 share. Stevens moved to Underhill Center in 1843 to found the logging village of Stevensville and manage the Underhill mills. His name was given to the Stevensville Brook, Stevensville Village and the main road to Underhill Center. He also built a fine home on Stevensville Road which has a long history and is a residence today. (ST 157).



Luther Stevens Home c. 1845



Henry P. Hickok

In 1839 the Town of Mansfield had been dissolved by the Vermont Legislature and lots were divided between Stowe and Underhill - after considerable argument. All of the watershed of the Brown's River tributary, later called Stevensville Brook, went to Underhill, except for a small piece of the northeast corner near the Forehead which later became part of Stowe.

The Hickok and Stevens partnership built a second sawmill on the now-called Stevens Brook, just over the old Mansfield line. In 1856 the partnership rented the upper mill to C.H. Woodruff for 8 years. They also leased their land to be harvested by local farmers, but "such as timber not to be cut faster than the land is fitted for cultivation." (Early sustainable forestry.)

By the end of the 1850s Stevensville had two sawmills, a shingle mill, and a measure factory. At least 30 families were working in the sawmills and woodworking industries. The community had a handsome school with a belfry. The Forbush Steam Mill at the falls on the Stevens Brook had about 10 employees manufacturing peck measures, cheese and butter boxes. Unfortunately, the mill burned down in 1861 and was not rebuilt.

In 1859 the 'upper' Hickok and Stevens sawmill, with one circular and one upright saw is recorded as cutting 60 thousand feet of board and box materials. This seems to be the high point of activity at the upper mill, for in 1864 Hickok and Stevens sold much of the mill lot and adjacent land to farmer, Hiram Hicks. Then, in 1865 Luther Stevens moved to Jericho, where he became a well respected and active member of the community. His move seemed to indicate the end of the Stevensville village.

As the loggers cleared the land of trees, some hillsides became grazing lands. In 1840, according

to records, there were more sheep than people in town. Hiram Hicks on the farm at the end of Stevensville Road raised sheep. Sheep raising attracted young men from Ireland, who knew a lot about grazing sheep. In 1841 a young man from Ireland named Daniel Wall arrived in Stevensville, via Shelburne, along with a fellow countryman, Patrick Green, with whom he went into partnership. They logged on the mountain all their lives. In 1847 Peter and Margaret Leddy came to Underhill from Ireland, also via Shelburne. They settled in Stevensville, where Peter started a farm, adding acreage little by little until he had a fine agricultural operation - and nine children. The Leddy Farm dominated Stevensville and has played several important roles over the years. (Descendants of Margaret and Peter Leddy later became prominent in Burlington politics and there is a fine city park which carries the name.) Other families from Ireland came and settled early in Stevensville, including the Wells and O'Neils, Patrick McCaffrey, J. Murphy. Some became farmers, others worked in the woodworking industries.



Mount Mansfield, 1860. Oil on canvas. Charles Heyde

~ ~ LOGGING BOOM

The logging activity in Stevensville was relatively quiet from 1865 to 1879. Then a huge change occurred. With the arrival of the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad in Underhill in 1875 and the building of large steam mills in Underhill Flats, North Underhill and Pleasant Valley, in addition to the Underhill Center steam mill (1869), logs could be cut and transported in amounts undreamed of in the days of water-powered mills and ox cart transportation. Hickok and Stevens disposed of their mill property in Underhill in 1879. In 1880 Anson Field bought the remaining rights to the 'Mansfield Mountain land' (2000 acres) from the heirs of J. Wheeler. Nine years later that land was sold to L.F. Terrill and G.E. Terrill, merchants and lumbermen in Underhill Center. Logging then began in earnest and clear cutting was the order of the day. In 1897 the Terrills had bought the stumpage of "all timber, both hard and soft, standing, lying or growing forever on land" in the Browns River drainage north of Stevensville Brook. That year together with logger G.M.Knight, who operated the steam mill in Underhill Flats, they shipped thousands of board feet of lumber to mills as far away as Burlington. Then in 1898 the Terrills sold their operation to W.H. Martin of Royalton, Vt. He moved to Underhill, but within six years he sold out to C.H. Green (descendent of Patrick Green?) who in turn sold 2100 acres of "wild land" and stumpage to the Champlain Realty Company, a subsidiary of the International Paper Company. Cutting was intense. In 1905 the sawmill and lumber business was said to be the leading industry in Underhill. In the 1903-1908 timeframe there were extensive fires in previously cut stands north of Stevensville Brook, which extended down as far as 1600 ft. A 1915 map does show some second-growth hardwoods in the Stevensville area, presumably resulting from early farm clearing, And there were still some small farming operations in the area.

~ ~ STATE OWNERSHIP

Mount Mansfield State Park was established in 1914 with the acquisition of former Mansfield land on the Underhill side of the mountain from Ralph and Louise Case. In 1929 the State of Vermont added approximately 1238 acres from Champlain Realty. The Vermont Department of Forestry and Parks has managed the logging operations in a professional, sustainable manner, compatible with the recreational uses of the park. Over the years the size of the Park has grown with acreage which has been donated or purchased on both sides of the mountain. On the Underhill side of the mountain, the Grand List currently (2013) shows 6035 acres in the State Park. UVM owns 160 acres of fragile tundra on the 'Chin'.

~~ LOGGING SUMMARY (ref. Cogbill)

The upper Stevensville Brook drainage has been intensively used for forest production for over 150 years. The lowest reach of the valley near the confluence of the two branches of the brook was an early sawmill privilege and the site of several small farmsteads in the early 1800s. Activities associated with these properties extended up to about 1700 feet elevation and included clearance for cultivation, pastures and the cutting of woodlots for farm consumption. The vast majority of the watershed, however, was used for timber production, initially feeding the water-powered mills, then the larger steam-mills in Underhill and Jericho. Through time, separate ownerships of this timberland, held in large blocks following the drainage, correspond to four periods of logging interest. Hickok and Stevens did an initial cut for spruce. Terrill brothers did a short, intensive cut of the remaining softwood, their operation exceeding growth replacement. Champlain Realty began the removal of hardwoods. The Vermont Department of Forests has since actively managed the site for continued production through site improvement and periodic harvest of both soft and hardwoods.



Underhill Center and Stevensville, 1924

~ ~ VILLAGE GENTRIFICATION

In spite of the extensive logging in the Stevensville section, the part of the mountain accessed by Mountain Road, which paralleled the Browns River, attracted hikers, health seekers and scenery appreciators early on. Trails were cleared on the mountain as early as 1847. The first Halfway House was built beside a large spring on the Mountain Road in 1850 and the Summit House settled under the 'Nose' in 1858. There were bridle trails as well as hiking trails across the mountain. When the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad arrived in Underhill in 1875, the trip from Burlington became much easier and the hotels in Underhill and Riverside thrived. Many famous people came to climb the mountain, including well known writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, who stayed at the Hotel Mansfield in Underhill Center with his daughter and wrote about their Mansfield experience with appreciation. In 1910 the Green Mountain Club was organized by James P. Taylor. It started clearing in 1924 for a trail from Camel's Hump to Mt. Mansfield. (Over the years the trail grew and grew into the extended 'Long Trail', the length of Vermont.)

Meanwhile, with the clear cutting of the forests, the demise of the sawmills and woodworking factory, by the turn of the 20th century the hamlet of Stevensville was dying. The schoolhouse was abandoned and fell into disrepair. Families moved away. The few small farms were unsustainable, for sheep grazing had moved West and potato starch was no longer a popular commodity. But many Burlington residents who enjoyed the grandeur of the mountain (and could see it from where they lived) were attracted by the unspoiled simplicity of the Stevensville area. Early on, in 1913, Judge Henry Shaw bought the Papineau and Carvage farms on Stevensville Road. The Carvage house had burned, but there was a large barn (in need of repair) on the farm and the small barn with the Papineau house had a magnificent view of the mountain. The 'Shaw Barn' became 'The Place" where Fanny Shaw served tea for friends to enjoy the view, and ping pong was played on rainy days. Judge Henry's sister was also named Fanny. Fanny Laura Shaw had married engineer Willard Pope and moved to Detroit, but she so missed Vermont that she enlisted her brother to buy her a piece of Stevensville. In 1913 he bought for her the 100 acre Richardson Farm, just up Stevensville Road. (With the advent of the U.S. entry into WWI, the Popes did not see the property until 1919.)

Dr. Lyman Allen, who was Dean of the UVM Medical School, bought the former Forbush Mill prop-

erty and created a summer swimming pool where the large rock dam for the mill had been. When the Popes took over the Richardson Farm, they sold a small acreage from the property adjacent to the Allen land to their friend from Rhode Island, George Benedict. His son, Grennie, (Grenville) who later took over the property, was for many years a much-loved Dean at Andover Academy in Massachusetts. Levi Smith, President of the Burlington Savings Bank, bought the former Hicks farm at the very end of Stevensville Road in 1923. It then had an unspoiled view across Lake Champlain to the Adirondacks. He named it 'Road's End' and so it has been called ever since. (In 1966 Life Magazine sent a reporter to live with the Burlington Smith family for an extended time to write up the history of this interesting and distinguished Burlington family. The articles appeared in four issues of Life Magazine in late 1966. A 1929 photo of the family standing at the front door of 'Road's End' was featured.)



Levi Jr., Julia, Frederick, Levi Sr., & Robert at Roads End

The substantial Leddy farm had been sold in 1915 to Napoleon and Agnes Couture. In 1927 the Coutures sold the bulk of the property to Dr. John Wheeler. and his wife, Julia Warren Smith, a sister of Levi Smith. (Dr. Wheeler was a world renowned eye surgeon, especially famous for his operation on the then King of Siam). The Leddy Farm then became known as 'The Wheeler Farm'. On the hillside section on the south side of upper Stevensville Road, the Wheelers built a large log cabin with a fine view of the mountain. The cabin was built by local craftsmen, using logs and stones from the property. The large stone fireplace was particularly handsome. Most of the furniture, too, was made by local carpenters from trees harvested from the property. The Wheelers called it 'Sprucewood". A similar, but smaller guest house was built across the road overlooking the Stevensville Brook. A clay tennis court was added and the brook was dammed to create a swimming hole, (which usually had to be rebuilt after the spring floods.) It was a grand vacation complex.

Other family members, including the next generation, as well as friends who came to visit, bought Stevensville land and became summer neighbors. The Wheeler's daughter, Martha Barker Montgomery, bought the O'Neil farms at the end of the Stevensville annex. Miss Patterson, Dean of Women at UVM, bought the former Wells farm, adjacent to the Wheeler log cabin. Janet Beebe, sister of Grennie Benedict and married to an Army General, bought a large farm up the road, adjoining the Wheeler Farm. Dr. William Aycock, a public health expert on Infantile Paralysis, (the scourge of the time), whose wife Eleanor was Henry Hickok's descendant, bought the former Tillison farm across from the former Stevens homestead. They planted spruce trees and added a clay tennis court.

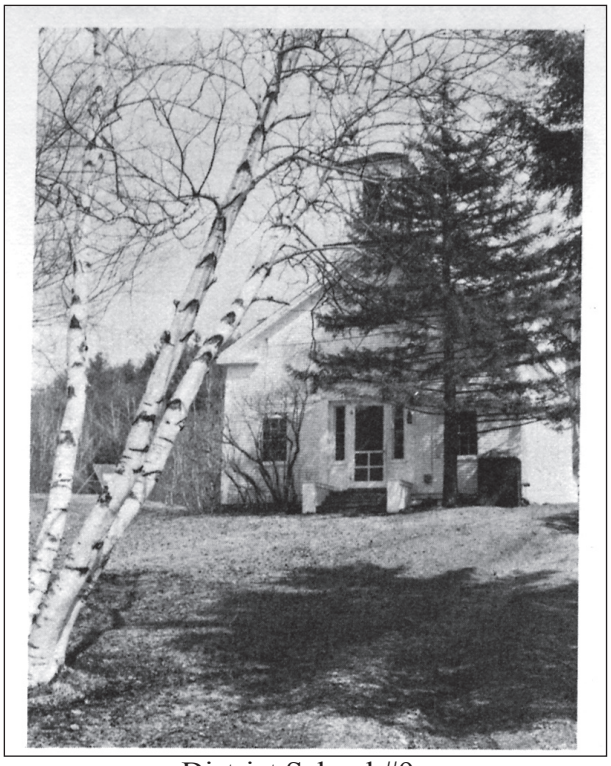


Mary Elizabeth Aycock, in front of the Aycock camp on Stevensville Road, 1920

Dudley Morris, artist and teacher at the Lawrenceville School in Princeton, bought the abandoned schoolhouse and remodeled it into a fine vacation home. Sadly, it was burned by an arsonist in the late 1970s. The land was donated to the neighboring Maple Leaf Farm. The Howard family, bankers from Long Island, bought the Tardie farms. One by one, Stevensville properties were acquired, mostly by people who all knew each other and were inter-related by family, college or business association. It was a very tight social community. Local people were engaged to help with summer entertainment and winter maintenance.



District Schoolhouse #9, c. 1900



District School #9
Morris Renovation, c. 1960

Meanwhile, John and Edna Shannon had bought the former Stevens homestead and created a popular vacation boarding establishment, where vacationers moved in with steamer trunks and stayed for weeks at a time. It was also popular for overflow guests of the vacation home owners. Local girls helped with the maintenance and meals. (Mrs. Shannon was said to be a demanding employer.) Some of the vacationers also ended up buying Stevensville properties for seasonal homes. In 1939, after the death of her husband, Mrs. Julia Wheeler sold the bulk of the 'Wheeler Farm' to the Shannons. At the same time she sold smaller lots to the adjacent Allens and Beebes in order to enlarge their properties. The Shannons sold their former vacation boarding house to the Comstocks, a young couple from Massachusetts, who planned to continue the business. According to the agreement, the clientele came with the property. For some reason, much of the clientele moved to the new Shannon establishment, leading to an unhappy court case, which dragged on for several years.



Shannon's Boarding House, c. 1925

For the summer vacationers, hiking the mountain was the main attraction. There were many beautiful sights to explore. The Long Trail from Camel's Hump to Mount Mansfield which had been created in 1924 was improved during the 1930s by the CCC. They also cleared some other spectacular trails and improved the camping area on the Mountain Road. The younger generation of 'summer folk' had enchanted summers, exploring the mountains and brooks, playing tennis, swimming in dammed up (very cold) brooks, riding horses, playing in old barns on rainy days. And they had lots of parties, as did their parents. The summers included tennis parties, evening 'singalongs', cocktail hours, fine dinners, continual social life.



Dr. W.L. Aycock painting, 1944



Leigh and Herb McArthur, 1965
(Dr. W.L. Aycock's granddaughter and son-in-law)

~ ~ REFORESTATION

A major determination of the older generation, much influenced by the conservation ethic, was to re-plant the denuded hillsides. With seedlings provided by the State of Vermont, doctors and engineers, lawyers, professors and bankers personally planted groves of white, red and scotch pines, firs, spruce, black oak. By 1946, photographs of the mountain began to show small growing trees. Unfortunately, monocultural planting leads to untoward consequences and in the 1950s many white pines in Vermont, and New York, as well, were

struck by 'blister rust'. Entire groves died almost overnight. The disease was carried on gooseberry bushes, so there was a great effort to eliminate that source of the problem. Some of the red pine was afflicted by "ring rot" and the wood was only good for 'chips'. (70 years or so later, many of the surviving trees had matured and needed to be harvested. Others were being removed by the third generation in order to restore the views.)

~ ~ NEBRASKA NOTCH

The scenic highlight of Stevensville is Nebraska Notch with its Sugarloaf hill in the middle. The name is associated with the Nebraska Valley on the Stowe side of the ridge. While not as dramatic as Smugglers Notch, it has its share of spectacular scenery, including cascades and falls in Clay Brook, which defines 'Stevensville' on the South.

In the early 1800s a road traversed Nebraska Notch over which teams of oxen hauled produce from Stowe Valley to markets in Burlington. The coming of the railroad through Waterbury ended the usefulness of the road about 1850 and it was subsequently abandoned. However, as early as 1863 an idea surfaced which would have created a scenic circle tour through Smugglers Notch and Nebraska Notch which would attract tourists. Nothing came of it at the time, but the idea resurfaced in publications in 1915 and 1916. Then, the State did improve the Sumggler's Notch carriage road, which had been built in the early 1890s, to make it available for auto travel. The Nebraska Notch road idea came to a head in the 1920s when Edwin W. Henry, who was the Underhill Town Representative and active in the Mt. Mansfield Civic Club, pushed for legislation which would open the road. Nothing happened until 1927, when under pressure from the Civic Club, an appropriation bill was introduced, which would have funded a survey and road construction. However, a group of property owners in Stevensville strongly opposed such a project, wishing to preserve the isolation of the area, and the appropriation bill was defeated. Then in the '30s, State Forester, Perry H. Merrill assigned the Civilian Conservation Corps to create a road across the mountain which would connect the Halfway House with Nebraska Notch. It was planned to push the road through the Notch to connect the northern part of the State Forest with the forest area in Waterbury. With the coming of WWII the CCC was dissolved and only a mile or so of the road had been built. It was visible on the side of the mountain for many years, but the traces of it are now mostly gone.

Taylor Lodge in the Notch is named after James Taylor, the founder of the Green Mountain Club. First built in 1926, it burned down in the winter of 1950-51 and was rebuilt that following fall. In 1971 the GMC began providing caretakers for the Lodge. The trail to the Lodge and the Notch begins at the parking lot at the end of Stevensville Road. It is a favorite for hikers and skiers.

Much time of the Underhill and Stowe Selectboards was spent in the 1990s to resolve an issue between the two towns and the Notch trail with respect its proximity to the Lake Mansfield Trout Club. Lake Mansfield is an artificial lake dammed in 1899 by some Stowe men. It is regularly stocked with trout and the clubhouse is a social center. With the huge increase in traffic of hikers and skiers traveling so close to the private clubhouse, the members hoped to close off the trail. Since it had originally been an official town road, that was not feasible. Happily, the problem was resolved by relocating the trail through the Notch.

~ ~ WINTER SPORTS *

In 1937 Lawrence Eagan, whose farm stretched from the Mountain Road to Stevensville Road, set up a gasoline-powered rope ski tow on Stevensville Hill. The ski location had been spotted by Sepp Rusch, a famous skier from Austria, who was designing the ski area in Stowe on the other side of the mountain. The Stevensville setting was called 'The Snow Bowl'. The location was quite special, for it could be raining in Underhill Center and change to snow at the Snow Bowl elevation. A Winter Sports Club was formed in Underhill, new wintertime overnight accommodations were opened, elaborate transportation arrangements were set up, lights on the hill provided night skiing, and the advertising brochures presented a glowing account of the skiing facilities. In February 1941 a ski jump was erected in the State Park to accommodate a large intercollegiate ski meet. Stevensville was a major location for the ski events. The Winter Sports Club had great plans for

improvement and expansion of trails and facilities, but the advent of WWII changed everyone's plans. The men from the CCC were gone, along with every able bodied man in town. During the War, the 'Snow Bowl' did continue to operate, but on a small scale.

In 1946, after The War was over, the Durbrow family bought the former Eagan Farm, now the Underhill Farm. They improved the skiing and parking and called the facility the Underhill Ski Bowl. Bill Durbrow also ran the farm and raised premium Brown Swiss cows. During the next 18 summers, his mother, Mrs Helene Durbrow held Camp Mansfield**, a world renowned school for dyslexic boys, who needed help with reading and writing. The Underhill Farm was a very busy place. The Underhill Ski Bowl was an integral part of Stevensville for 37 years, where many young skiers learned the sport and some went on to World Competition. It closed with great regrets in 1982, a victim of the skyrocketing cost of insurance.

* See Winter Sports Chapter

** See Summer Activities Chapter

~ ~ THE McCLELLANS

No story of Stevensville would be complete without the presence of Carl and Louise McClellan. They were among the very few people living year-round on Stevensville Road during the era of the summer colony. They lived directly across the road from the Pope/Trask summer home and helped the summer family with year-round maintenance of the property and summer living.

Nearly all the early farmhouses were built close to the road to minimize winter snow removal and the McClellan farmhouse was indeed close to the road. Winter and summer, the outside lights were on, beckoning friends, as well as strangers needing direction or assistance. The Sam Foss poem, which reads, "Let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man" could have been written about them. They were always welcoming and hospitable -- and Louise's doughnuts were legendary.



Carl and Louise McClellan 1966



Faline and Friend, c. 1960

Carl served as an Underhill Selectman and as a State Representative to the Vermont Legislature. He also served many years as the local Game Warden. Raising orphaned fawns was a pleasure of the job. One orphan they named 'Faline' (after Bambi's friend.) The barn door was kept open so she could go in and out, but she preferred being in the house where she was fed on a bottle and enjoyed being petted. She returned to the wild, but for a while would come back to visit, sometimes in company with other fawns who would keep their distance. Then she was gone, to become only a happy memory.

Carl and Louise ran the Ski Bowl for many years when the Durbrows were busy with other projects. Their young son, Stevie, helped, too. Louise ran the warming hut with the snack bar and parents always knew their children were safe and happy. Carl also worked as occasional real estate dealer. A plaque on the new section of the iron fence at the Underhill Cemetery indicates its dedication to them for all they had meant to the community.

~ ~ WILDLIFE

In addition to the deer which add so much to the charm of the woods, there are other wild animals which make their presence known from time to time. In the 1950s porcupines were a nuisance, especially because they fancied the glue that was used in exterior plywood and chewed on any siding of that material they could find. The State Foresters introduced fishers into the State Park, a well known predator of porcupines. They really did a job and porcupines disappeared for a long time. (Fishers also fancied cats and many pets were lost, too.) Raccoons are common visitors, but amusing as they can be, garbage cans need to be tightly secured. Black bears have made a real comeback and visit as close as a back porch. They are especially attracted by bird feeders and feeding of birds during bear season is not a good idea. Moose and otter reside as well and a catamount has been sighted. Stevensville residents have always enjoyed living with their wildlife neighbors.



E.T. Moore and Friend, c. 1995

~ ~ MAPLELEAF FARM

In 1956 John and Edna Shannon sold their most of their establishment to Edith Spencer, with some small acreage on the borders going to the Luck family and Janet Beebe. The following year the Spencers gave their holdings to Maple Leaf Farm Associates Inc. This was an organization of Alcoholics Anonymous, which was a beneficiary of Mr. Spencer. The Association set up a 'residential recuperation facility' where men could spend extended periods to recover from alcohol addiction in the quiet countryside under the sheltering mountain. It was called Maple Leaf Farm.

Maple Leaf Farm encompassed large acreage, most of the original Leddy Farm, and there was lots of land on which the patients could roam. One summer a resident brought his horse and pastured it nearby. For many years the 'Farm' quietly fitted in with the local community. As a non-profit enterprise, the Town of Underhill affords tax exemption on the buildings and some of the land.

As the drug scourge began to take its toll on the public in the 1970s, the Farm began to accept people with drug problems as well as alcoholics. The residents became younger. Women were included. Over the years, with State and Federal support, as well as private donations, the establishment has continued to expand its facilities and services.

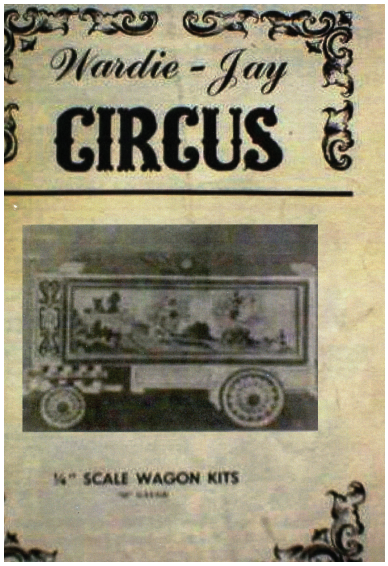
~ ~ POSTWAR CHANGES

During WWII summer festivities were mostly put on hold, as well as property maintenance. When the War ended, changes were inevitable. The original 'summer folk' were older and some had passed on. A new generation took over the properties and some parceled off the land for new camps and homes. Betty

Pease, daughter of Judge Henry and Fanny Shaw, sold off the former Carvage Farm. Grace Moore from Philadelphia bought 20 acres, more or less, including a large falling down barn. (Carl McClellen acted as real estate agent and the property bordered his own.) The land was to be a present for her son, Edwin, when he came home from the War. During a Christmas interlude, he had expressed an interest in owning a 'piece of Vermont' and had picked Underhill on the map, sight unseen. Grace and her daughter, Esther, had driven up to Underhill to explore and bought the Pease land without much hesitation.

When Edwin returned from the War, he drove up to see the property. He had envisioned a more remote wooded location. But he was soon off to England to study and did not pay much attention until several years later. In 1948, he looked at it seriously and conceived the idea of taking the old barn apart and using the materials to build a camp on a back knoll where there would be a fine view of the mountain. It was his neighbor, Carl McClellan, who gave him the encouragement to undertake the project.

With the skills of local craftsmen and the use of their hand tools, a 'cabin' was built in parts on the ground like a small barn and raised in one day in the summer of 1949, complete with evergreen totem on the peak of the roof rafters. Nothing had been built in Stevensville for many years, or in Underhill, for that matter, and people stopped on the road during the 'raising' offering to help. It became known as "Eddie's Camp". For many years it served as a winter ski lodge and summer camp for the Moore family. They called it 'The Mooring'. Then in 1967, Edwin and his family decided to move up from New York and remodel the building into a year-round residence. Little did they know they were starting a trend. Except for Maple Leaf Farm, the only winter residents in Stevensville were the McClellans and the Ellis Family. Roland and Mary Ellis had moved into the former Shannon establishment. They had removed the guest quarters from the back of the house and renovated the barn to use for a small business. Roland Ellis built wooden railroad model parts as toys to assemble. The business was called 'Wardie Jay'. They also collected and sold 'ephemera', much of which they left for the Underhill town archives when they moved away, a treasure trove for town historians.



~ ~ SUBURBAN STEVENSVILLE

At the writing of the first Underhill Town Plan in 1970, seasonal homes in the Town contributed to 13 % of the Grand List. As of 2013, the percentage is a fraction of a percent. Nearly every seasonal home which could be winterized has become a year round residence. In Stevensville, there are only 3 seasonal homes remaining in the community. Miss Patterson had no family and willed her property to UVM to use as a conference or study center. Since, as a non-profit it would not be contributing taxes, she left a financial legacy to the town to make up for lost taxes. The fund was used to purchase the large parcel of land on New Road, which was used for an approved landfill. When the State shut down landfills, the area became the Crane Brook Conservation District and the location for the new Town Garage. (The Patterson camp later became a residence.)

Since 1970 the town population has grown from about 700 to over 3000. The Central School has had two additions. School buses service Stevensville Road. Maple Leaf Farm has expanded its clinical program. Mountain land has been subdivided and many new homes have been built. And since the landfill was shut down by the State there has been regular trash collection. 'Stevensville' is now a residential neighborhood.

~ REFERENCES

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Vincent E. Feeney, 'Finnigans, Slaters and Stonepeggers; A History of Irish in Vermont' Images from the Past, Bennington, VT 2000

Robert. L. Hagerman, ' Mansfield, The Story of Vermont's Loftiest Mountain' Essex Publishing Company, Essex Junction, Vermont, 1971

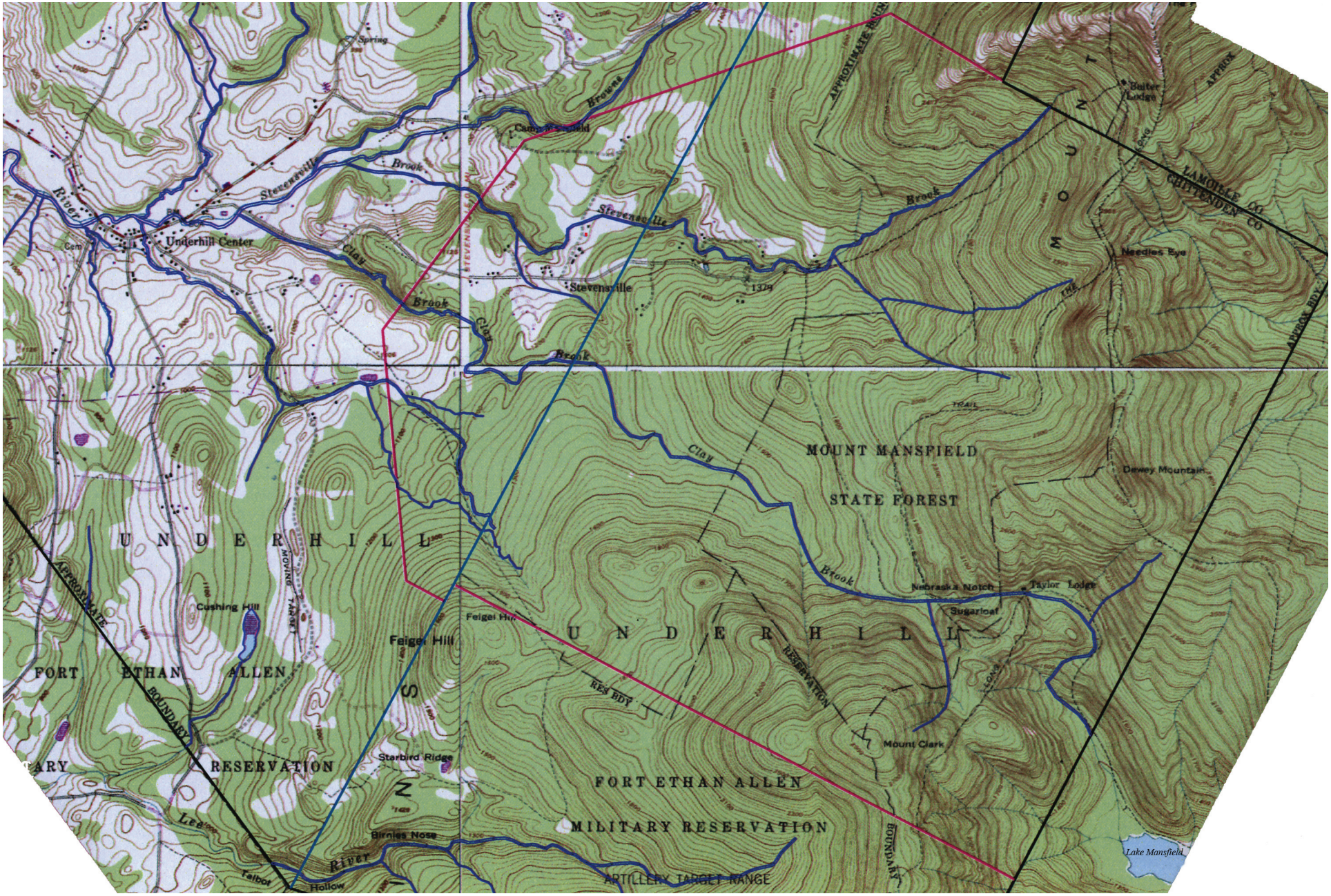
Personal Remembrances:
Don Breen (1963); Herbert McArthur (2006); Kika McArthur (2013); Jackie Duffek (2013); Steve McClellan (2013); Elizabeth Moore (2013)

Book design by Kika McArthur

This USGS topographic map shows part of Underhill, including Stevensville, as it appeared in 1948. The boundary of School District #9 has been added in magenta and the schoolhouse is red. The original town line of Mansfield is azure. The town boundary with Stowe and Cambridge is black. The map shows as dashed lines the approximate boundaries of the State Forest and the Ethan Allen Artillery Range. Both areas have since been considerably enlarged. Several trails, including the Long Trail, are shown as dotted lines. Geologic features are identified and the existing buildings noted.



Dr. W.L. Aycock Oil on canvas, 1944


Spring
Browns
Camp Mansfield
Stevensville
Brook
River
Underhill Center
Clay
Brook
Stevensville
Stevensville
Brook
Clay
Brook
APPROXIMATE BOUNDARY
Butler Lodge
APPROX
LAMOILLE CO
CHITTENDEN CO
Needles Eye
APPROX BDY
MOUNT
MOUNT MANSFIELD
STATE FOREST
Clay
Brook
Dewey Mountain
Nebraska Notch
Taylor Lodge
Sugarloaf
UNDERHILL
UNDERHILL
Cushing Hill
Feigel Hill
Feigel Hill
FORT ETHAN ALLEN
RESERVATION
APPROXIMATE
BOUNDARY
RES BDY
RESERVATION
Mount Clark
Starbird Ridge
FORT ETHAN ALLEN
MILITARY RESERVATION
Birnies Nose
Lee
River
Talbot
Hollow
ARTILLERY TARGET RANGE
BOUNDARY
Lake Mansfield

USGS 1948

Underhill Jericho
Boy Scout Troop 627

50 Years
1963 - 2013

Betty Moore
2013



The Boys Scouts of America was formally organized in 1910, but the first documented Boy Scout troop in America is said to have started in Barre, Vermont in 1909. (Former Vermont Governor Deane Davis was an early member of the troop....in 1912.) In 1940, Henry Cook, a local farmer and long time RD mailman, tried to organize a Boy Scout troop in Underhill, but with a small population (under 700), Underhill did not have enough young boys in the Boy Scout age group (10-18) to make up a viable troop. After the end of World War II, UVM Professor Lloyd Woodward made another attempt at forming a troop and ran into the same population problem. Then in 1963, with the same small population, Gael Boardman and Roland Ellis had the idea of recruiting members in Jericho, as well as Underhill, forming a joint operation. They enlisted the support of Harry Sawyer and Eric Schuppin of Jericho to start a troop committee. They were soon joined by Bill Snyder and Roland Burroughs of Underhill.

There was a small problem, in that the chartering office of the national Boy Scout Organization did not recognize two-town troops. But with the sponsorship of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department and the support of George Plumb, the District Scout Executive, Underhill Jericho Boy Scout Troop 7 received a charter in 1963. (Bill Snyder had picked the 'lucky 7 " number for the troop. In later years the national committee added extra numbers, and the troop became # 627.)


TAPS . . . Buglar David Bugbee, 12, of the Underhill-Jericho Troop 7 signals the end of a busy day. (Photos by Clark)

'The Wide World of Scouting'

There was immediate local support. The Jericho Elementary School provided a meeting place; Wesley Jacobs, local storekeeper, bought the first troop flag. At the first organizational meeting over 70 boys showed up!. (The troop number stabilized at about 2/3 that number.) Gael Boardman served as the first Scoutmaster, but soon persuaded Bill Snyder to take over the post. Gael became his active assistant and committee chairman. The mothers, too, got involved and formed an "Auxiliary", helping especially with fund-raising dinners. (Jo Bordeaux and Mrs Truman Neal were among the founders. The "Neal Fund" helped to send the first Troop 7 member to Philmont, the national Boy Scout Reservation in Colorado.) In 1971 Bill Snyder died tragically in a Civil Air Patrol plane crash. He is remembered by the troop with the 'Bill Snyder Award'

The regular monthly troop meetings are held in the Browns River Middle School. Throughout the years the membership has stayed at around 50 boys. In 1990 the UJFD gave the troop a new American flag and a new Troop #7. In 2012 the troop acquired a new troop flag with the current number # 627 and the old Flag # 7 was presented to Gael Boardman in appreciation for all he had meant to the troop.



July 2003

Front Row: Matt Haley, Chris Bouchard, Rick Sawyer, Chris Goodwin, Tom Barlousi, Seth Lynn, Andrew Willard, Matt Newton
2nd Row: Jeremy Audet, WArren Irish, Robbie Malinowski, Ryan Carroll, Alex Stimson
3rd Row: Floyd Scott, Eric Eckhardt, Michael Best, Devon Mendocino, Tom Scott, Christian Eckhardt, Jason Dufresne, Kyle Joynt
4th Row: Josh Hesler, Tom Malinowski, Ben Weir, Peter Johnson, Matt Bogaczyk, Eric Sullivan, Kurt Johnson

For fifty years, the Underhill Jericho Boy Scout troop, now # 627, has offered a strong program for the boys in the community. It is recognized as one of the outstanding troops in the state, regularly winning awards. In addition to learning Scouting skills and Scouting discipline, the troop contributes to Underhill and Jericho in many ways by helping regularly with community projects, including the food shelf and Harvest Market.

Of special note is the number of Eagle Scout Awards achieved by members of the troop, 55 awards over the years. The Eagle award requires a tangible community project and the projects have been many and varied. Trail improvements have been made and trail bridges built in the Mills River Park and the Red Mill Park as well as the Mt Mansfield State Park. Picnic benches and tables with permanent foundations, cemetery restoration and improvements and landscaping are other notable projects; especially outstanding is the landscaping at the Underhill Town Hall. The community improvements can be seen everywhere, the most recent, a large gazebo at Browns River Middle School.

In addition to the hard work, the Scouting program includes regular, year round camping opportunities at the Mt. Norris Boy Scout Reservation in Eden, Vermont, learning swimming, boating, archery, outdoor cooking, survival skills. Throughout the year special expeditions are made: white-water rafting in New York and Maine; week-long canoe trips; BSA National Sea Base High Adventure programs in the Florida Keys; hiking the ~ 270 mile Long trail from end to end in Vermont; visiting the National's Capital, Washington, D.C., Antietam, Gettysburg, Battleship Cove in Fall River, MA. It is indeed an exciting, stimulating, informative experience for the Scouts and the many fathers who help with the program.

Kurt Johnson served as Scoutmaster for 10 years, a record for the troop. He is still involved as a member of the troop committee. Gael Boardman, one of the original founders of the group is actively involved, as are many Scout leaders who have had sons in the troop that have moved on. The current Scoutmaster is Ken Thurgate and the Committee Chair is Jean Kleptz. The commitment of parents and community members contributes to the excellence of the program and its continuity for 50 years.



2013 Tropp 627 50th Anniversary

Community Projects



BRMS Gazebo



Butterfly Way Station



Sand Hill Cemetary Fence



Mills Rive Park Gazebo



Cross Country Trail bridge



Cemetary Fence Painting



White Water Rafting - Hudson River, 2008



Florida BSA SeaBase, February 2005

Kurt Johnson, Peter Johnson, Andrew Willard, Tom Scott, Floyd Scott, Tom Malinowski, Derek Layton-Schlagen, Ben Weir kneeling.



Long Trail Journey's End @ Vermont/Canadian Border August 2005
Tom Malinowsky, Peter Johnson, Josh Hesler, Andrew Willard, Christian Eckhatdt.

Scout	Year	Eagle Project
Frank Mullins	1977	Mobb's Hill Park Trail work
Brian Walsh	1977	Girl Scout Camp nature trails
Greg Waters	1977	Underhill/Jericho Seniors help network
W. Scott Douglas	1978	
Larry Staab	1978	
Chris Lane	1983	
John Trombly	1985	
Matt Messier	1987	Compiled notebook for Senior citizens adult handbook
Rick Wheatley	1989	Ladder replacement on Mt Mansfield hiking trail
Stephen Messier	1990	Underhill Green monument/flagpole/fence
Alex Leonovich	1991	Bird houses at Ft Ethan Allen Nursing homes
Dan Atherton	1991	Organized blood drive at Richmond school
Scott Collins	1992	Replaced bridge on Taylor Lodge Trail
Mike Leonovich	1993	Cleared trees and pruned apple trees
Jason Jankowski	1994	Mill's River Park benches
Ryan Dudley	1994	Nebraska notch trail bridge
David Crowe	1994	Sunset ridge trail bridge
David Cameron	1995	Jericho/Underhill historical sites tour pamphlet
Mike Audet	1996	
Don Howard	1996	Underhill state park lean to renovations
Ian Browne	1997	BRMS bleachers
David Levasseur	1997	Sterling / Madonna Mtn Long trail foot bridges
Dan Gardner	1998	Mobb's Hill Park Trail work
Jason Scott	1999	Eagle Cut trail work
Ryan Decker	2001	Park St cemetery fence painting
Brian Malone	2001	Mill's River Park trail bridge
David Manz	2001	Underhill school/park picnic tables
Andrew Osborne	2001	WVA Winooski river signs & guide update
Derek Hyde	2001	Mill's River Park bridge fence
Grant Clarke	2001	Mill's River Park tent platforms
Kurt Schaberg	2002	Montclair Glen Outhouse
Alex Stimpson	2002	Brown's river water quality study
Mike Strong	2003	Mill's River Park trails
Ben Courtney	2004	Town Pond picnic tables platforms
Matt Newton	2004	Cougar Trail

Erich Sullivan	2005	Cross country ski trail bridge
David Kennedy	2006	LVHS sports field bleacher
Tom Scott	2006	Mill's River Park Signs
Josh Hester	2006	COTS fence
Peter Johnson	2006	Sand Hill Cemetery fence
Tom Malinowski	2006	Red Mill Park benches
Christian Eckhardt	2006	Moore Park table/bench platforms
Andrew Willard	2006	Sterling Pond Outhouse
Derek Lautenschlager	2007	Mill's River Park campsite relocation
Brian Kennedy	2007	Mill's River Park butterfly waystation
Ben Weir	2008	Underhill town hall floor reconditioning
Chris Bouchard	2008	Good Shepard Church entrance
Andy Chamberlin	2010	Underhill Town Hall landscaping
Warren irish	2010	BRMS benches
Joseph Freitas	2011	Underhill Flats Park Picnic Tables / landscaping
David Polson	2011	JES outdoor classrooms
Rudy Bentlage	2011	Castle cemetary fence
Donald Tynion	2011	Underhill Town Hall shelves and front access area repairs
Matthew Sem	2012	Mills River Park Gazebo
Robbie Malinowski	2013	BRMS Gazebo
Kyle Polson	2013 ?	BRMS Gazebo

Sources: Gael Boardman, Kurt Johnson
Book Design by Kika McArthur

WINTER SPORTS IN UNDERHILL

Betty Moore

2010



~~ *Downhill Skiing*

Serious winter sports began in Underhill in 1937 when State Forester, Perry Merrill, engaged the CCC to clear the Teardrop Trail* on the western side of the mountain. The trail was designed and supervised by master trail designer and engineer, Charles D. Lord. It ran from the Nosedive Trail on the top of the mountain in Stowe to the 'Green Camp' at Underhill State Park. The Corps built a warming hut near the Halfway House and enlarged the parking lot. Subsequently, they also cleared an open slope for beginners (elevation 2500 feet), the Halfway House Run, the Stevens Trail and the Overland Trail, connecting through Nebraska Notch with Bruce Run on the Stowe side.

Sepp Ruschp, a well known skier and instructor, newly arrived in Stowe from Austria, scouted both sides of Mount Mansfield for possible downhill ski areas. He identified as a promising site the bowl-shaped hillsides on Stevensville Road, located on the Egan Farm. (The elevation is such that it can be raining in Underhill Center and snowing as soon as the ski slope is reached.) In 1937 Lawrence Egan, Lawrence Casey, Giles Willey and Jesse Holmes collaborated to install an 800 foot rope tow on the Stevensville hillside, along with some lights for skiing at night. The four men founded the Underhill Winter Sports Club and 'The Snow Bowl' became popular with local skiers. The tow ticket cost 75 cents, including nights (50 cents for Underhill Winter Sports Club members); single rides were 10 cents. Instruction was available and Sepp Ruschp even taught from time to time.

Advertising brochures described the skiing facilities on the western side of Mount Mansfield in glowing terms (average snowfall 110 inches). "Skiing for every type of skier, floodlighted slopes, modern shelter house, 800 foot rope tow, reasonable lodging rates with accommodations for 500 skiers." The skiing was 30 minutes drive from Burlington and bus service connected Burlington air travelers and Essex Junction railroad travelers with Underhill Center. Canadian Colonial Airways provided ski planes from LaGuardia airport to Burlington. There was a "Ski Meister" train with special sleepers from Grand Central Station on Friday nights from December through April with reduced round trip Pullman and rail fares. The Montrealer and the Vermonter serviced Pennsylvania Station.

Underhill Center was advertised as "A Winter Vacation Paradise" and "A Mount Mansfield Playground". "Situated at the foot of Mt Mansfield on the western side where open slope and cross country skiing is unlimited and where the lower slopes of all mountain trails are for novice and intermediate skiers, where you can drive half way up Mt Mansfield all through the winter and there be only one and one quarter miles from the summit, at which spot the Tear Drop Trail connects with the Nose Dive."

The village of Underhill Center became a destination with local inns and private homes providing lodging. Mt Mansfield Inn at Underhill Center, Shannon's on Stevensville Road, Bakers Lodge on the River Road, and The Pleasant Valley Lodge were featured in special brochures. They were operated by Vermont families, noted for delicious meals and homey, modern accommodations. Rates were $3.00 per day, $15 -$25.00 per week.

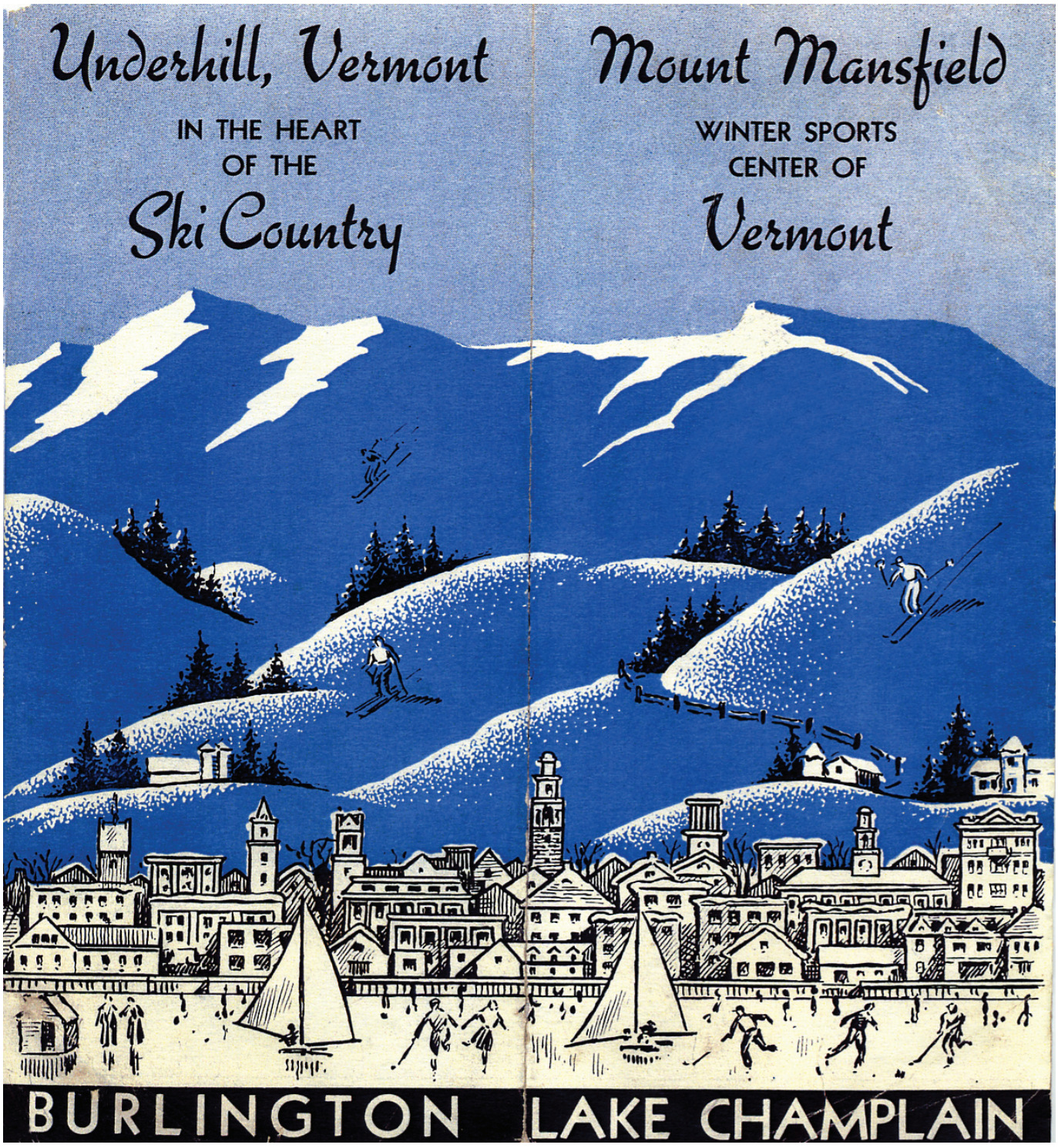
*The name derived from the tears that devloped speeding down the steep windy top of the trail.



Ski Jump - State Park c. 1941



Photo by E. C. CROSS


Underhill, Vermont
IN THE HEART
OF THE
Ski Country
Mount Mansfield
WINTER SPORTS
CENTER OF
Vermont
BURLINGTON
LAKE CHAMPLAIN

TOP O' MOUNTAIN

Mt. Mansfield towers 4,393 feet above sea level, the highest peak in Vermont and one of the highest in the East. The illustration below indicates the vast development of skiing activities in the Green Mountain state because it is an actual photograph taken near the top of the mountain to which ski trails have been built. On all sides of this giant skiing terrain, there are trails that provide enjoyment for all classes of skiers from the humble beginner to the most expert.



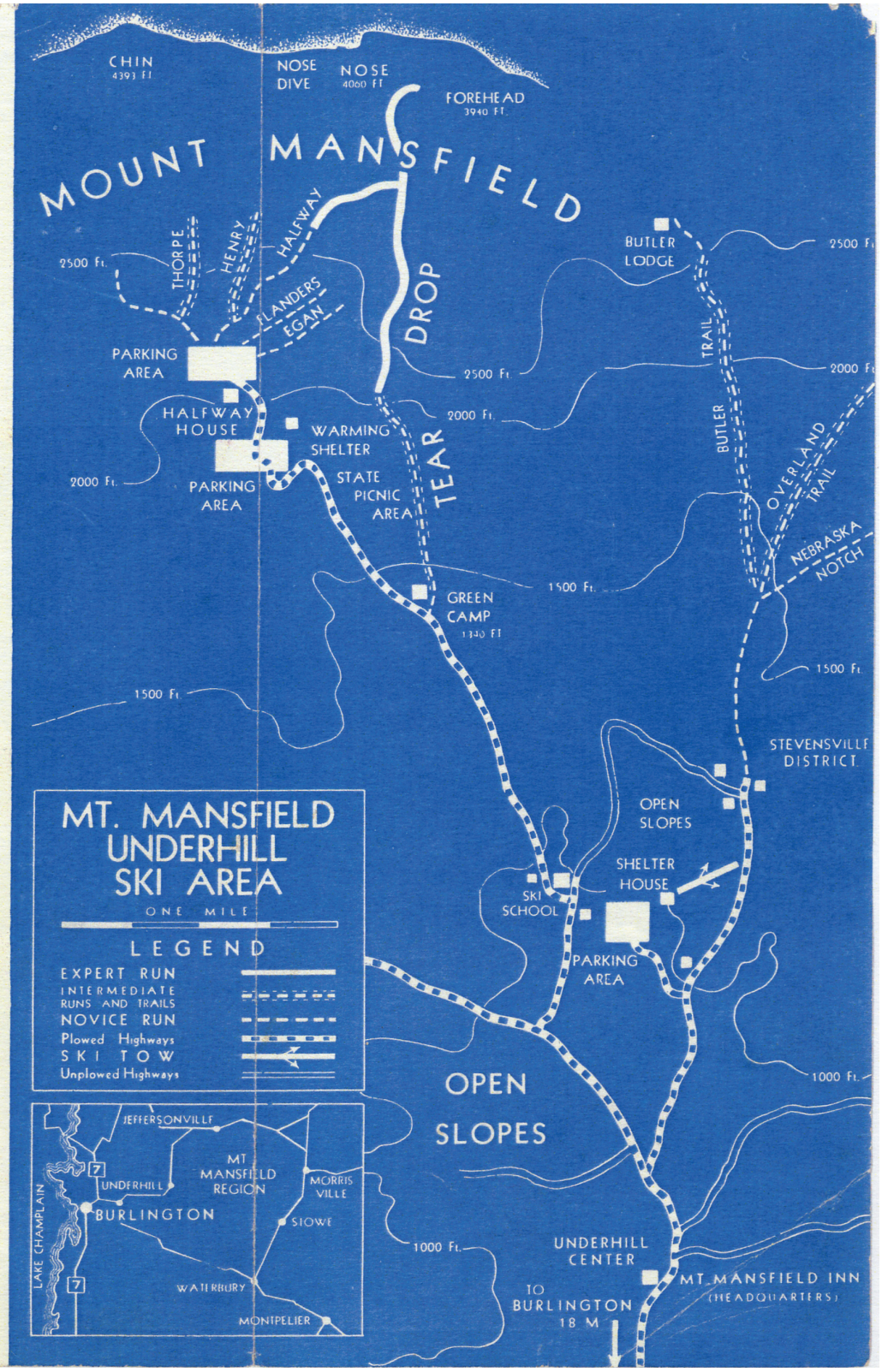
TWO FAMOUS TRAILS

The illustration above also marks the point where two of the most famous ski trails in the East converge, the Tear Drop on the Western slopes of Mt. Mansfield and the Nose Dive on the Eastern slopes. Length of Tear Drop Run is 3 mi., width 30–50 ft., max. slope 25 degrees, vertical descent 2,500 ft., exposure generally West. Connects with "Nose Dive" near top of Nose, making it possible to ski to the Stowe side.

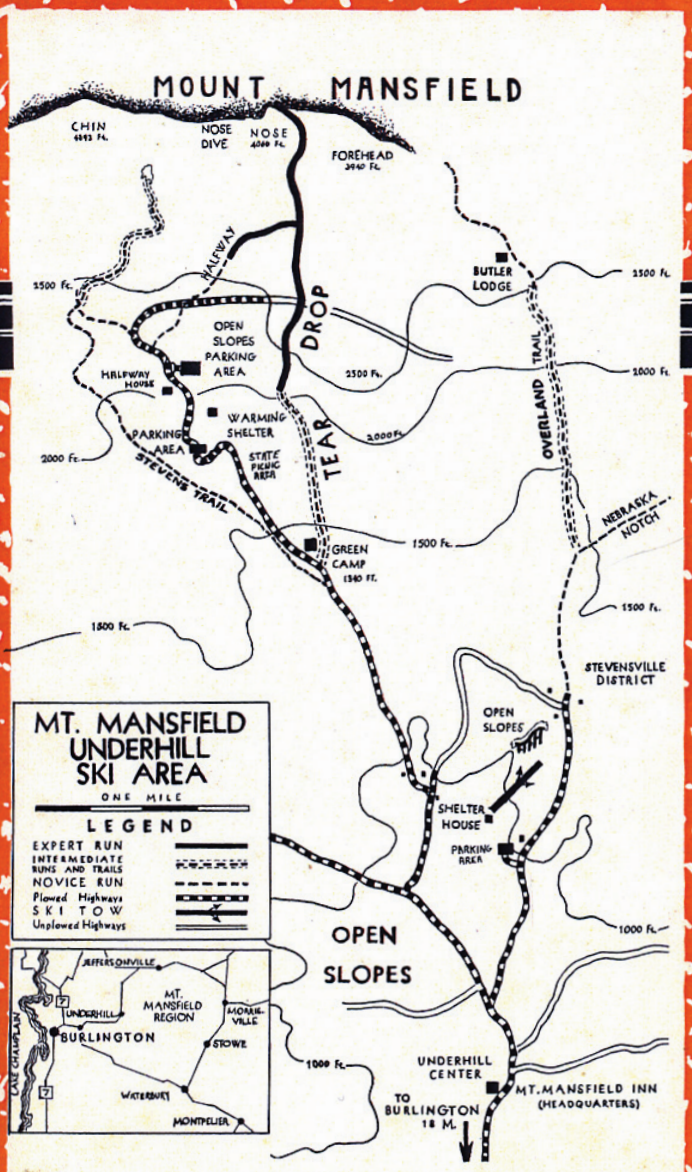
Halfway House Run (connects "Tear Drop" run with Halfway house area)—Length 1.5 mi., width 30–50 ft., max. slope 25 degrees, vertical descent 1,000 ft., exposure North West. Lower end of both trails cut very wide with slope suitable for beginners.

Overland Trail—Length 2 mi., width 20–30 ft., max. slope 20 degrees; vertical descent 800 ft., exposure North West to West. Connects with "Bruce " run on Stowe side.

HEADQUARTERS and information service on winter sports for the entire Burlington area will be maintained at the Hotel Vermont both day and night. This is Vermont's largest hotel and is located on Main Street in Burlington, only a short distance from all local bus, rail and plane terminals. All mail inquiries on winter sports should be directed to the Chamber of Commerce at Burlington, Vt., while at Underhill Center headquarters for all skiers will be the Mansfield Inn.



THIRTY MINUTES DRIVE FROM BURLINGTON



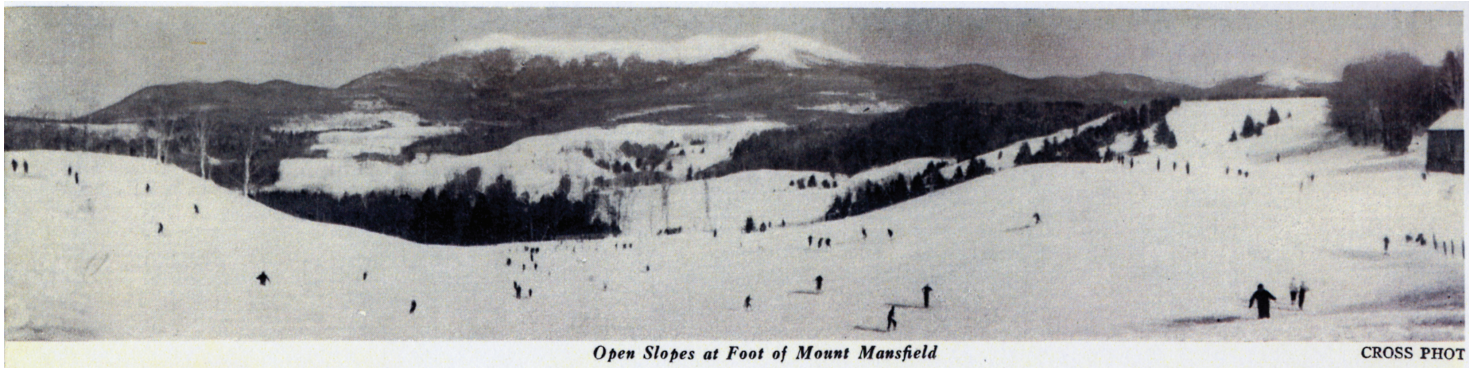
BURLINGTON OFFERS UNLIMITED FACILITIES FOR ENTERTAINMENT

Ski AT UNDERHILL Vermont



INQUIRIES

NEW YORK: Ski Hut, Grand Central Station; C. V. R.R. 673 Fifth Ave.
BOSTON: C. V. R.R. 186 Tremont St.
BURLINGTON: Burlington C. of C.; Hotel Vermont.
UNDERHILL CENTER: Ski Club.



Open Slopes at Foot of Mount Mansfield CROSS PHOT

Ski ON THE WESTERN SLOPES OF MOUNT MANSFIELD AT UNDERHILL CENTER, VERMONT

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 500 SKIERS

- SKIING FOR EVERY TYPE OF SKIER
- FLOODLIGHTED SLOPES
- REASONABLE LODGING RATES
- MODERN SHELTER HOUSE
- 800 FOOT SKI TOW
- AVERAGE SNOWFALL 110 INCHES

TRANSPORTATION TO BURLINGTON AND ESSEX JUNCTION FOR UNDERHILL CENTER

FROM NEW YORK: Rutland R. R. at Grand Central Station. Rates: $9.00 round trip, reduced Pullman fare. Ski plane service: on Canadian Colonial Airways, 1 hr. 45 minutes, New York to Montreal Route. N. Y., N. H. & H., B. & M., C. V. from Grand Central Terminal the "Ski Meister" with special sleepers each Friday 8.40 p.m., December to April, inc., reduced round trip rail and Pullman fares; from Penna. Terminal at 9.15 p.m. daily sleepers in "Montrealer," "Vermonter," also coach service.

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

BAKER LODGE, MT. MANSFIELD INN, SHANNON'S, UNDERHILL CTR., VT., HOTEL VERMONT, BURLINGTON

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

Open slopes at 2500 elevation on western side of Mount Mansfield, parking area and warming hut at end of road, bus from Burlington.

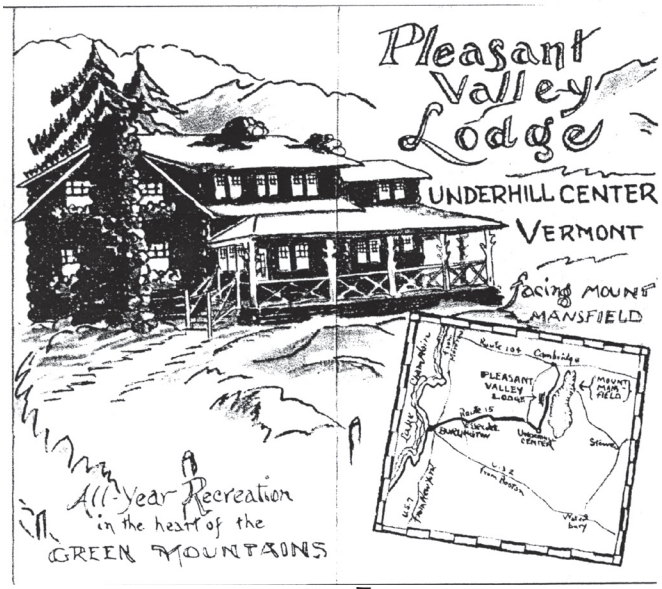
TEARDROP RUN (from Nose on Mount Mansfield to Green Camp)—L 3 mi., W 30-50, MG 25°, VD 2500, Expo W. Connects with Nose Dive on Stowe side.

HALFWAY HOUSE RUN—L 1.5 mi., W 30-50, MG 25°, VD 1000, Expo NW. Lower ends of above trails for Nov.

OVERLAND TRAIL—L 2 mi., W 20-30, MG 20°, VD 800, Expo NW. Connects with Bruce Run on Stowe side.

STEVENS TRAIL—L 2.5 mi., MG 15°. Near plowed road.

IN THE HEART OF THE SKI COUNTRY



transportation

FACILITIES

RUTLAND RAILROAD—
From New York at Grand Central Station.
Rates: $9.00 round-trip reduced Pullman fares.

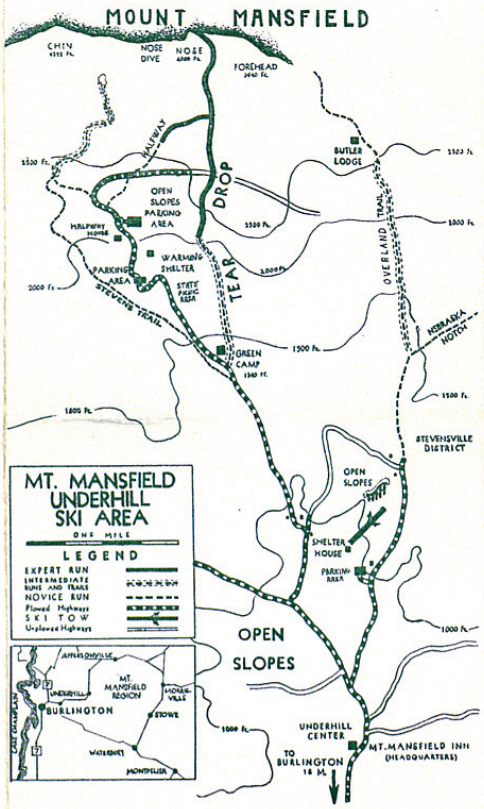
CENTRAL VERMONT RAILWAY—
N. Y., N. H. & H., B. & M., C. V. from Grand Central Terminal the "Ski Meister" with special sleepers each Friday 8.40 p.m., December to April, inc., reduced round-trip rail and Pullman fares; from Pennsylvania Terminal at 9.15 p.m. daily sleepers in "Montrealer," "Vermonter," also coach service.

MOTOR—
Thirty minutes by car or bus from Burlington.

PLANE—
Canadian Colonial from LaGuardia Airport, New York, 1 hr. 45 min.

•

Further information and reservations may be had through any of the mentioned lodges or direct to Mrs. E. W. Henry, Underhill Center, Vermont.



UNDERHILL CENTER VERMONT

A MOUNT MANSFIELD PLAYGROUND



WINTER

vacation paradise

what . . .

UNDERHILL CENTER OFFERS VACATIONERS

Three delightful outdoor retreats—ideal winter and summer vacation spots—where a true Vermont atmosphere prevails because they are operated by true Vermont families and are noted for delicious meals and homey modern accommodations.

Situated at the foot of Mt. Mansfield on the western side where open slope and cross country skiing is unlimited and where the lower slopes of all mountain trails are for novice and intermediate skiers, where you can drive half way up Mt. Mansfield all through the winter and there be only one and a quarter miles from the summit, at which spot the Tear Drop Trail connects with the Nose Dive Trail (see map).

This same mountain road is between the Stevens and Tear Drop Trails, providing a ride up-ski down trip.

There are many private homes in this area of a very interesting atmosphere, grand meals, good beds and homey comfort.

The central open slope can accommodate over one thousand skiers, has an eight hundred foot gas motor tow, shelter and warming house—where light lunches are served—flood lighted for night skiing on request of a sufficient number of skiers.

Rates—$3.00 per day and from $15.00 to $25.00 per week.

RESERVATIONS RESTRICTED

MT. MANSFIELD INN

• An authentic Old Vermont Tavern for over 100 years. Located in Underhill Center village one-half mile from ski tow and one mile from Mt. Mansfield. Accommodates parties up to twenty people.



Hill Photo



SHANNON'S

• A true Vermont farm inn consisting of two lovely old buildings over one hundred years old, with modern conveniences, one and one-half miles east of Underhill Center, at an elevation of 1200 feet, one-half mile from ski tow. The Inn accommodates parties up to thirty-five people and has been operated as an inn for over thirty years.

Hill Photo

BAKER'S LODGE

• Another lovely old Vermont farm, transformed into a cozy hostelry located about one mile west of Underhill Center on main road. Baker Lodge has facilities for parties up to fifteen.



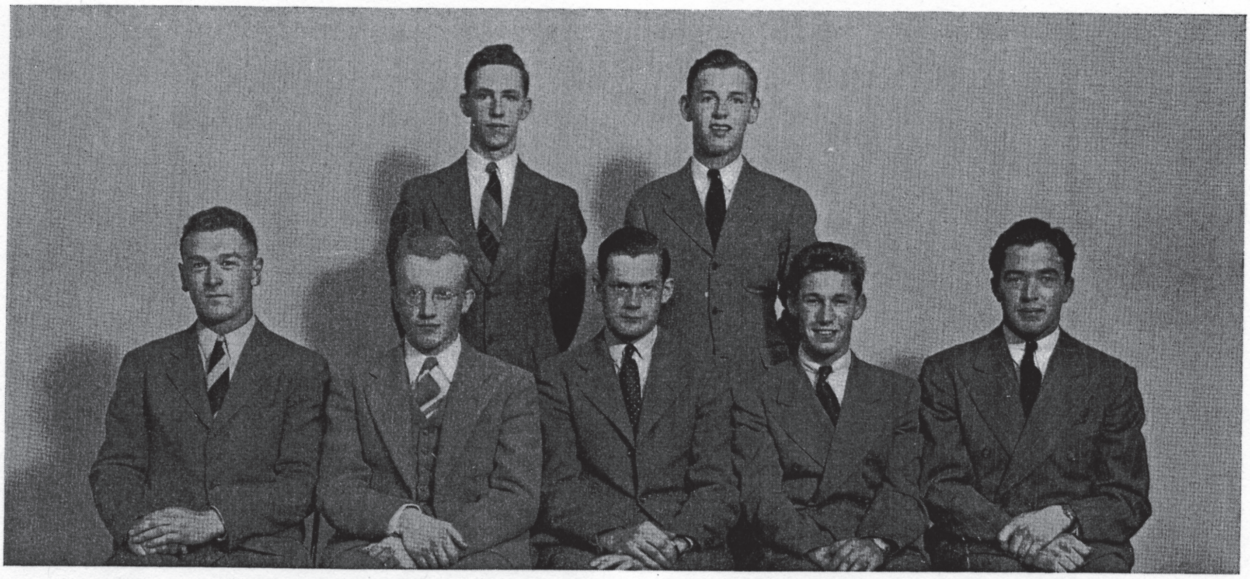
Both UVM and Vermont State Intermural winter sports events were held on the Underhill side of the mountain. In February 1941 the UVM Outing Club hosted more than 100 skiers, representing 21 colleges from New England, New York and Montreal for the annual Intercollegiate Ski Union Meet. UVM senior, Dorothea Smith (later Mrs. John Hanna of Underhill Center) chaired the program, which included down hill, slalom, cross country and ski jumping events. Dorothea actually raised the funds for the ski jump, built on the west side of the Halfway House. Her younger sister, Julia, (later Mrs. Robert Northrup of Underhill Center) got time off from her Burlington school to serve as 'bib handler' for the racers. It was an exciting time for everyone involved and a big event for Underhill Center.

In October 1941 the Underhill Winter Sports Club was busy preparing for the coming ski season.The State Forestry Dept had hired a crew of men to clear a pathway for a ski tow to run from the Mountain Road extension 800 feet up to the start of the Halfway Trail. A second tow was to start where the first tow ended and go another 1000 feet carrying skiers to an elevation of 3000 feet where several trails lead down to the Halfway trail and the road. Construction of a new shelter house was also under way. The Underhill Winter Sports Club was to have concessions for the tows and shelter house, with profits going into a fund to improve the trails and keep them in the best of condition. Members of the Club were working weekends to re-grade the landing surface of the ski jump. Plans had been made to change the location of the upper part of the Tear Drop to protect it from the wind and make it possible to connect directly to the Nose Dive on the east side of the mountain.

Then on December 7, 194l World War II began. The CCC was disbanded, every able bodied man joined the armed services and all plans for developing the mountain were abandoned. During the five years of the war, the ski jump and ski trails fell into disrepair, as did the Halfway House. When the war was over, volunteers groomed the Tear Drop Trail to make it possible to ski and extended the trail to the end of Stevensville Road, but with the grand new development on the Stowe side, the vaunted ski destination on the western side of the mountain was no longer viable. In the winter of 1948, however, Underhill Center enjoyed one more large intermural ski event hosted by UVM. The participants were bussed in from Burlington and a team of local folks helped Emmy Durbrow serve lunch to all the crowd.

In 1946, the Durbrow family had purchased the Underhill Farm, formerly the Egan Farm, with the rope tow still intact, and had begun again the operation of the Underhill Ski Bowl. It became a community gathering place for 36 years, where several generations of young skiers became experts in the sport and Billy Kidd, Julie Wolcott and Chantal Knapp were to go on to national competition. The volunteer Ski Patrol was headed by Merrill Canedy and insured a safe place to leave young children for the day. The Shelter House, managed by Emmy Durbrow, provided lunches and a warm place to dry out. Night lights allowed skiing after dark and New Year's Eve was the occasion for special parties and sometimes torch light ski runs. Special children's races and events were planned throughout the season. For several years the Ski Bowl was operated by Carl and Louise McClellan. In 1965, after years of shredded mittens and jackets, Bil Durbrow installed a state-of-the-art Poma lift. For years the Underhill Ski Bowl was shown on all the maps of Vermont. When in the spring of 1982, it was announced that the Underhill Ski Bowl was to be closed , a victim of skyrocketing insurance rates and increased costs, it was indeed a sad time for the community. A treasured community institution was gone. But a video of the Ski Bowl era was made by Grant Allendorf and copies are in the Ski Museum in Stowe and the Deborah Rawson Library.

UVM - 1941
MEN'S SKI TEAM



SECOND ROW—GOODELL, PIERCE
FRONT ROW—PATTERSON, THAYER, COLLINS, ST. MARY, MARBURG

Coach . . . . . E. C. Bailey
Manager . . . . . D. W. Thayer
Captain . . . . . D. V. Collins

SKIING received a new and big impetus this year when Vermont was host to the Class "A" teams of the Intercollegiate Ski Union. The U. V. M. team was young, which augurs well for the future. Captain Dave Collins and Sabe Rising were the only seniors on the squad

On the week-end of February 9, the charges of Ev Bailey entered the famed Dartmouth Winter Carnival. Lack of any practice during the exam period forced Vermont back to the tail of the scoring. Dave Collins placed well up in all four events, promising a better future.

The team moved up to sixth place in the Middlebury meet. Norwich edged Dartmouth in this engagement, filling New Hampshire's shoes. The N. H. boys had nosed the Indians out of top money in their own winter carnival.

The highlight of the ski season, in fact of the whole sports parade at Vermont, was the I. S. U. meet. Held on the week-end of February 21, this meet resulted in the narrowest of victories for Dartmouth over New Hampshire, 565.30 to 564.47. Vermont finished a good third in the cross-country, led by Collins in sixth place.

The squad was unable to keep up this hot pace, however, and ended up in seventh. The standings were so close that just over a point out of five hundred would have landed the Cats in fifth position.

The final meet of the year was over the week-end of February 28. Norwich was the host team. Showing a distinct improvement, the Catamount snowbird jumped to fourth place. This meet had a distinctive feature in the relay race. This showing was against Class "A" teams, and gives an idea of what may be expected next year.

JUMPER AT THE I. S. U. MEET



UVM - 1941
WOMEN'S SKI TEAM



PETERS, BURNS, FLETCHER, THAYER, LEITCH, SMITH

ON February 20-22, Kake-Walk week-end, the University of Vermont was host to some 140 skiers, men and women, from twenty colleges in the first Intercollegiate Ski Union meet to be held here. Under the auspices of the University Outing Club headed by Dorothea Smith '41, the meet, consisting of six events, slalom, downhill, jumping, cross-country and two combined events, was held on the Underhill side of the mountain on the Tear Drop and Stevens trails.

All the contestants were housed by the University, the men at Converse and the women at Redstone and Slade.

The competitors in the meet were invited to the Masquerade and Kake Walk.

Team results for the men were in the following order: Dartmouth, New Hampshire, Norwich, Harvard, Williams, Middlebury, Vermont, Amherst, Maine, Syracuse.

Miss Ruth Dickson of the University of New Hampshire had the highest score in the women's combined events with Nancy Essex of Syracuse. Susan Van Dyke of Wellesley, Peggy Tanner of McGill and Sara Peters of Vermont following her in that order.

The committees in charge were a hard-working, enthusiastic group who managed the whole affair in professional fashion. They were headed by Chairman Smith '41; clerk, W. B. Nestler '43; slalom, H. L. Pache '41; downhill, D. Marburg '44; cross-country, R. S. Stockwell '43; jumping, E. L. Nichols '41; housing and food, J. W. Williams '44, and Elizabeth Gurney '41; women's reception, Joanna Metcalf '42; women's meet chairman, Barbara E. Burns '43; publicity, Prof. L. W. Dean; properties, D. M. Zwick '43; parking, J. J. Spasyk '42; transportation, J. H. Stephen '42; head of checkers, F. M. Boardman '44 and E. C. Bailey '41, 1940-41 president of the I. S. U.

DOROTHEA SMITH, PRESIDENT OF OUTING CLUB





Photo by E. C. CROSS

The Underhill Ski Bowl

on the western slopes of
MT. MANSFIELD

- ***Skiing for every type of skier***
- ***800 foot ski tow***
- ***Floodlighted Slopes***
- ***Lodge for Skiers***
- ***Modern Shelter house with lunch count***
- ***Average annual snowfall of 115 inches***
- ***Sleigh rides***



Photo by E. C. CROSS

LODGING

THE UNDERHILL SKI BOWL is not only in the center of this outstanding ski area, but it offers accommodations for skiers.

A SNUG, WARM HOUSE provides accommodations for twenty three guests in five double rooms, one single room, and two floors of a dormitory containing double-decker bunks. And a roomy, comfortable double parlor with piano and card tables. Three excellent home cooked meals are served each day: lunch (hot) may be had at the shelter house instead of main house if desired.

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU to write us for rates and any other information you desire. If you are looking not for a winter resort hotel but for the finest skiing you can find with a pleasant, comfortable place to stay, we can and do guarantee you satisfaction.



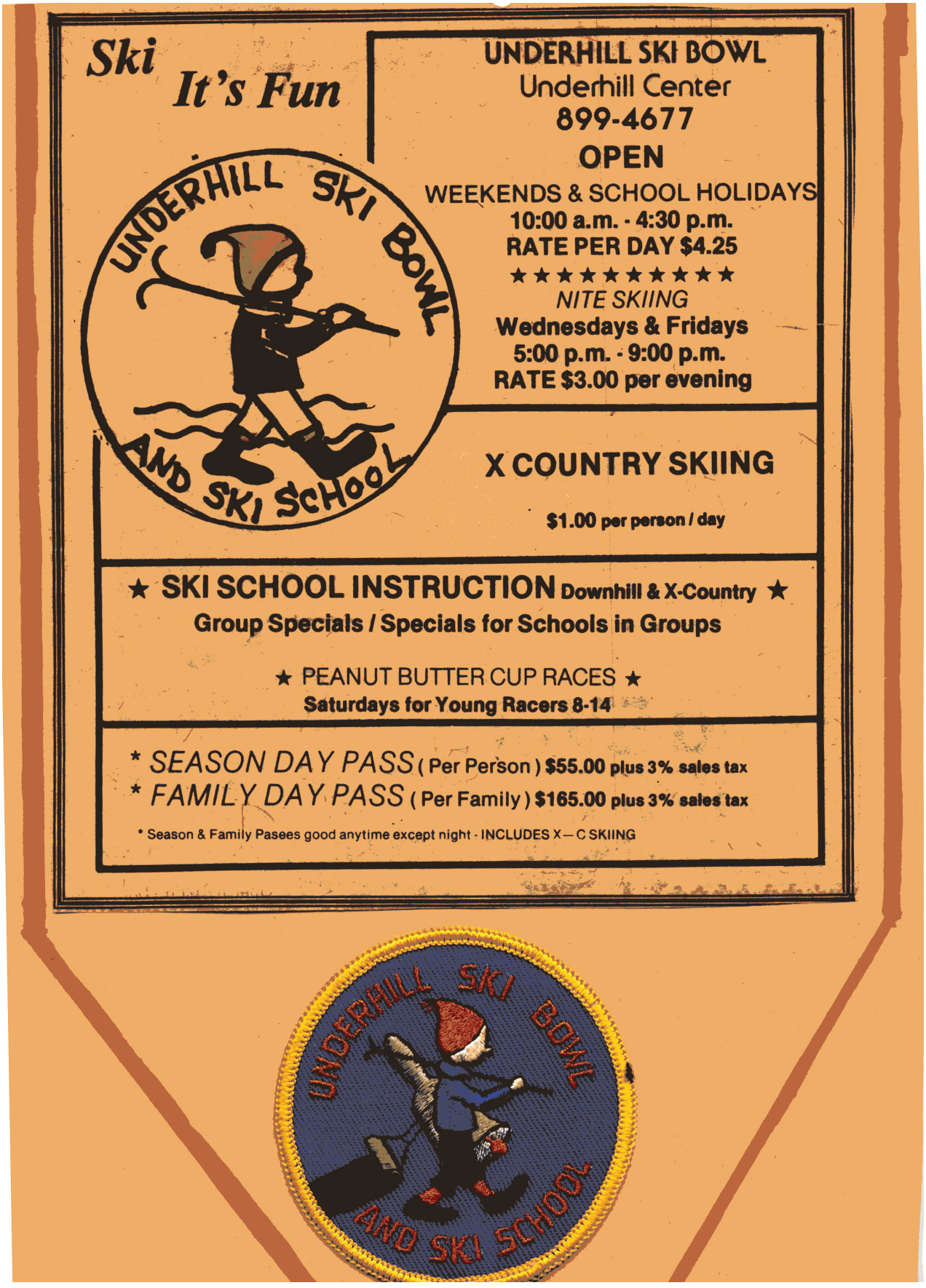
Photo courtesy of Sue Abair

Underhill Ski Bowl operated from 1946 until high insurance rates and competition from larger resorts forced it to close in 1982. The slope is located on Stevensville Road.



The owners are shown at the Underhill Ski Bowl. Bill and Emmy Durbrow are as happy as the skiers to see snow in March. They recall a few bare winters after they bought the ski bowl, in 1946.




Ski
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UNDERHILL SKI BOWL
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OPEN
WEEKENDS & SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
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RATE PER DAY $4.25
★★★★★★★★★★
NITE SKIING
Wednesdays & Fridays
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
RATE $3.00 per evening
UNDERHILL SKI BOWL AND SKI SCHOOL
X COUNTRY SKIING
$1.00 per person / day
★ SKI SCHOOL INSTRUCTION Downhill & X-Country ★
Group Specials / Specials for Schools in Groups
★ PEANUT BUTTER CUP RACES ★
Saturdays for Young Racers 8-14
* SEASON DAY PASS (Per Person) $55.00 plus 3% sales tax
* FAMILY DAY PASS (Per Family) $165.00 plus 3% sales tax
* Season & Family Pasees good anytime except night - INCLUDES X—C SKIING
UNDERHILL SKI BOWL AND SKI SCHOOL

~~Cross Country Skiing

Starting about 1962 there began a new enthusiasm for the ancient Nordic tradition of cross country skiing. The sport required different muscles from downhill skiing, the clothing was simple and the equipment inexpensive. In Underhill the sport was initiated by Dot and Lew Evans at their home called 'Edgemont' on the Mountain Road. They laid out a trail on their land which ran around the side of the mountain, level in some areas, across a brook, and including some narrow downhill schusses, challenging for the best of skiers. In 1965 they started the Edgemont Race, which became a popular yearly event. In 1968 the race included skiers from UVM, Middlebury, Williams, and Skidmore Colleges, along with men, women and children trying out their skills. (Dave Hosmer of UVM won the race setting a new course record of 28 minutes, 40 seconds. Dr. John Bland won the Fred Smith trophy in the over 50 age group class.) The races ended with refreshments in the cellar of the Evans home. Sadly, the Edgemont races became too popular to sustain and were given up in 1975.

Meanwhile, in the early '60s some really avid cross country skiers began clearing an old logging road that ran across the mountain above Pleasant Valley from the Waugh basin. (The so-called ' Old Traverse Road ' had been built in the early 1890s by lumberman, Harmon Howard, to get his logs to market.) A marathon trail was created by extending the logging road to the Mountain Road near the State Park in Underhill Center and to the Smugglers Notch Ski Resort by the parking lot at Sterling Mountain. In Underhill the narrow, marked trail winds through Deane Basin, across Potvin Hill, and the Proctor Maple Research property. Dr John Bland suggested as name for the trail, the Madonna Vasa, in honor of the legendary 16th century Swedish king, Gustavus Vasa, in whose memory a huge Nordic race, called the Vasa loppet is held each year. (The legend tells that Vasa led an uprising against the invading Danish King Christian II by skiing across a large part of the country (85 kilometers), stirring the people to action and he became King Gustavus I.) In 1967 the Blands hosted the first race on the Vasa, which became an annual tradition. In the days before the race, volunteers, especially the Shakespeares, Evans, Blands, and Wadhams, would pack out the trail and make sure it was properly marked. The first two races hosted 16 hardy skiers. Popularity of the race grew, and the competition grew to 120 racers in 10 different classes. Skiers came from Maine, New York and New Hampshire, from New England colleges and even the U.S. Olympic team. But after the race of 1975, the annual event was discontinued, mainly due to outside pressures. However, a group of enthusiasts still try to keep the Vasa trail open for hardy skiers, the pressure of housing development a constant challenge.

Many other X-C ski trails have been created all over the town of Underhill by local skiers and property owners. Indeed, trails for cross country skiing and snowshoeing have become a hallmark of the community.

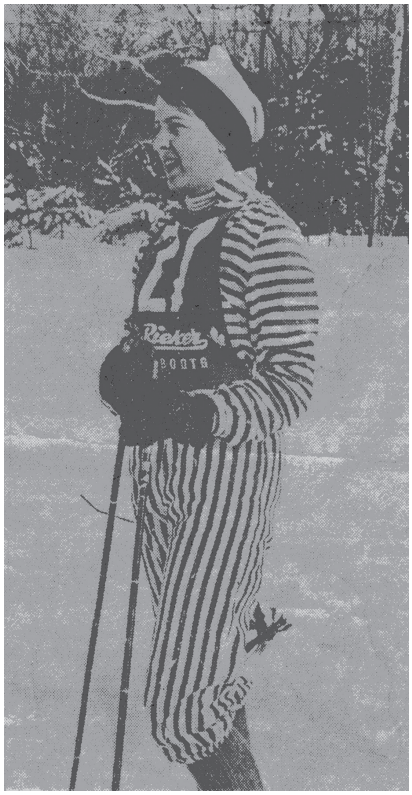
BIATHLON

Biathlon is a competitive sport combining XC skiing skill with expert marksmanship. The Ethan Allen Firing Range is home to the National Guard biathlon program, and there are two world-class cross-country and biathlon facilities on site. These have been host to several National Biathlon Championships. The trails are used by the local Bill Koch Ski Club , as well as local high school and college teams.

Cross Country Skiiers Race for Edgemont Cup



Dr. John Bland



Betsy Evans



Virginia Davis



Steve Ferland



OVERALL WINNER — Charles Kellogg.

The Madonna-Vasa Race



STARTING GATE. Charles Kellogg of Cambridge, Mass., in the Madonna-Vasa cross country ski race. He was a member of the 1968 Olympic Team.

Cross Country Enthusiasts at Mt. Mansfield

The Burlington Free Press, Thursday, March 5, 1970 6



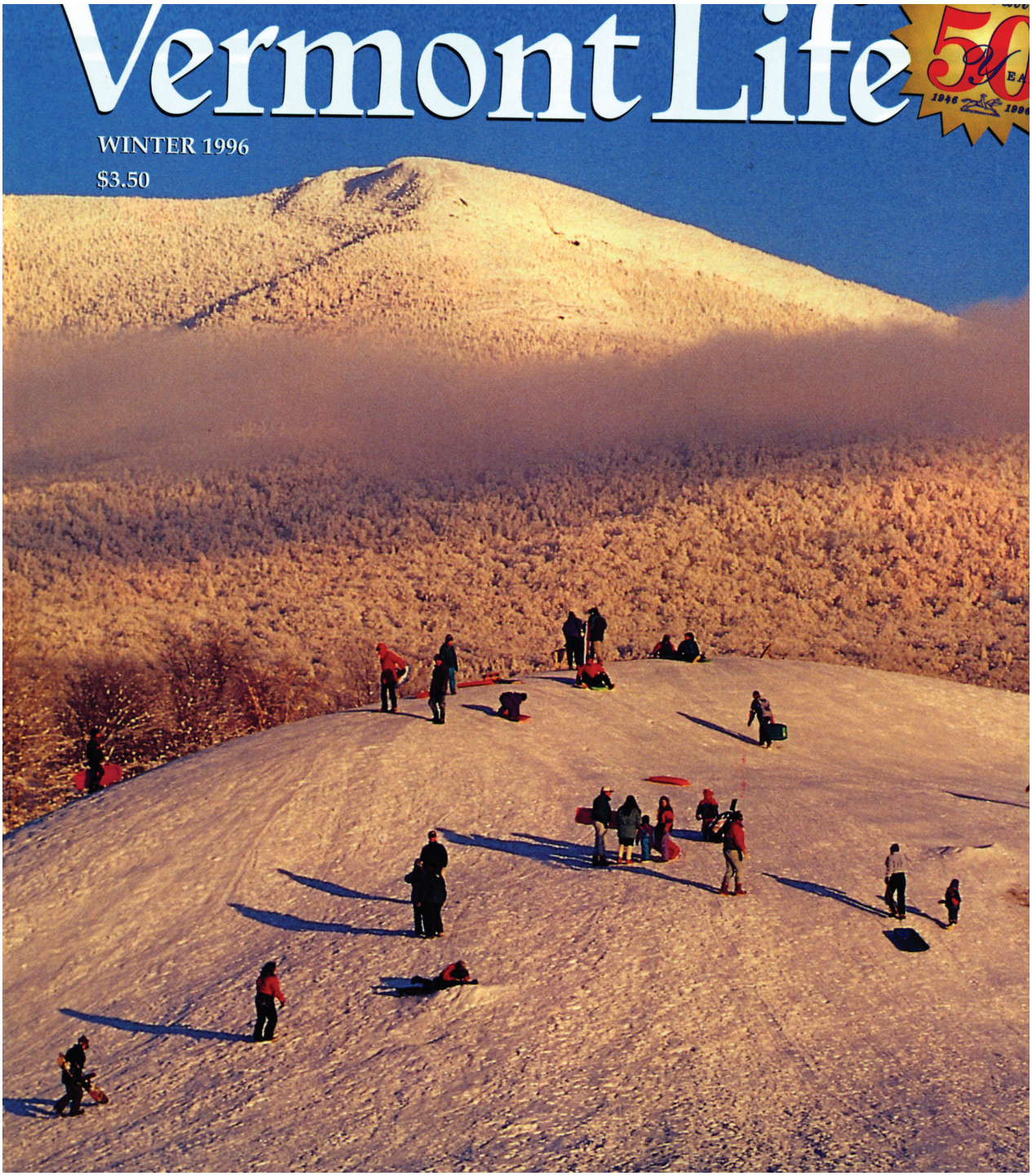
HALFWAY POINT. Bob Burton, No. 42, has refreshments on the run.



STARTING — Mike Gallagher of the U.S. Men's Nordic Ski Team, in the Madonna-Vasa cross country race.

~Casey's Hill

For generations, the gently sloping open hillside on the corner of Pleasant Valley and Mountain Road with its magnificent view of Mt Mansfield has been used for winter sledding. Pictures of brightly clad children with assorted sliding equipment enjoying snow covered 'Casey's Hill' have been featured in many Vermont publications. In 2005 the hill became a town-owned resource, to be maintained for sledding and skiing in perpetuity. 'Casey's Hill' was 'saved', thanks to energetic fund-raising efforts by the Jericho-Underhill Land Trust, led by Livy Strong, and supported by contributions from local residents, businesses, the Vermont Land Trust and a grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. It is truly a treasure for future generations.



Preserve Casey's Hill



* Outstanding natural landmark in the Town of Underhill
* Scenic gateway to Mt. Mansfield
* Traditional winter sliding hill

A Preservation Project Of The Jericho Underhill Land Trust

~~ *Preservation of Scenic Mount Mansfield*

The happy circumstance that Underhill lies on the sunny side of Mount Mansfield helped to preserve the western exposure from rampant winter sports development. The glorious view of the pristine snow-clad mountain can be enjoyed as far away as Burlington and Underhill remains, as always, the scenic 'Gateway to Mount Mansfield'.

Sources:

Downhill Skiing -
Mansfield - The Story of Vermont's Loftiest Mountain, Robert L. Hagerman. 1971
Various ephemera, Estate of Roland and Mary Ellis, (courtesy Gael Boardman)

UVM Intercollegiate Meet, 1941
The Vermont Alumnus vol xx No. 5, 1941

X-C Skiing
- Edgemont Race, Burlington Free Press, February 8, 1968
- Madonna Vasa, The Transcript, Morrisville, VT, February 14, 2000
- The Ski Bowl, courtesy the Durbrow Family



RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Visit to Mount Mansfield
August 1868

Emerson in His Journals

Sel. + Ed. Joel Porte
Harvard UP 1982

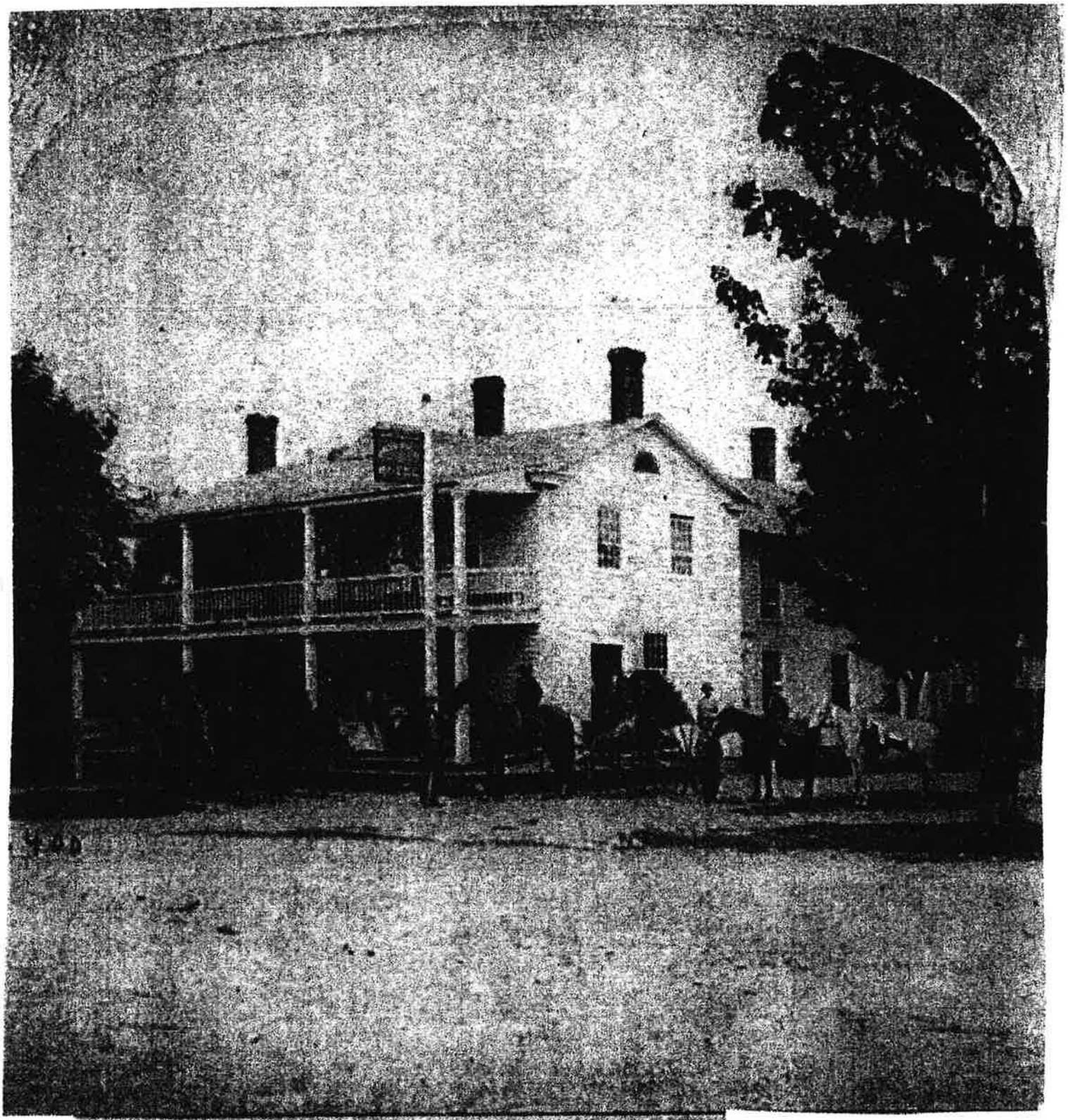
pp. 551-553

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 4280 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 tame 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 visiters 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 Westminster, Massachusetts, where Ellen took a wagon for Princeton, & I continued my railroad ride to Concord, arriving at 6.30 P.M.



Prouty's Hotel Underhill Center

c.1867



HALFWAY HOUSE c.1867

Chronology of the Hotel in Underhill Center

Owned by:

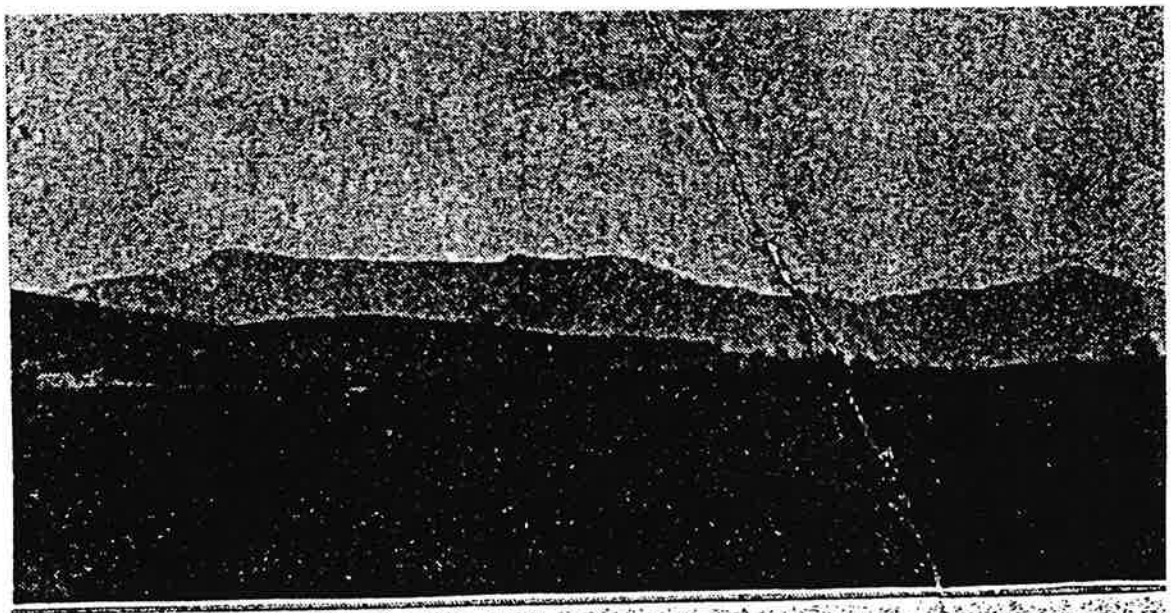
		1990 building demolished		
V60 P380	Lamphere, Patrick and Connell, John	May 22, 1987	rented	
V45 P165	LaCroix, Roger and Thelma	Nov 7, 1975 – May 22 1987	home	12 years
V42 P438	Chicoine, William and Lucille	Aug 3, 1971 – Nov 7, 1975	home	4
V38 P366	Pouliot, Everist and Cordelia	June 23, 1947 – Aug 3, 1971	home	24
V35 P47	Henry, L. Leora	Nov 4, 1919 – June 23 1947	Mansfield Inn	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	Prouty, E.H. (foreclosure)	June 28, 1866 – Mar 1907	rented out	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	Howe, George P. (of Essex)	Oct 1, 1860 – Apr 25, 1862	Mansfield Mountain House	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 3rd 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)

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

MT MANSFIELD SOFBALL LEAGUE

by

Betty Moore

The Mt Mansfield Softball League was informally started in 1973 with two teams of ten players each. They played in what was then an open field behind the Village Service Center (which now has a residence). This modest beginning sparked a real interest in having local competition. The next year there were six teams and by 1982 there were 13 teams competing. Players came from Underhill, Underhill Center, Jericho, Richmond, Westford, Essex Center, Essex Junction, Williston, Cambridge and Jeffersonville. Some larger towns supported more than one team. The large participation did not last long, however, mostly due to scheduling problems and difficulty in finding enough fields to play on. Over the years many local businesses have sponsored teams, including Parisi Masonry, Underhill Garage, Villeneuve's Mill, Nadeau Lumber, Gillespie Construction, E.T. Moore and Sons (Moore or Less), Smuggler's Notch, Autoshine, Essex Cinema, Pat Clarke Construction, Jacob's Store. There were other private sponsors, including the Tobins, Bolios, Hendees, and Fitzgeralds.

As of 2012, four teams were still playing, competing in the summer each Sunday and Wednesday evening, usually double headers. A double-elimination tournament is held at the end of the season in August, scheduled according to the season wins and losses.

For many years League teams played on the open field at Underhill Central School and took turns mowing the grass. Jericho Elementary School also provided an open field. The teams laid out their own bases and there was no backstop screen. Fans and family brought their own chairs, or watched from the tailgate of pickup trucks. Each team has always had its own scorekeeper, and umpires were and still are, recruited from the knowledgeable fans or the opposing team, leading occasionally to lively discussion (and entertainment). As the school playgrounds developed and Little League became popular, formal softball fields were laid out, complete with backstops, benches, fences, even dugouts. The Mt Mansfield Softball League still uses these fields, now modern, scheduling with the school principals.

The community spirit and camaraderie of the League often leads to post-game celebrations and always, end-of-season gatherings at the home of Parisi Masonry, initial inaugurator of the League and primary sponsor for 39 years. As of 2013 The Mount Mansfield Softball League has been a highlight of the summer season for almost four decades.

Source : Matt and Mary Parisi

CHITTENDEN COUNTY SOCCER SCHOOL

Betty Moore

The Chittenden County Soccer School was started in Underhill in 1980. It was the inspiration of Grant Allendorf, who conceived of a summer program for young children to teach them the fundamentals of soccer while having a good time in the process. Grant had highly enjoyed playing soccer at Mount Mansfield Union High School and then at Norwich University , and he realized the importance of an early introduction to the game. With the help of his former MMU teammates, Peter Alexander and Andrew Volgemann, the program took root as a summer camp for one week in the month of July. The program was held some summers at the Browns River Middle School , some years at MMU. (and fortunately, the weather over the many years mysteriously cooperated.).

The program serves boys and girls ages 5-15 and includes coaching for several levels of skills, beginner to expert. . The first year the day camp had 18 students. The next year it doubled to 36 and the third year had 90 players. By the mid '80s the camp was continuing to grow and served the entire Champlain Valley. In the early '90s the camp reached a peak enrollment of over 340. Thereafter, the enrollment somewhat declined as football programs and other activities became available for the younger set. In the past decade the attendance has ranged between 150- 175.

In 2012, after 31 years of involvement , Allendorf handed over the management of the camp to popular area coach, Eric Barker, who still runs the program. Some of the coaches besides Eric who have volunteered their time over the years include :
Dick Farrell, Jack Pennypacker, Dave Williamson, Danielle Morin, Anton Kelsey, Duane Dakin, Corey Hevrin, Peter Alexander, Jeff Davis, Paul Pecor, They represent a high level of community involvement. Special coach, Bucky Brandt, served the camp for over 25 years. The camp was also staffed by volunteers who helped with various activities. Susan Allendorf, Patti Jacobs, and Penny Moore helped with registration of the campers on the first day of the program. It is estimated that 7500 area children have attended the Chittenden County Soccer School over the years. As of 2013, the summer camp is thriving and highly anticipated by children and parents.

Source: Grant Allendorf

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ETHAN ALLEN FIRING RANGE
By Colonel Alan Nye

Prior to the 1920's, the area that is currently known as the Ethan Allen Firing Range was home to many small farms, at least two water-powered sawmills, a church, a cemetery, a post office, and a school. Today, the remnants of these times still remain. We can identify the foundations for the homes and barns; we can find the sluiceways and dam foundations for the sawmills; the steps of the church still remain as an indicator of what the lifestyle was like back then. Stories have been told of whole families being found in the spring after having died from a contageous disease during the long winter, and of married couples traveling all the way to West Bolton from Underhill Center to celebrate their honeymoon.

For those who tried to farm the higher elevations, it must have been a difficult life. I personally have been at the LaBerge Farm above our artillery impact area in late June when there had been a frost that night, and then again in late August. It was a very short growing season. My interest in the early history of the area was set by my father when he would bring me as a child to the range, drive me around and talk about who had lived here, and show me foundations, old houses, and barns.

The Department of the Army originally purchased 6026 acres of land in 1926 for use as an artillery firing range for units stationed at Fort Ethan Allen. I have been told numerous stories from people who lived in Essex Junction or on Route 15, about the soldiers marching by with the horses and wagons on their way to train. They would buy items to eat and drink along the way. In 1941, the Underhill Firing Range was not large enough to meet the needs of the new and improved weapons that had been developed, and the Department of the Army bought another 5119 acres. In 1973, the Army excessed two parcels of land amounting to 62 acres that were not critical to the training needs. One was known as the Camp Fire Girls camp and is owned by the school district. The other is on the south side of Nashville Road. In talking with various people, you can hear two different stories about these purchases. The first is that the vast majority of the landowners were glad to sell their property and move, as living on this land was difficult. The other version is that the Government took the land for little or no money and people were very unhappy.

As the area around Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester became more built up and traffic on Route 15 increased, additional training areas were developed at the Underhill Firing Range. The earliest knowledge we have is the construction of a Known Distance Range on what was known as the Doyle Farm. This had, and still has, the ability to fire rifles at a distance of 600 yards, although we would have to cut the poplars, alders and pine trees.

During the late 1930's, an organization known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed a permanent camp up Range Road, or as we call it, Poor Farm Road, from Underhill Center. This camp consisted of thirteen buildings, a water distribution system and recreational facilities. Individuals from this camp worked in what is now the Underhill State Park and began work on a road up Mount Mansfield from the west side. Remnants of this camp include an old granite and mortar chimney, the water system pump and well, and foundation for the water tower and stairs leading down to the main camp area from the road. As the United States increased training prior to its entry in World War II, the training at the Underhill Firing Range increased. East of the CCC camp, the Army constructed a school to teach machine gun. This consisted of some permanent buildings, a water system, sewer system, and numerous tent platforms. They even constructed a moving target on railroad tracks that ran about a mile from the intersection of Beartown Road and Laberge Farm.

In the early 1950's, the accountability for the Underhill Firing Range was transferred from the Army to the Air Force. This was basically due to the fact that the Air Force had taken over Fort Ethan Allen. At this time, limited Air-to-Ground bombing was conducted at the Range with inert bombs. The drop area was in the Lee River valley and was identified by large yellow pylons. At least one of these still exists today.

1953-54 saw the arrival of the General Electric Company, which desired to do some short-term production test firing of the machine gun systems that they were making in Burlington. The National Guard was utilizing the Known Distance Range at the Doyle Farm. Due to the conflict over the use of the Range with the requirements of the General Electric Company, the National Guard began construction of a Known Distance Range off Nashville Road. Over the next ten years, efforts were made to create an internal road network on the Range that would require minimum off-post traffic between training areas.

Prior to the Bicentennial year of 1976, at the request of the Vermont National Guard, the name of the Range was changed by Congressional decree to the Ethan Allen Firing Range in honor of the Revolutionary-period patriot.

As dependence on the National Guard in the overall defense policy of the United States increased, the need to provide quality local training opportunities was realized. Starting in the late 1970's, several million dollars have been spent in construction to provide a year-round training site for battalion-sized units. This has included barracks, mess hall, administrative facilities, vehicle maintenance facilities and numerous ranges. In the last five years, a renewed interest in the need for a mountain warfare capability in the Army caused the Ethan Allen Firing Range to become home to the National Guard Bureau's Mountain Warfare School. Construction has included classroom space, an artificial ice-climbing area, downhill ski area with a poma lift and several rock-climbing and rapelling areas.

Over the years, because of the climate and precipitation that is very similar to that found in northern Europe, the Range has been the site of several tests. The most notable was the aerostat or balloon that was visible over most of Chittenden County. [*This "balloon in the sky" test, Nye explained to us, took place in the late 1980's, when a 48' long dirigible, 14' in diameter, lit up and lofted to 5,000' to determine amount of rime frost that developed. It was meant to help in the development of an antenna that could work in case a major electromagnetic pulse wiped out electrical ground communications.*)

The Range is home to the National Guard Bureau biathlon program, and there are two world-class cross-country and biathlon facilities on site. These have been host to several National Biathlon Championships and two World Military Ski Championships. In addition, we boast the only paved roller-ski loops in the United States. These trails are used by the local Bill Koch Ski Club and local high school and college ski teams.

The General Electric Company, Martin-Marietta [*now General Dynamics, if there hasn't been another corporate takeover we've missed*], has conducted production test-firing at the Ethan Allen Firing Range since 1953. At particular times, such as during the Vietnam War, they conducted testing 24 hours a day. Speaking as a member of the military, it is my belief that they make the best, most reliable gun system in the inventory today.

Over the last fifteen years, the National Guard's Adjutant General Donald Edwards, I, and in particular, Earle "Pete" Stygles have been committed to maintaining the historical significance of sites on the Ethan Allen Firing Range. This includes the preservation of large roadside maple trees, building foundations, bunkers, concrete firing positions, the moving target off Beartown Road, bridge abutments and stringers, the water tank foundation in West Bolton, old communication lines and poles, wells, and sewer systems. This should allow those who come after us to dream and fantasize as to what different objects were, what they were used for, and basically how people lived and worked on what we know as the Ethan Allen Firing Range prior to and after the ownership by the military.

Colonel Nye's account of the Ethan Allen Firing Range was originally presented to the Jericho Historical Society on 15 May 1993, and is included in Gardiner Lane's booklet



HEADQUARTERS FORT ETHAN ALLEN VERMONT JEB:jah

April 28, 1933

Subject: Work Projects for C.C.C. Organization.

To : The Commanding General, First Corps Area,
Army Base, Boston, Mass.

1. In compliance with Radio your headquarters dated April 18, 1933, the proposed work for the C.C.C. organization at this station is outlined below.

2. It is contemplated that 150 C.C.C. men be utilized on the Fort Ethan Allen military reservation proper and 350 men be utilized at the Artillery Range.

3. The work for the 150 men at the Fort proper will be divided into the following classes.

(a) Reservation lines and fences.
(b) Clearing out and cleaning timber land.
(c) Repairing and rebuilding dirt roads, trails, and bridle paths thru timber.
(d) Drainage.
(e) Clearing and leveling small tract for playground at rear of N.C.O. quarters.

4. In further detail this work is described and explained as follows:

(a) The Fort Ethan Allen Reservation land boundary is 5.5 miles in length. 3.5 miles are overgrown with brush. 3.2 miles are inadequately fenced. It is proposed to clear and clean a tract around all boundaries to a width of 12 feet and so improve the lines as to permit free access to all lines for inspection by a mounted man. For this work 20 men will be required for three months equipped with the following tools: 2 Axes, 5 Machettes, 15 Short-handles round pointed shovels, 4 Maddocks, 4 Brush hooks, 2 Crow-bars.

Working concurrently with the line clearing organization and additional detail of 15 men will be required for three months for the reconstruction of 3.2 miles of four strand barbed wire fencing on new posts set on 8 foot centers. The men to utilize all available posts on hand and to obtain the remainder from the wood land being improved. The following tools will be necessary for the fence work - 5 Axes, 2 SHRP shovels, 2 LHRP shovels, 3 post hole diggers, 1 brush hook, 2 Crow-bars, 1 Wire stretcher, 2 Claw hammers, and 2 Cross-cut hand saws.

(b) On the Fort Ethan Allen Reservation there are 1200 acres of second growth timber land which has never had any attention. It is proposed to lay this land out in ¼ mile squares, as indicated in red on attached photo map, opening up trails 10 feet wide on the ¼ mile lines to clearly define the

Underhill Town Planning
1961 - 2014

Elizabeth Weichel Moore
2014



photo: Kika McArthur, 2014

UNDERHILL TOWN PLANNING
1961-2014

~~ PREFACE

The Town Boundary of Underhill includes the undeveloped western slope of Mount Mansfield, the highest and most scenic mountain in Vermont. The National Park Service has designated Mount Mansfield a National Natural Landmark. While the upper elevations are owned by the State and UVM and are protected from development through inclusion in the State Forest and Park system, Underhill has the stewardship responsibility for the lower elevations and foothills which are the gateway to the national landmark. The Mount Mansfield area is an important resource, not just for Town residents, but for the State of Vermont and its visitors. It is appreciated not only for its scenic beauty, but also as an economic asset.

~~ THE BEGINNING

On the Warning for the Town Meeting, March 7, 1961 was the item "To authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Zoning Commission and to adopt zoning regulations based on the Zoning Commission's report and present such zoning regulations to the legal voters of the Town for approval." The proposal passed handily at Town Meeting, only to be challenged by opponents. At a special meeting held the following month, a proposal to rescind the initiative was strongly rejected. Serving on the Selectboard at the time were Luella Lamphere, Marion Fay and Crick Fuller, all with deep historical roots in the community.

The Commission was appointed, with Dr. R.D. "Doc" Towne as chair and Lorraine Dwyer, Town historian, secretary. With the help of a consultant from the Vermont Development Commission, regulations were drafted. The first Underhill Zoning Ordinance was duly adopted at the Town Meeting in March 1963.

"Sec.1 Purpose: The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Underhill; to protect and conserve the value of property; to secure safety from fire, congestion or confusion, all in accordance with Title 24, Chapter 67 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated." The regulations were simple, establishing an Agricultural-Residential District everywhere in town, requiring a lot size minimum of 1 acre with 150 foot road frontage, and Commercial Districts in Underhill Flats and Underhill Center with minimum acreage of 15,000 square feet and frontage of 75 feet. Setbacks and usage were also defined. Home occupations were encouraged.

A Zoning Board of Adjustment was appointed with Doc Town as chairman and members Neil and Wendell Metcalfe, Paul Cook and Lorraine Dwyer. Bill Linde was the Zoning Administrator. In 1964 a Planning Commission was appointed with Wes Grady as chairman and Paul Cook as vice-chairman. Dr. Bert Kusserow, Peter Allendorf, Don Breen, Harold Gillette, and Ray Thornton also served. (In the early days, Selectmen took turns serving on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board. Matt Parisi was the Selectman on the first commission.

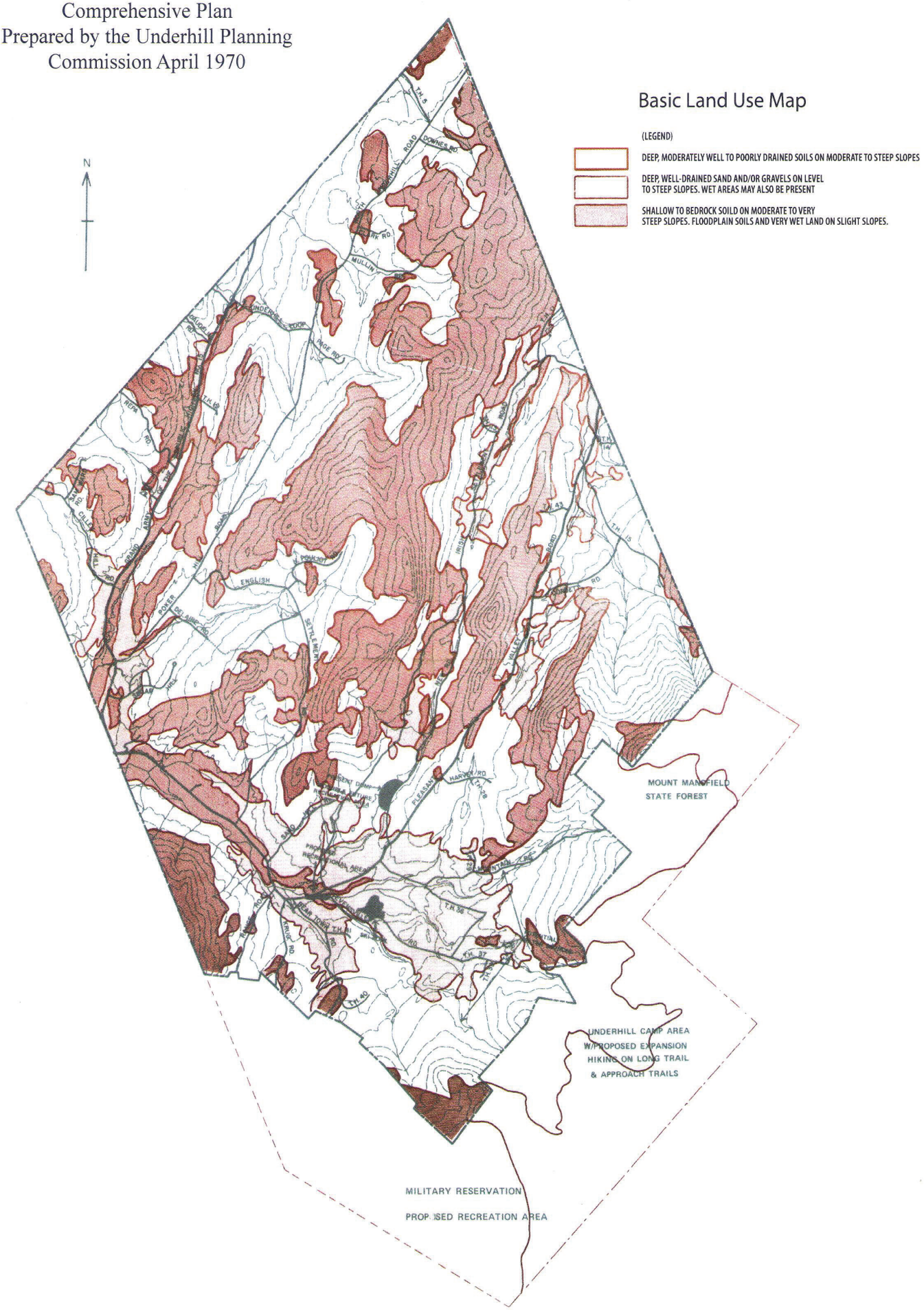
~~ FUNDAMENTAL STUDIES

The Planning Commission recognized that fundamental studies were needed to prepare for drafting zoning regulations which would be more appropriate than the original "stopgap" measures. By 1967 the strip development along Route 15 and the economic and population pressures moving out to Underhill were of serious concern. A Land Use Study committee was appointed to do research and to make recommendations.

That year the Town Report included the report of the committee, written by Gael Boardman. In particular, it recommended the development of a land use map and development of zoning regulations based on graded lot sizes. By 1968 the Planning Commission was hard at work developing a comprehensive town plan, now required by the recently passed Vermont Planning and Development Act 250 as a basis for zoning by-laws.

Robert Towne of the US Soil Conservation Service compiled a soils analysis map for Underhill, combining the variety of soils shown on the US Soil Conservation maps into areas of similarity, especially for their adaptability for septic systems and building purposes. (See base map.) With the assistance of the Vermont Department of Water Resources, all Town water was classified. The natural water systems were related to the soils in which they were found. The sandy soils, especially the glacial kame terraces fanning Underhill Center, held a natural aquifer. The rocky hillsides, thinly covered with poorly permeable glacial till, were the locations of the deep water bedrock aquifer. (These aquifers are associated with cracks in the rock and are especially vulnerable to pollution which can travel far through interconnecting cracks.) The two different kinds of aquifers were obvious areas to zone differently.

UNDERHILL, VERMONT
Comprehensive Plan
Prepared by the Underhill Planning Commission April 1970



Explanation of the Base Map

The base map essentially inventories the natural resources, highways and municipal facilities of the Town and will serve as a starting point for preparation of the land use plan. It was prepared by overlaying simplified topographical and soil maps of the area.

The topographical map combines major contours from the U.S. Geological Survey maps (1945 ed.) with the base map of the Town of Underhill provided by the Regional Planning Commission. It shows the watershed, the highway system and the municipal facilites. The soil map is based on the detailed studies which have been made by the U.S. Department of Soil Conservation.

There are many different soil types within the Town of Underhill, but with the kind assistance of Mr. Robert Towne of the USDSC in Essex Junction, these were grouped into three broad categories based on funamental drainage and building support characteristics. These categories are represented by the cross-hatched areas on the map and indicate the limits of housing density which these soild could support.

In preparation of a land use plan to serve as a basis for improved zoning regulation, many other factors must be considered besides soil characteristics. These include land contours, bedrock geology, forest cover, wildlife preservation and scenic values, as well as present land use and proximity to municipal facilities. Only with such a firm ecological base can rational zoning regulations be designed which will preserve the quality of our environment and the rural aspect of the town so ardently desired by its citizens.

~~ COMMUNITY SURVEY

In 1968 Paul Cook became Planning Commission chairman and Bert Kusserow, Irene Snyder, Tom Hitchcock and Roland Burroughs were Commission members. The following year Betty Moore, Mary Fell, Eleanor Clark and Don McClellan were appointed. Dr. Kusserow became chairman of the Planning Commission and Paul Cook moved to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Commission was busy analyzing Town data and developing ideas.

In order to plan the future growth of Underhill in accordance with the desires of the citizens, the Planning Commission mailed two postcard surveys. One inquired of large landowners their future plans with the regard to the use of their properties. There was a 90% return from this inquiry. Approximately 85% indicated they planned to keep their land open, unless future taxation precluded such maintenance.

The other survey polled the wishes of the citizens with respect to the future character and facilities of the community. 70% of the cards were returned. An overwhelming majority (96%) wished to retain the rural aspect of the Town. Housing developments were vetoed by 65% , regardless of their character or regulation and 61% saw no need for a shopping center. More recreational facilities were favored by 59%, provided the facilities were reserved for the of the townspeople.

The replies came from 20 states and Canada, as well as from Underhill and surrounding towns. The large and prompt response was gratifying and indicated a sincere interest in intelligent planning for Underhill's future.

~~ CHANGE IN LAND APPRAISAL CRITERIA

In 1969 the Vt Supreme Court invalidated land appraisal based on agricultural criteria. (see appendix). (i.e.. what it will grow). It mandated an 'ad valorem' method, based on 'fair market value'. The Underhill listers were encouraged by the State Tax Dept to reappraise the land according to the new system. Basically, land was valued by the number of acres. The effect on the value of land in Vermont was staggering. It was yet another urgent reason for expediting town planning. A short history of the effect of the listers' action on the Town of Underhill is shown in the appendix. It lead to the formation of a Taxpayers Association, a lawsuit against the listers, a counter lawsuit by the listers and a great deal of distress in the community. The net effect was that the County Court finessed a decision and sent the problem back to the Tax Dept for consultation. In the end, the listers were able to add other criteria than lot size to the appraisal of land, including such as access, scenic location, usefulness for development. The Town was responsible for the legal fees for both sides of the argument.

(In 1974 Underhill set up a Farmers Contract, recently enabled by the VT legislature, in order to assist the few farmers yet left in Underhill with the unprecedented rise in taxes, due to the appraisal changes. This was later extended to large landowners, as a Land Use Contract, which had a ten year basis for keeping land open. The State later created similar contracts, but many Underhill landowners have preferred to enroll in the Town contract, which is still in effect today.)

~~ EARLY PLANNING PROGRESS

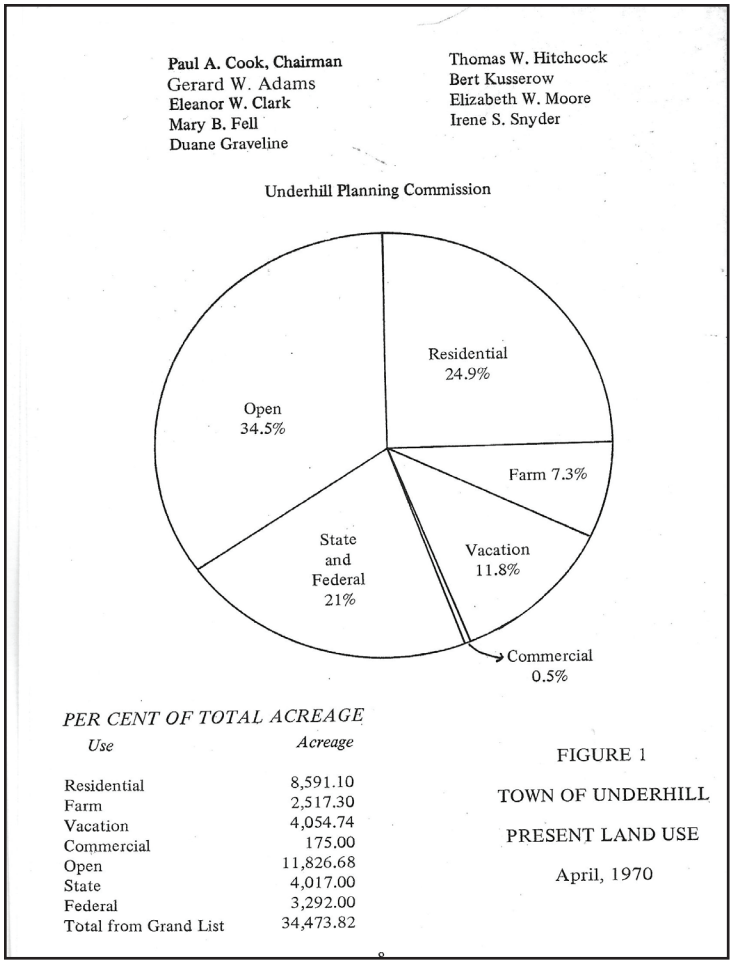
1970 was the most significant year of planning progress, marking the adoption of the first Comprehensive Town Plan, with a basic soils map, new Zoning by-laws and a Transportation Plan. Also passed were revised Subdivision regulations, which were "primarily intended to shield the Town from unnecessary and excessive expenses resulting from road construction costs and the provision of other municipal services from badly planned developments, and to provide protections against sudden development of massively large housing tracts which the Town could not assimilate." (Prior to the adoption of the regulations, some subdivisions had been developed with road problems which may never be solved.) The Planning Commission was charged with the responsibility of overseeing the subdivision regulations for developments of three or more lots.

~~ WATER STUDIES

In the early 70s two significant water studies were undertaken. With State funding an investigation was made by Don Hamlin's engineering firm to see if a municipal water source could be found in Underhill Center. The results were negative. The State also funded analyses of streams in Underhill Center to determine sources of pollution. With the help of the Selectboard several homeowners in the village were able to improve their sewage disposal systems.

~~1970 THE FIRST UNDERHILL TOWN PLAN

In 1972 the revised Comprehensive Municipal Plan was adopted. It contained all the collected planning data and analyses and a land use map to serve as a basis for the revised Zoning Ordinance. At the time of writing , approximately 13 % of the Grand List was non-residential open land and seasonal homes. (Also, at the time there was so little use of the military reservation that there was some thought that the government might return the land to the town.)



PER CENT OF TOTAL ACREAGE

Use	*Acreage*
Residential	8,591.10
Farm	2,517.30
Vacation	4,054.74
Commercial	175.00
Open	11,826.68
State	4,017.00
Federal	3,292.00
Total from Grand List	34,473.82

FIGURE 1

TOWN OF UNDERHILL

PRESENT LAND USE

April, 1970

Throughout the year six explanatory meetings had been held, neighborhood by neighborhood. Everyone was personally contacted and invited. Summer meetings were held so the summer residents could attend. At Town Meeting in 1973 the 10 year old Zoning Ordinance was replaced by a new ordinance based on "critical area zoning" to protect the surface and ground water, soils and scenery. The vote was overwhelming in favor. Since that time, the Town Plan has been updated every five years, as required by statute. Each revision has reflected the will of the community as expressed in surveys and public meeting. The mandate has remained clear. The community of Underhill understands its role as steward of the one unspoiled aspect of Mt Mansfield and its approach through the foothills. It wants to maintain insofar as possible the rural nature

and scenic beauty, in spite of the inexorable trend toward becoming a suburb of Burlington.

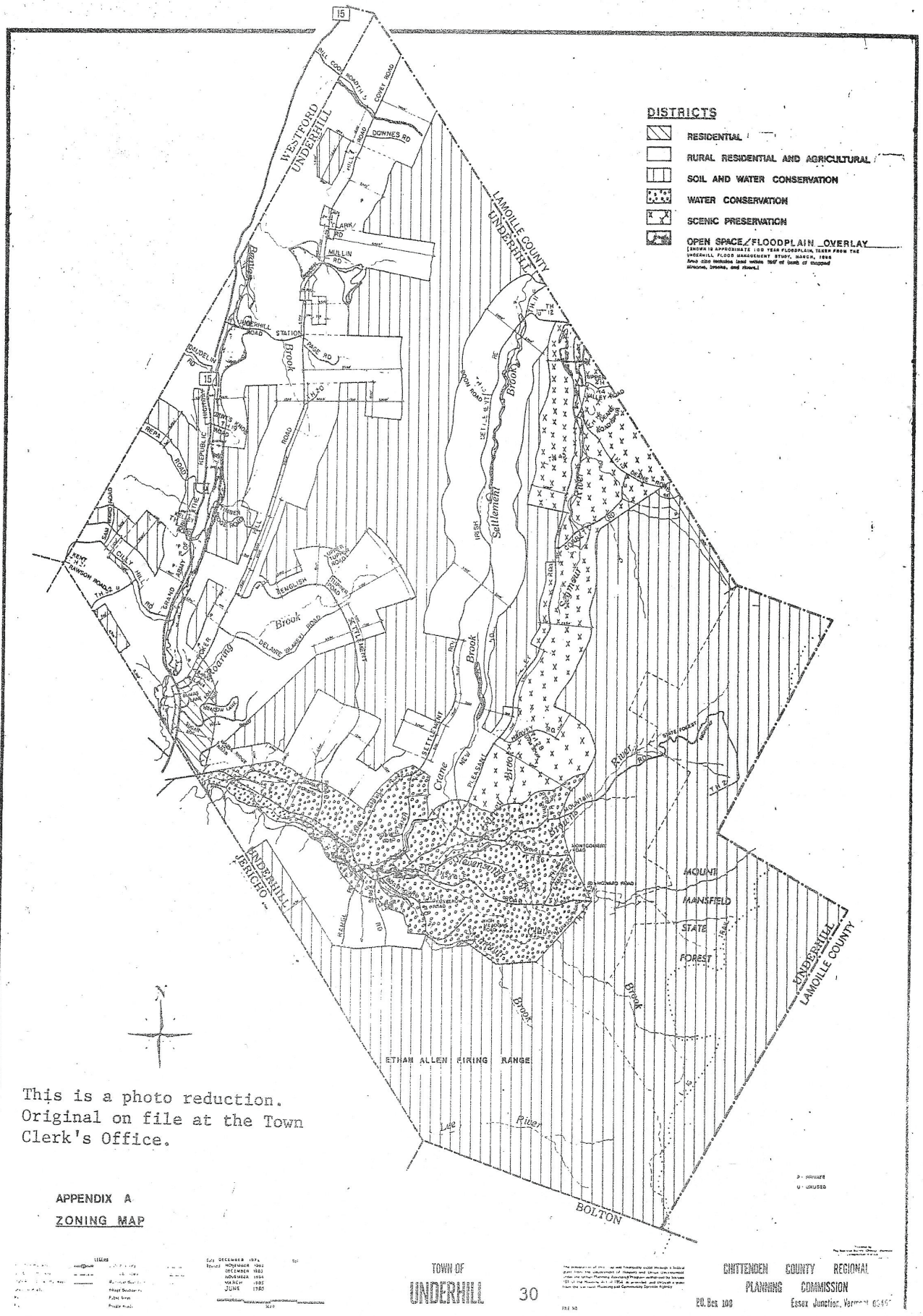
~~ THE 1973 ZONING MAP

The production of the first zoning map was a challenging project. The soils map produced manually by Robert Towne was overlaid by a sheet of transparent mylar and lines were drawn on the mylar following the major soil categories. The soils represented the gravel and bedrock aquifers which became the major zoning districts. The gravel aquifer became the Water District. The bedrock areas with thin soil overlay became the Soil and Water District. The area including a private water system located in Underhill Flats, which served the houses and businesses there, mostly on small lots, was designated the Residential District. Since most of the private residences and farms had been built along the roads, areas along the roads became the basis for the major zoning district, called The Rural Residential District.

The one arbitrary district was along the Pleasant Valley road which had splendid views of Mt Mansfield. It was drawn as The Mt Mansfield Scenic Preservation District, to have 10 acre lots with long road frontage and deep setbacks for the building envelopes. (In 1970, the roadsides were clear, except for splendid old sugar maple trees. Tourist buses regularly visited in the fall foliage season. With the increased use of winter salt on the roads, the maple trees died and have since been removed and the roadside has mostly seen the appearance of secondary overgrowth. Over the years, the grand, sweeping views of Mt Mansfield have largely disappeared.) To protect the upper elevations of the mountain, all development above 1500 feet was precluded. The regulation has survived several challenges.

Most of the zoning lines were irregular, following the irregularities of the soils map. The principle was to draw the zoning lines well within the more restrictive area, so parcels on the boundaries would not be in dispute. The transparent Zoning Map was to be used by overlaying it on a USGS map, on which locations could be defined. The problem was that the USGS map and the US Soil Conservation map were not on the same scale. It was thanks to the expertise of the photographic department at the UVM Medical School and Dr. Bert Kusserow, then Chair of the Planning Commission, that the creative mylar Zoning District map was produced on the same scale as the USGS map. The system was primitive and not the most desirable, but it was useful at the time. (The original set is in the Town vault.)

The irregular zoning lines were problematical and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission helped to redraw them as straight lines, measured from identifiable locations on the ground. Dick Wadhams was chair of the Planning Commission at the time. Mary Fell and Irene Linde were also commission members, who spent long hours measuring and drawing the new lines, which have largely remained the same ever since. (See map)



This is a photo reduction.
Original on file at the Town
Clerk's Office.

APPENDIX A

ZONING MAP

TOWN OF UNDERHILL

CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

P.O. Box 108 Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

~~ THE PARCEL MAP

With the help of Town Clerk Zilda Bolio Metcalfe, Jim Nassau, a retired Pratt and Whitney engineer, undertook to draw a parcel map for the Town. Using the Underhill orthophotos as a base, he drew whatever survey data was available on a transparent overlay map. He mostly had only Deed descriptions to work from. The project took four years to complete. When computerization became available, Ed Moore digitized the Nassau map and set it up in the town office computer. It replaced the base USGS map for zoning purposes. The Zoning map was also computerized and the overlay system became much more workable and accurate. As new surveys became available, they were incorporated into the basic parcel map.

~~ COMPUTERIZATION of the VERMONT SOILS MAP

A grant was given to the Natural Resources Dept of UVM to computerize all of the USSC soils maps for the State. Students digitized the printed data. The project took many years. Underhill was among the first towns to have the information in its computer. It made the basic planning data more accurate and was very helpful.

~~ ZONING AND SUBDIVISION OVERSIGHT

Since the first adoption of the Subdivision Regulations, they have been revised, as needed, to reflect the road policy as developed by the Selectmen. The Zoning Ordinance has required continual refinement to clarify definitions and language and to respond to changes as suggested by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. (ZBA) which was originally responsible for enforcing and interpreting the ordinance. Since no ordinance can fit every situation, the ZBA was empowered to bring human judgment to bear in special situations and to give variances, where appropriate. When the Board was repeatedly asked for variances of a certain kind, they requested the Planning Commission and the Selectboard to decide if the ordinance should be changed to respond to a need. Changes proposed by the Planning Commission were then put to the townspeople for a vote at Town Meeting. The Zoning Ordinance has been refined many times, but the fundamental principles upon which it is based, namely, the imperatives of the natural environment, have not been changed. Home occupations have been strongly encouraged and, in accordance with the wishes of the residents, all commercial usage has been conditional, so that compatibility with the neighborhood could be assured.

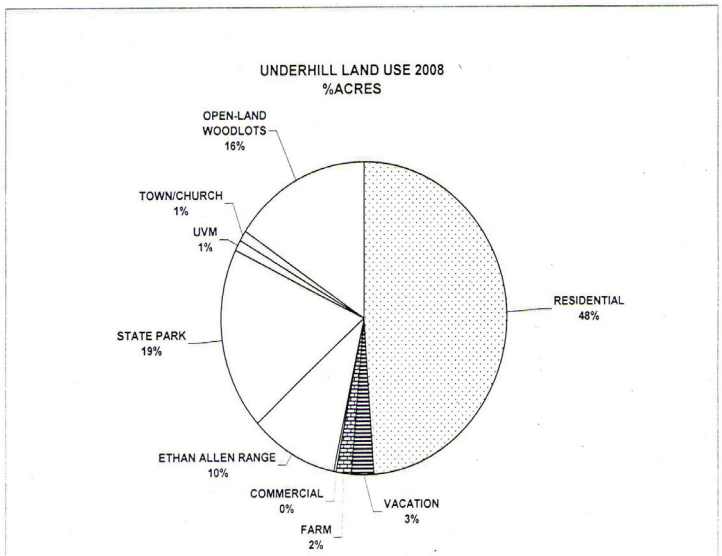
~~ THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Vermont Legislature approved a new arrangement for handling subdivisions, which became optional for the Towns. Instead of a Zoning Board of Adjustment, a Development Review Board (DRB) is appointed which reviews the subdivision designs, formerly under the oversight of the Planning Commission. Where appropriate and sensible, it can give variances and waivers with respect to the Zoning Ordinance. The idea was to simplify the subdivision process, reducing the oversight to one Town commission, instead of two. The Underhill Selectboard made the change in 2006 and since then, the subdivision of land has been overseen by the DRB. Scott Tobin was the chairman until 2012, when he was followed by Charles van Winkle, present chairman.

The major role of the Planning Commission is to rewrite the Town Plan, which has to be updated every five years. The Town Plan has been especially important since the Legislature passed Act 200 in 1967 to complement the original Planning Act 250. Act 200 was essentially a ‘growth management’ law. Its original purpose was to encourage growth decisions to take place through public, community-wide consensus ahead of the project. It required Town Plans to be approved by the Regional Planning Commissions and adjacent towns to ensure that the plans are consistent with the plans of neighboring municipalities. (It also provided for State Agency coordination for regional plans, but this coordination did not prove successful. The Natural Resources Agency and the Agency of Transportation did not work together as harmoniously as had been planned.)

LANDUSE SUMMARY

	CONTRACTS	LISTVAL	ACRES	PARCELS
RESIDENTIAL	11722300	339575800	15702.68	1099
VACATION	765200	3770900	816	22
FARM	747900	2093100	523.4	4
COMMERCIAL		3563800	22.58	18
ETHAN ALLEN RANGE		2648100	3292	1
STATE PARK		3475900	6035.41	1
UVM		1579700	367.06	2
TOWN/CHURCH/CEMETERIES		11846000	296.6	40
OPEN LAND/WOODLOTS	3555100	13402900	5017.62	133
UTILITY ELECTRIC		2868500		5
	16790500	384825700	32073.35	1325



~~ CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Since the establishment of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission in 1966, the support of the CCRPC, under the leadership of Art Hogan for many years, has been instrumental in the Underhill planning projects. His assistant, Don Rich, was extremely helpful in all of the early town planning initiatives.

Each town in the County has a representative and an alternate serving on the Commission and attending monthly meetings. In addition, there are special members of the Commission with expertise in particular subjects, such as agriculture, natural resources, transportation, real estate, etc. The CCRPC professional staff has provided towns with planning data, interpretations of the State statutes, and special studies, as well as reproduction services for maps and town documents. The Regional Commissions also prepare their own inclusive Regional Plans every five years.

~~ RECENT PLANNING PROJECTS

For several years the Planning Commission worked to coordinate all of the Town regulations, to make sure that the definitions and requirements were uniform. A grant from the State afforded the assistance of planning consultant, Sharon Murray, to coordinate and expedite that effort and also help with an update of the Zoning Regulations. The rewritten Zoning Ordinance was presented for a Town vote at March Meeting 2014, at which time the changes were rejected.

~~ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over the years, more than 100 members of the Underhill community have served on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board. Of special note is Dr. Dick Albertini who served as the chair of the Planning Commission for 14 years, until his retirement in 2014. Marion Fay was a member of the Planning Commission for many years and then served as chair of the Zoning Board. Gerry Adams has been a member of the commission serving at various times since 1969. Mary Fell, Irene Linde, Betty Moore and Pat Lamphere also served for many years. Ed Moore has been invaluable as a computer expert, computerizing all of the Town data and creating innumerable maps.

~~APPENDIX

Underhill Land Use Contracts - A Short History

1969 VT Supreme Court invalidates land appraisal based on agricultural criteria (what it will grow); mandates 'ad valorem' method.

1971 In Town Report Listers (Lorraine Dwyer, Josephine McClellan) state that land values in the Grand List are too low compared with what people were paying for land; has an effect on State Aid for schools. Show '69-'70 land sales by parcel size.

Listers subsequently re-appraise land using 'ad valorem' method. Taxes on land skyrocket. Bert Kusserow, Planning Comm. Chair and Selectboard plead for gradual increase in evaluation, perhaps over a 5 year period. No influence.

Nearly every land owner grieves and appeals to Board of Civil Authority (BCA).

BCA (including Selectmen Wendall Metcalf, Peter Allendorf, Ed Moore) view nearly all the land in town.

BCA roles back 1970 Grand List to 1969 values. Listers take BCA to court.

Taxpayer Association formed to represent landowners. Robert Patterson, President. Nearly every lawyer in the area has a job.

1972 Judge Martin 'strikes' BCA 1970 Grand List. Mandates new appraisals for 1970 and 1971 Grand Lists -- to be accomplished in 90 days with help of VT Dept. of Taxes. All costs and fees of lawyers (Perry and Schumacher) to be paid by the town.

3/24/1971 Meeting of Civil Board, Listers, Selectboard, Mr. Abair and Mr. Turner from State Tax Dept.

With Mr. Turners help, listers must correct construction costs and new house values; inspect all houses for depreciation correction; bring land values up also. Some modification of land values allowed for accessibility, desirability, location, topography.

3/7/1972 Town Meeting – Motion carried that Selectmen hold Special Town Meeting to afford some method of tax relief for farmers.

1973 Farmers Contract proposed. (Farmers with 2/3 income from farming.) Only 8 farmers qualify: Butler, W. Rawson, Lehoullier, Sturtevant, Pollard, K. Rawson, Tatro, Siple. Estimated 1614 acres would qualify. Cost to town estimated at $3952.

3/5/1974 Town Meeting. Voted to give farmers tax relief through contracts. Enabled by Legislature.

1974 Contracts written. Only 4 farmers sign up. (Butler, W. Rawson, Lehoullier, Sturtevant.) Cost to town only $1738.24. (Others later participated.)

1975 Town Meeting. By 2/3 majority voters approve Open Land Contracts for Underhill, similar to the tax stabilization for farmers.

1977 Land Use Contract drafted, but could not yet be implemented since Legislature had not yet passed enabling legislation.

1978 In February Legislature approves Open Land Contracts.

At March Town Meeting voters agreed "to allow the Selectmen to enter into Open Land Contracts with anyone having more than 10 acres of land. 10 years renewable. Open Land Contracts issued.

1979 State adopts a State "Current Use" program. Must be used for agriculture or forestry. Minimum 25 acres. Lien, in perpetuity.

1982 State adds 'Tax Stabilization Contracts' (25 acre minimum). Must be used for agriculture or forestry. 10 years, renewable.

Underhill Town Land Use Contract revised to meet State requirements. Hope to eliminate some of the reductions in Grand List used to figure State Aid to schools.

1996 Selectboard reviews Open Land, Tax Stabilization and Current Use Contracts, all of which reduce taxes in return for landowners not to develop their lands.

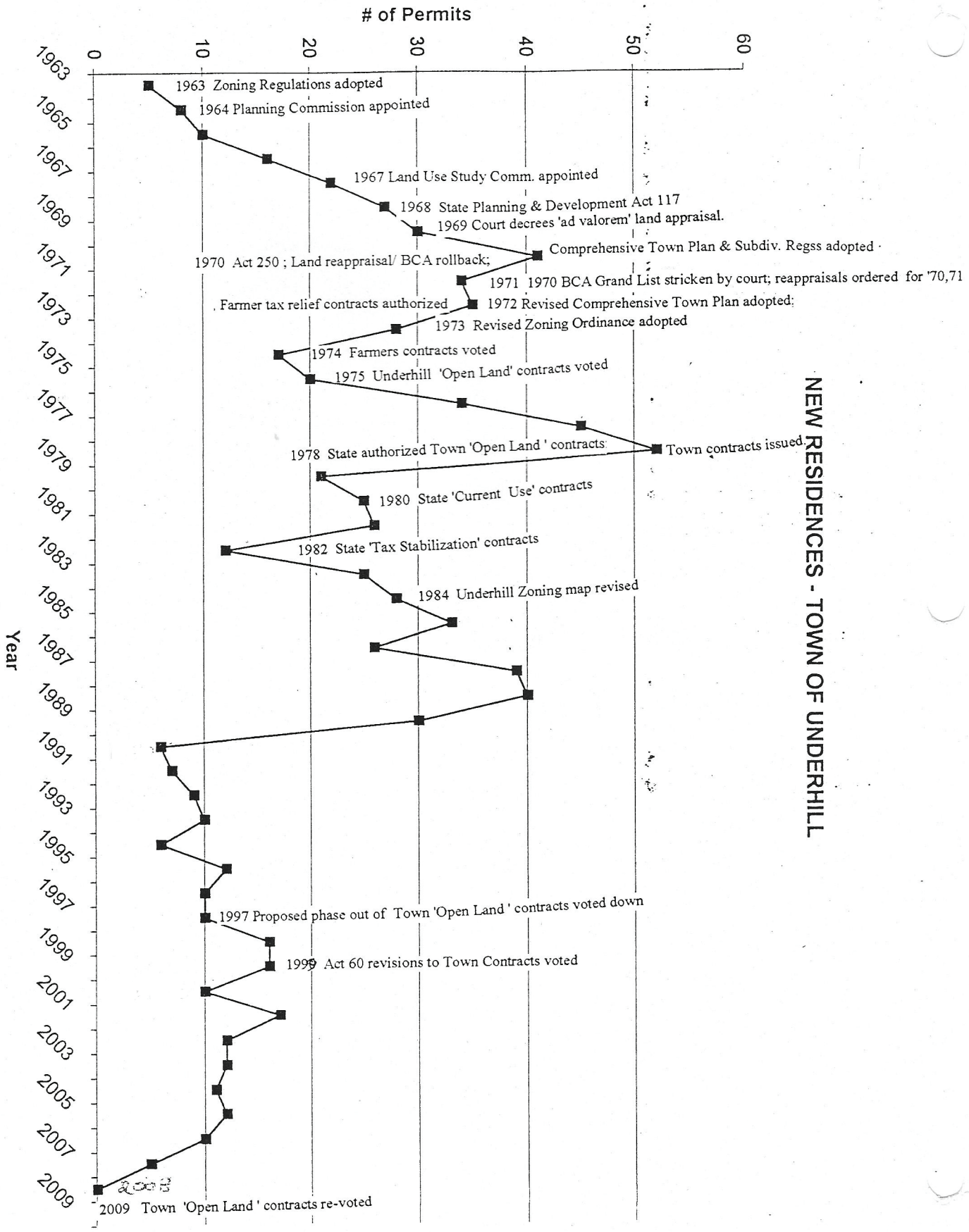
(Current Use properties are listed at the "current use" value; Town contract properties are listed at their fair market value minus the adjustment for acreage in the contracts.)

1997 March 4 Town Meeting. "Shall the Selectboard phase out the 10+ acre 'open land' contracts authorized in 1978, by not renewing them when they reach maturity?" Article was voted down.

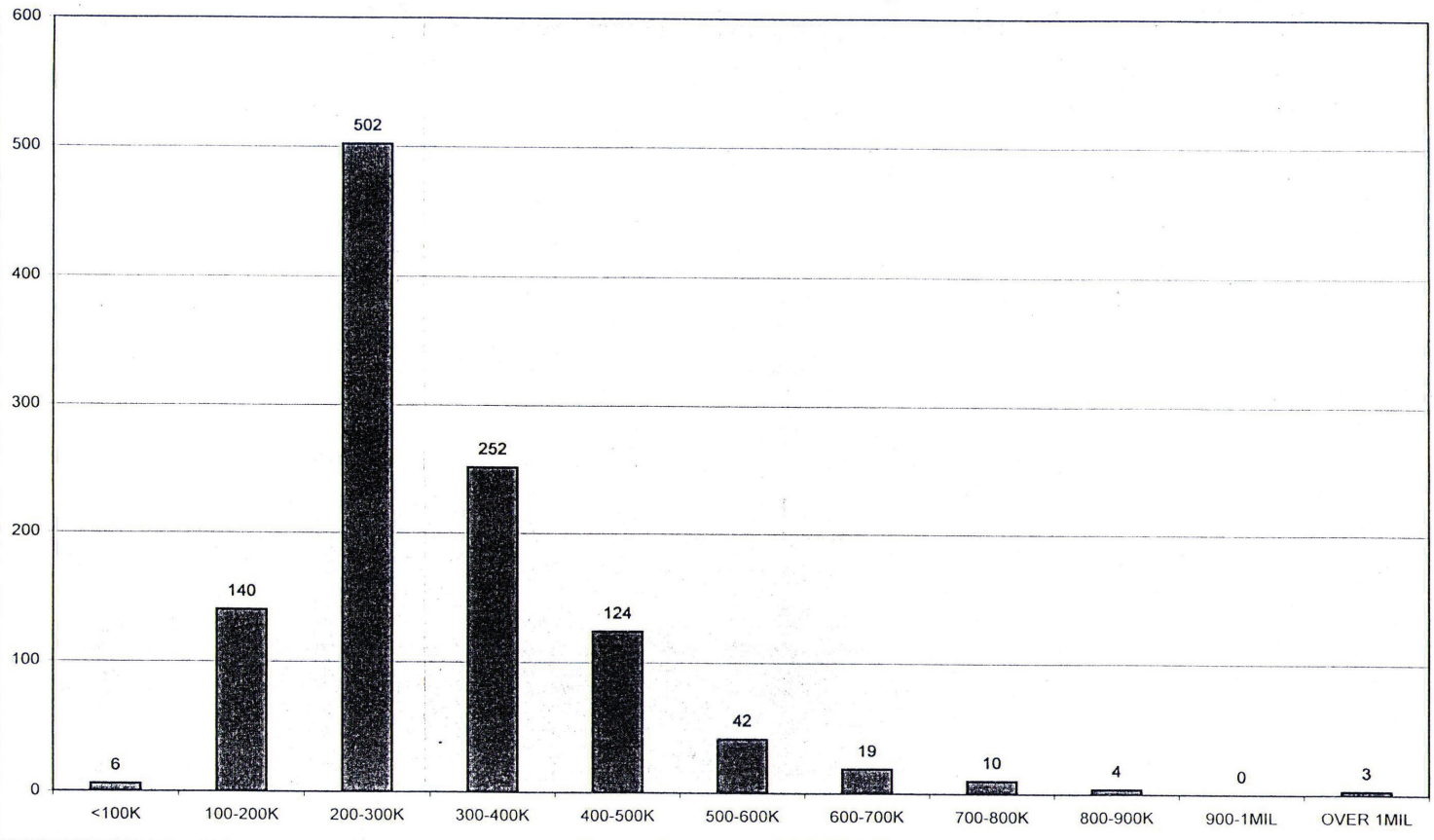
1999 Act 60 requires adjustment in the way Open Land, Tax Stabilization and Current Use contracts are handled for tax purposes. Must clarify in the budget the actual cost of the transactions. At present time the total tax value of all these contracts is about $45,000.

Town Meeting, March 2. Article VIII "Shall the Town continue municipally voted tax agreements, (Open Land, Tax Stabilization contracts, and the Maple Leaf Farm exemption), by raising a tax on its municipal Grand List at a rate sufficient to raise an amount equal to the difference between the municipality's total education property tax liability to the State and the amount collected from education property taxes in the municipality after reductions for all tax agreements in effect?" Article passed.

2009 Town Meeting, March. Voted to continue "Open Land Contracts."


NEW RESIDENCES - TOWN OF UNDERHILL
# of Permits
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
Year
1963
1965
1967
1969
1971
1973
1975
1977
1979
1981
1983
1985
1987
1989
1991
1993
1995
1997
1999
2001
2003
2005
2007
2009
1963 Zoning Regulations adopted
1964 Planning Commission appointed
1967 Land Use Study Comm. appointed
1968 State Planning & Development Act 117
1969 Court decrees 'ad valorem' land appraisal.
Comprehensive Town Plan & Subdiv. Regss adopted
1970 Act 250 ; Land reappraisal/ BCA rollback;
1971 1970 BCA Grand List stricken by court; reappraisals ordered for '70,71
Farmer tax relief contracts authorized
1972 Revised Comprehensive Town Plan adopted;
1973 Revised Zoning Ordinance adopted
1974 Farmers contracts voted
1975 Underhill 'Open Land' contracts voted
Town contracts issued
1978 State authorized Town 'Open Land ' contracts
1980 State 'Current Use' contracts
1982 State 'Tax Stabilization' contracts
1984 Underhill Zoning map revised
1997 Proposed phase out of Town 'Open Land ' contracts voted down
1999 Act 60 revisions to Town Contracts voted
2009 Town 'Open Land ' contracts re-voted

TOWN OF UNDERHILL RESIDENCES BY LISTED VALUES (INCLUDING MOBILE HOMES) **2008**



UNDERHILL, VERMONT
Comprehensive Plan

Box Holders

Residents of Underhill Only

One to each family

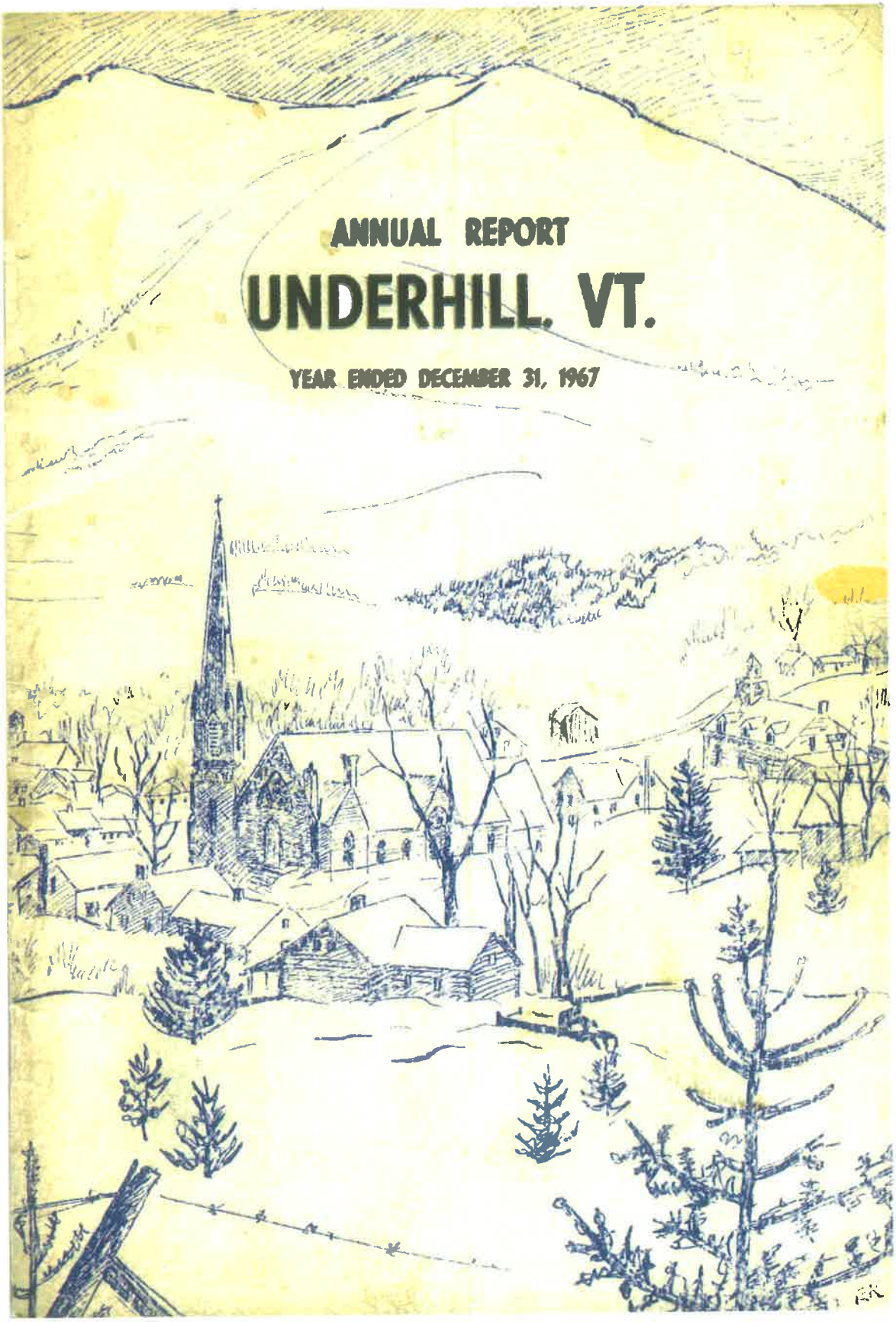
PREPARED BY THE UNDERHILL PLANNING
COMMISSION: April, 1970

TOWN TRIBUTES

ANNUAL REPORT

UNDERHILL, VT.

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1967



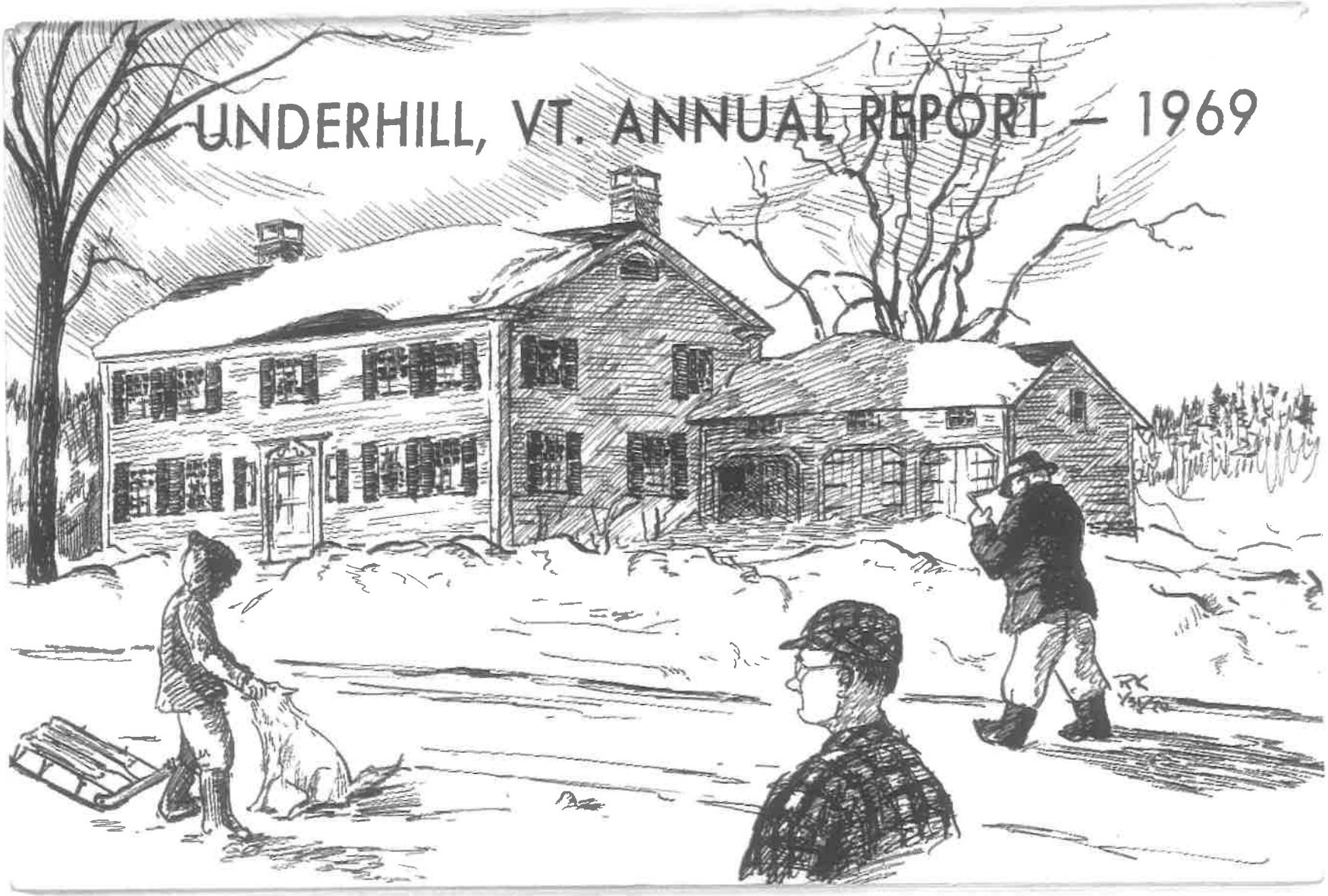
DEDICATION

This year's Town Report is dedicated to the memory of our friend and neighbor, Arthur Bogue. Arthur in his honesty projected his personality into the hearts of many. Passing through Underhill Center one was usually sure to see his tall angular form bent on some errand of kindness. Neighbors, shut-ins, and town officials alike relied on his daily visits and the newsy bits of information he carried. Never in a hurry, yet never idle, his warm grin and hearty wave were an integral part of the life of Underhill Center.

Arthur will be missed for many reasons—but mostly because he was Arthur.

Once again Underhill is fortunate in having the talents of our 'artist in residence', Roy Kennedy to depict a scene familiar to all. This year Roy shows us Underhill Center from above St. Thomas's Cemetery with our own Mansfield in the background. Roy's past covers have helped make the Underhill Town Report a stand-out among others in the state. Our thanks again to Roy for a job well done.

UNDERHILL, VT. ANNUAL REPORT – 1969



This year's Town Report cover depicts the Barney Tavern, also known as the Benedict Place. It is now the summer residence of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Heatherington of Washington, D.C. and formerly of Richmond, Vt.

This well-known landmark is believed to have been built in 1800 by Mathew Barney, grandson of Governor Thomas Chittenden, and was run as a tavern until 1857.

Purchased by Dr. Hiram Benedict, it remained in the Benedict family for some 85 years.

Recently restored in 1968, it won an award by the Chittenden County Historical Society as an example of early American architecture.

The addition on the right was recently built. The main building is as it appeared in the early 1800's.

Sketched by Roy A. Kennedy, artist-sculptor of Underhill Center, the home is shown after the heavy snowfall of late December – early January (1969-70). In the foreground are shown two local residents returning from the Post Office as a child with his sled pats a friendly dog.

DEDICATION

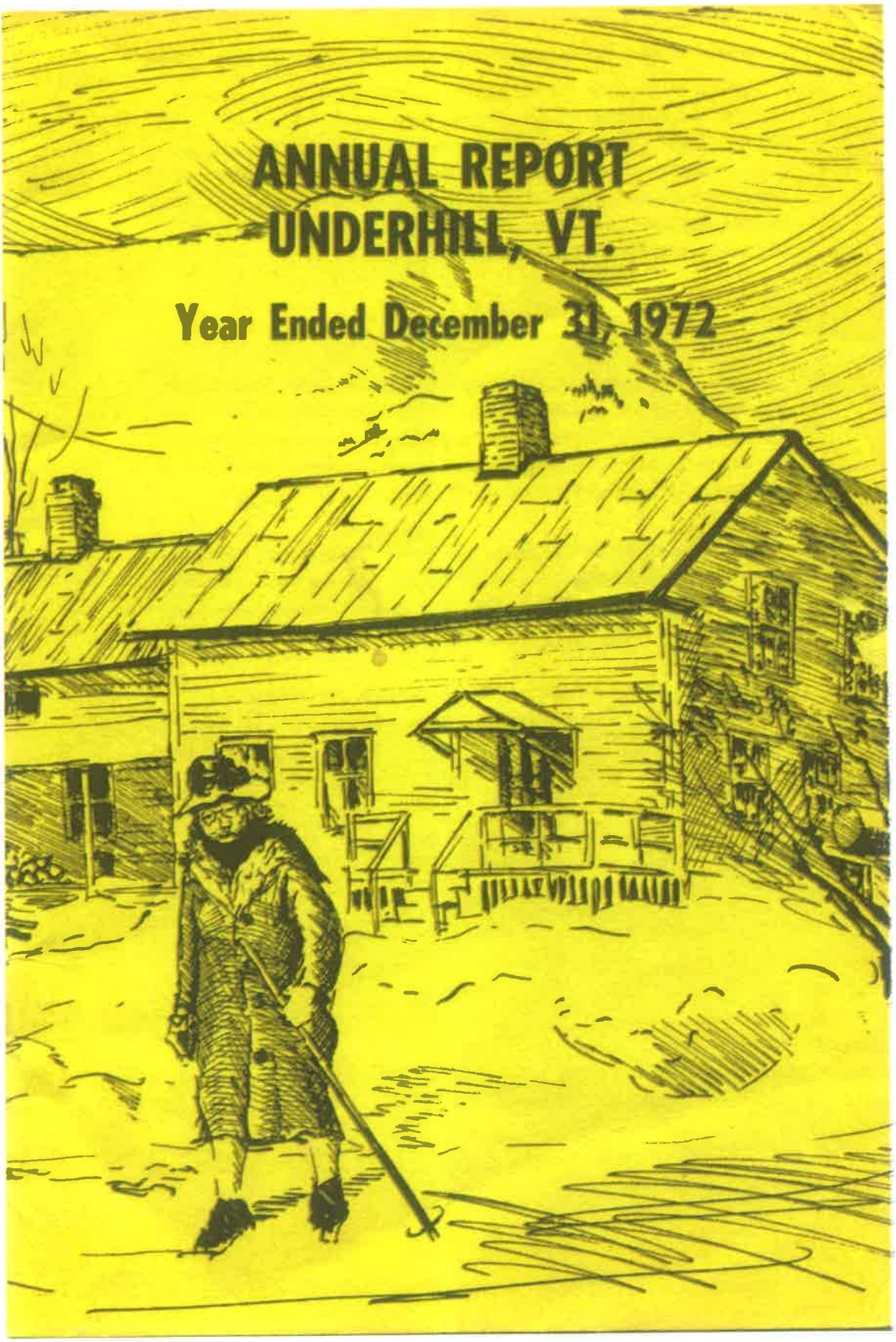
This year's Town Report is dedicated to the memory of George Barrett who has served the townspeople for many years as "Justice of the Peace". He was also "Overseer of the Poor" for a little while.

George was born in Underhill and has always shown interest in Town affairs. The Civil Board members always turned to George for advice when we weren't quite sure about certain things. His experience and knowledge of the town and its people was always an asset to our many meetings.

George also served as a Selectman during the 1930's.

ANNUAL REPORT
UNDERHILL, VT.

Year Ended December 31, 1972



Eleanor Clark lived in Underhill for fourteen years, and during the years of her retirement, she contributed many hours of her time and skills to the Town—as a hard-working member of the Planning Commission, helping with the Town history, organizing last year's Town Report, and in many other little ways. She was a person of strong convictions, never afraid to speak her mind, especially if it concerned the good of the Town, and her dedicated service to Underhill will be missed.

* * * *

Some thirteen years ago Sally Soule moved to the North Underhill Station Road to become involved in our Town affairs; active in the Underhill Historical Society, Town Auditor and going on to become Delinquent Tax Collector, taking her duties seriously and precisely; determined to meet the requirements of the office to the letter of the law and insisting the same in return.

Upon her retirement she opened the Tureen Dining Room which was well patronized. She became a member of the Vermont Arts and Crafts Society; became a judge in the Free Press gourmet contest; took active participation in Church work doing everything she undertook to the best of her ability.

We will miss her quiet smile and intense interest in our Town affairs.

Here is the Cavanaugh house on the green in Underhill Center; one of the older houses in town, its records going back at least 130 years. Marguerite is just starting her daily round of library, Church, store, post office, while local children are at play in the background.

ANNUAL REPORT

UNDERHILL, VT.

Year Ended December 31, 1973



When Underhill Had a Railroad

Homer N. Bogue (1890-1973)

A long time resident of Underhill and one who served the town in many capacities, died Oct. 31, 1973. Homer N. Bogue, born June 5, 1890 in Enosburg, served the Town of Underhill as Selectman, as Lister, and as Justice of the Peace for a total of 34 years.

Homer lived much of his life in the Valley and there witnessed the coming of things that today we take for granted. In his farming days, there was no energy crisis unless the horse took sick and no brownouts unless the wick needed trimming.

For those of us who knew him, admiration for his ingenuity, respect for his honesty and dedication to his Town are traits that we will long remember.

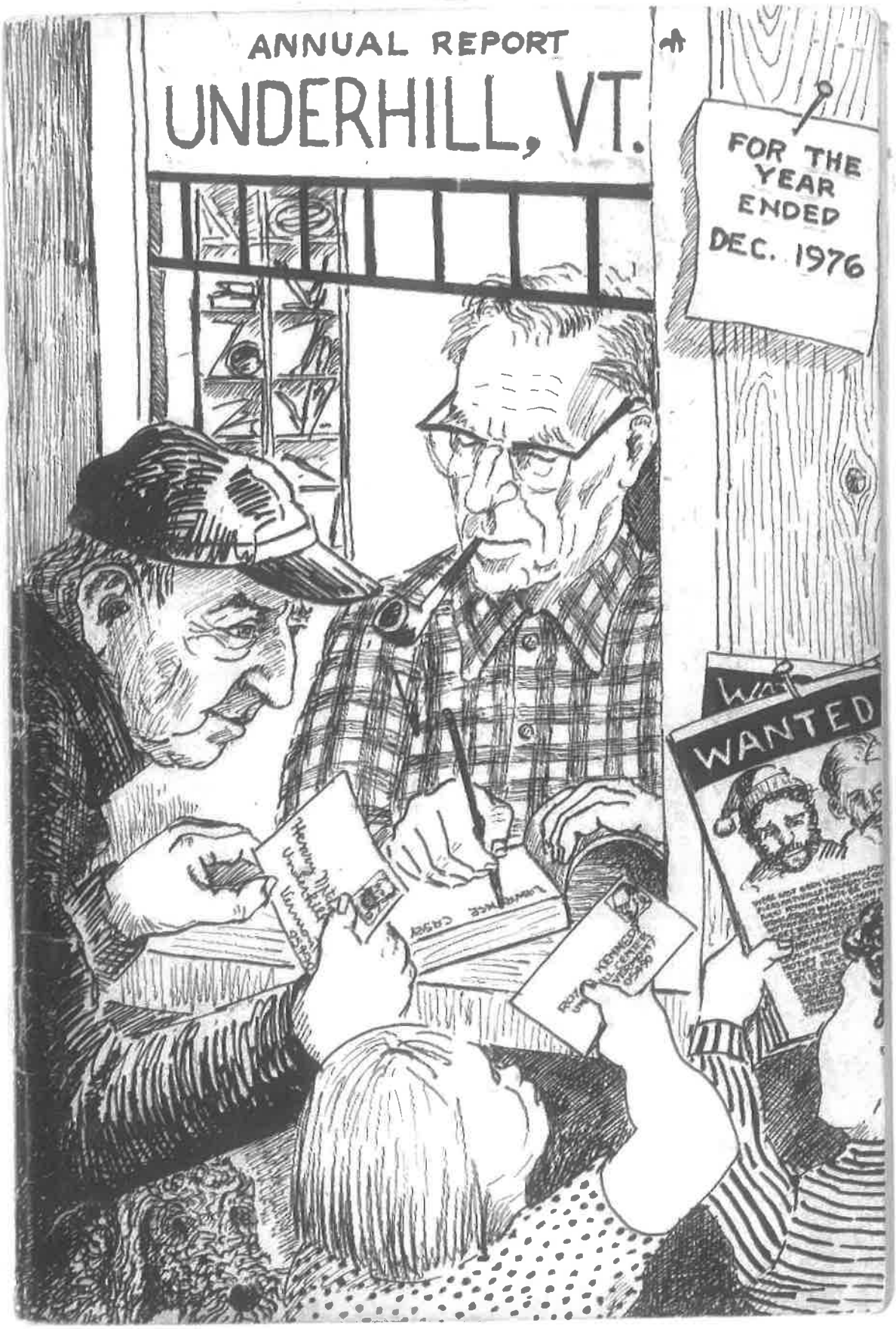
ALL ABOARD!

From 1877 to 1938, Underhill residents could climb onto the cars of the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad and travel to Burlington to do their trading.

Farmers loaded their potatoes, livestock, maple sugar and syrup in barrels. Logging companies shipped rough lumber to Burlington.

Trains did not always adhere to fixed schedules. Interruptions in service were frequent what with cows on the track, snow drifts or ice covering the rails. But the important thing was, that THE CARS ALWAYS GOT THROUGH.

The depot is the present home of Arthur and Ruth Seymour.


ANNUAL REPORT
UNDERHILL, VT.
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 1976
WANTED

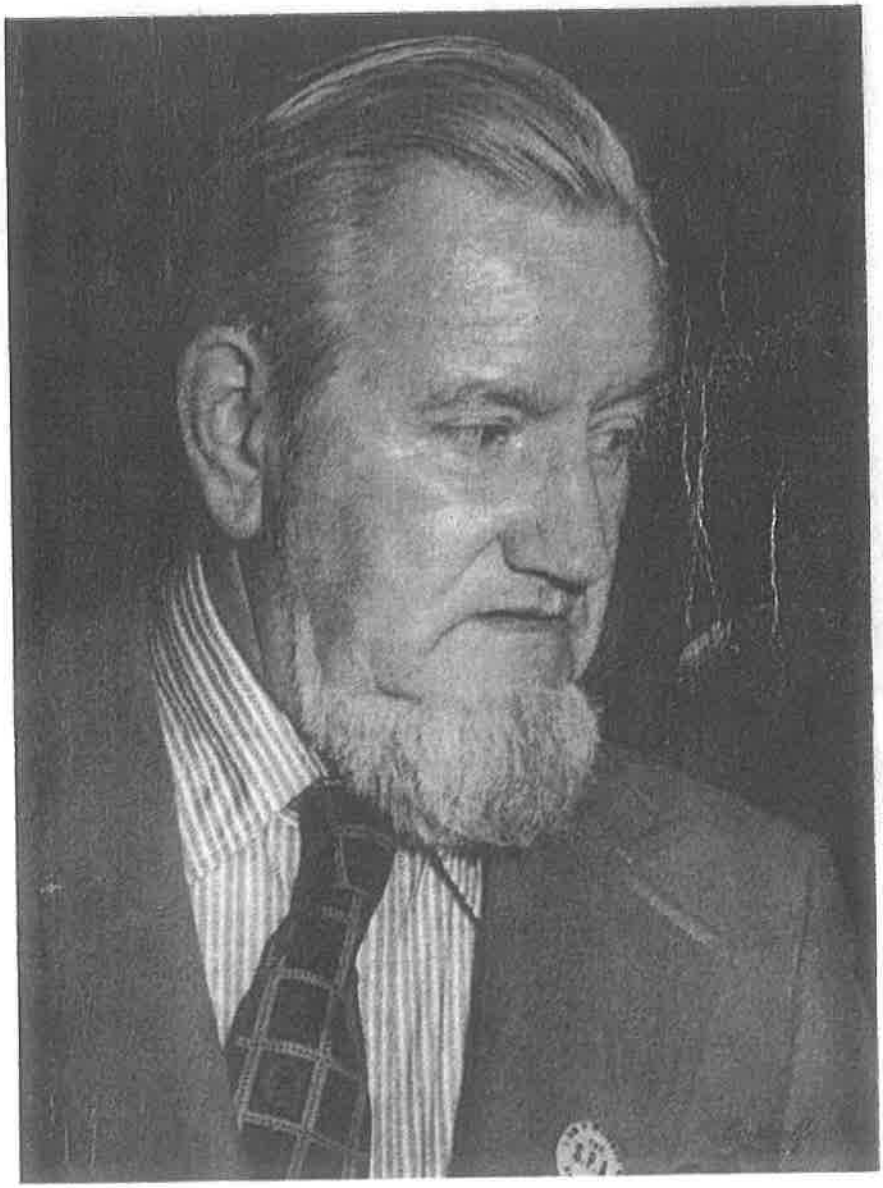


Once again the pen of the versatile artist, Roy Kennedy, has etched a lasting scene for us in the continuing story of Underhill. Yes, that's our own Lawrence Casey, affable postmaster of Underhill Center, 05490, dispensing the mail to Henry Mitchell and following. Lawrence retires from his official duties this month after fifteen years of steady service. A lifelong resident of Underhill, Lawrence has lived nearly his entire life in the tidy farmhouse on the Pleasant Valley Road. Originally a farmer, Lawrence also served as Justice of the Peace and Road Commissioner as did his father before him. In those days horse power was of a singular nature, not governed by Detroit, and plowing the roads meant just that. Lawrence, in reminiscing recently, recalled how most teams wore bells and on clear days their sound carried quite a distance alerting farmers along the route of their coming. Generally it meant upon arrival at the gate that a hot glass, or two, or three, of cider from the previous Fall's apple crop awaited them. "It could get real warm, before we got home," he said, that Casey twinkle in his eyes, and you knew he was thinking of good times past. Lawrence has seen the Town change from a strictly "stay at home" community to a Town where most of the labor force works "away".

Throughout it all, Lawrence has remained Lawrence. Those who know him realize that the word retirement was never meant with Lawrence Casey in mind. We all join in wishing Lawrence and Yvonne the very best in the happy years ahead.

ANNUAL REPORT

UNDERHILL 1978



In Memoriam
Lucius Jackson
1915-1978

In 1956, Lucius Jackson purchased property in Underhill and until his passing did his utmost to make people happy. 'Jack' loved his place, his hobbies and the people who made up his world. He was a giver and he gave generously. He drew people to him, and lasting friendships were formed. He was self educated and although advanced formal education may have eluded him, he truly earned a Doctor of Humanity degree from all who knew him.

An associate in his business said of him; "Jack as everyone knows him, had great intelligence and appreciation of the finest in music, painting, literature and theater. His native New England wit made association with him a great joy, and his philosophy of life was an inspiration. . . ."

His close friend of many years, Paul Cook presented him with a plaque on a special night at the Town Hall which characterizes eloquently the feeling of his Underhill neighbors and friends.

He settled in the shadow of our mountain,
but was never dwarfed by it.
Countless are the flames of friendship
that by his fireside were lit.
Jack's joy of life is living it
and doing things of worth.
He has made a bright and better place
of this tiny piece of earth.
Great men and famous men
will doubtless come and go.
But Jack is as fine a man
as we ever hope to know.



"OFFICE UPSTAIRS"

He came to town in the Fall of 1940, and for the next 34 years, until his passing, gave unstintingly of himself to others. Doctor Raymond Towne epitomized all that is fine and fair in life. He came to us from Richmond, Vermont, via the University. If he had an enemy, he must have been a silent one for no one ever heard a harsh word against him. It made little difference how you addressed him, "Doc" or "Raymie" — he was the same to all. His storehouse of yarns and anecdotes were legendary and none can measure how much sickness or pain was lessened by one of Doc's stories. Patient, kind and unselfish — he gave much and asked little from us in return. In a world that tends to gage success by material gains, Doc was indeed the exception. His infectious grin and hearty wave are no longer a part of our world, but for those fortunate to have known him, he will remain a permanent memory. In fairness, it may truly be said: "Doctor Raymond Towne, Office Upstairs."



"I LIKE TO HELP THE FOLKS OUT"

What better than his own words to sum up this dedicated man's attitude toward the responsibilities of his elected task. As our Road Commissioner, Leslie Fuller witnessed the rapid growth of Underhill, from a rural independent community with simple demands to our present position with the resultant additional requests for his services. Loyalty and dependability were two of his many traits. He was a kind man — a good family man. He was indeed, "the captain of his ship," as he piloted the grader over the many miles of Town Roads — his cap set jauntily to one side, a cigar clamped tightly in the corner of his mouth. Leslie enjoyed people. He, like Doc, will be sorely missed. To have known him was a privilege in itself.

UNDERHILL, VERMONT
FISCAL YEAR 1988-1989

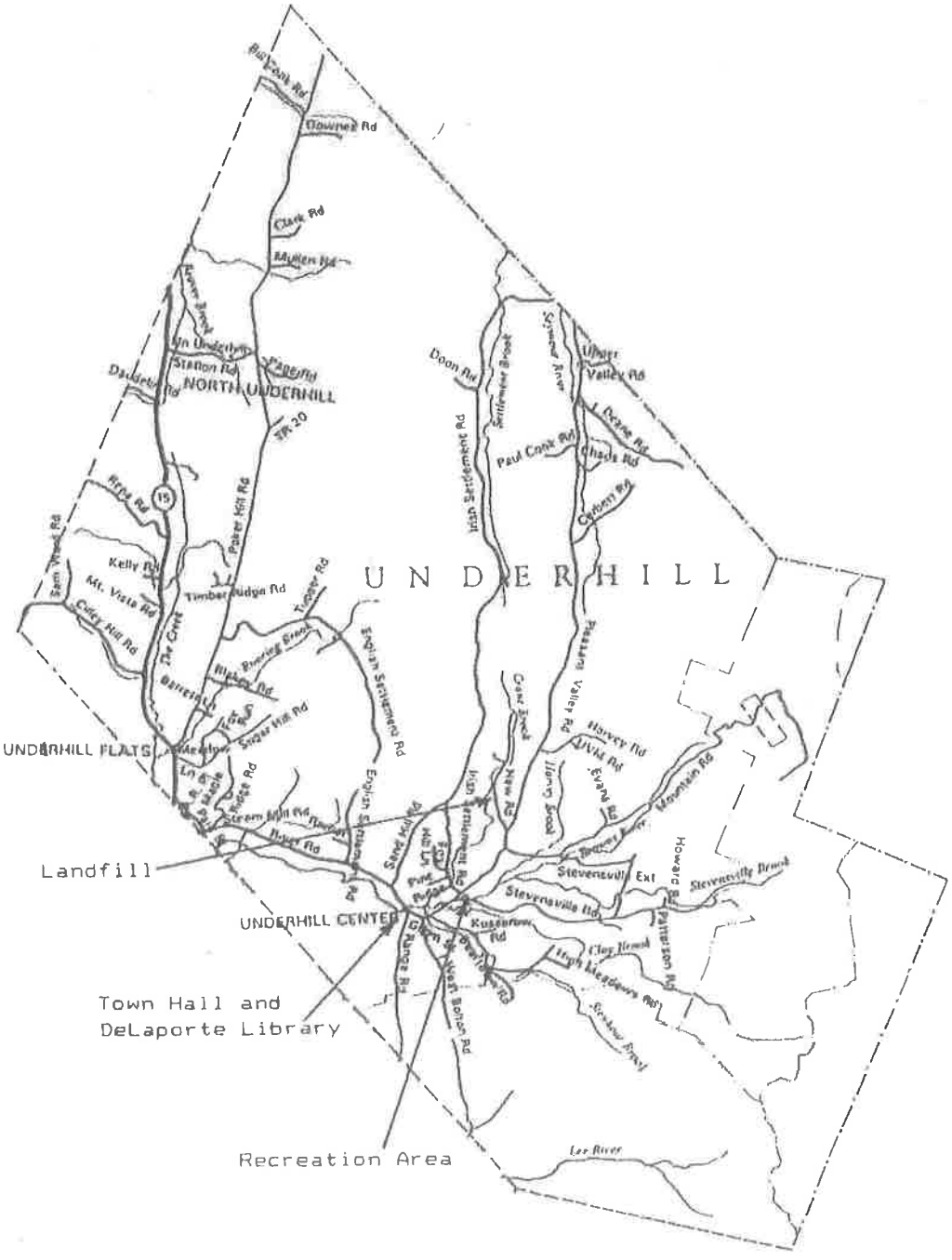
ANNUAL REPORT



COVER
ZILDA METCALF

This Annual Report is dedicated to Zilda Metcalf, who is resigning as Town Clerk after serving the Town of Underhill for 24 years. The residents of Underhill are grateful to Zilda for her guidance as the Town changed from a community of mostly farms and seasonal camps to a rapidly developing residential town. The future will be difficult without her, but the townspeople wish her a happy, healthy future.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL, VERMONT
ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal year ending June 30, 1991



Dedication



Beyond the view and architecture, our most special asset is our people. Here are Roland Ellis and Roy Kennedy (l. to r.) two who have done many special things for Underhill. They are pictured here with one of the almost 200 Town Hall chairs they painstakingly stenciled and numbered many years ago. (Roy was told that stencilling a curved surface couldn't be done, so he made his own stencil.) These men have supported the Scouts, the Historical Society and other Town projects. Roland was responsible for restoring the Town Hall chandelier, and Roy provided the historic woodcuts for many of the Town Annual Reports. Their works linger on, and we hope that you will get to know and remember them -- special Underhill people.

Roland and his wife, Mary, live in Stevensville in one of Underhill's historic houses. For many years they had the only nationally known circus in Underhill. Roland is an accomplished artist, collector, specialist in antiques and one-time white-water canoeist. He is a founding member of the Underhill-Jericho Boy Scout Troop No. 7.

Roy and his wife, Lorraine, live in the old Green Mountain Academy building in Underhill Center. Roy guided many budding artists at the Underhill Central School, was the artist in residence at St. Michael's College and is nationally known for his fine metal sculpture. Lorraine is also an artist and does striking animal paintings. Roy's stonework skills are evident all over Underhill; he makes great home brew and can create most anything from most anything.

COVER: Map courtesy of HomeTown Publishing of Hinesburg, Vermont, publishers of HomeTown Directories.

L. Dwyer

TOWN OF UNDERHILL, VERMONT
ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal year ending June 30, 1992



Annual Town School Meeting- March 1, 1993
Annual Town Meeting- March 2,1993

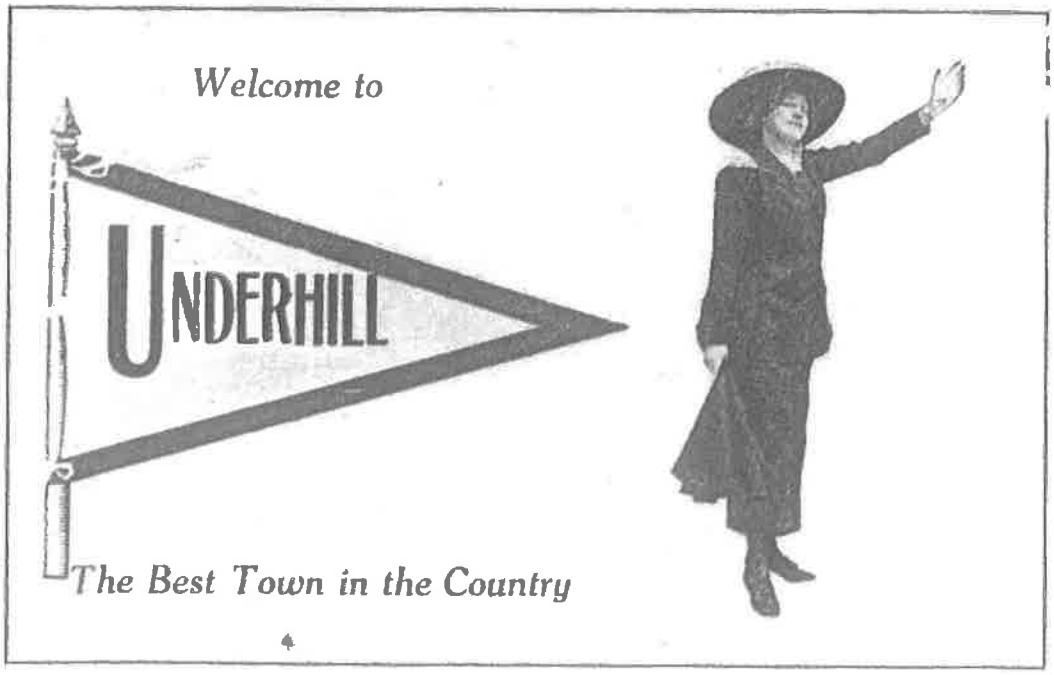


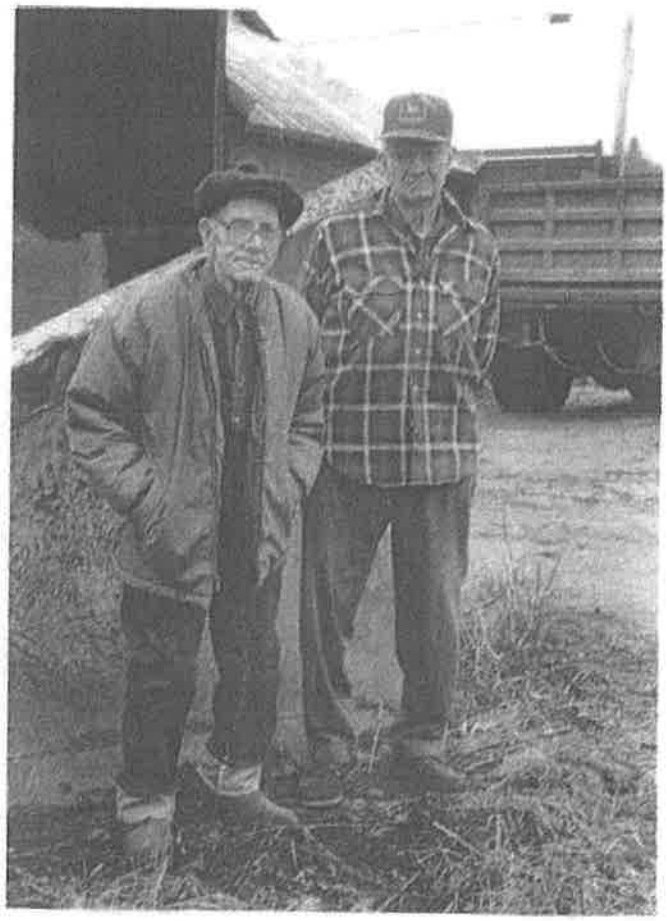
Luella Lamphere and Marian Fay, former Selectwomen of Underhill, are reputed to have been the first women in the State to have held that position. Both have held many other positions in town; among them, Luella as Town Clerk and Marian as Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Both still lead busy lives -- Marian from her old homestead on River Road and Luella up on the former Lamphere farm, now known as High Meadows.

On the cover: Lou Farmer, Town Clerk and, for many years, Town Treasurer, who is retiring this year. Her pleasant attitude and wish to serve has won her many friends. Her plans for the future include playing with her grandchildren, gardening and quilting. We wish her happiness and success in all her ventures. Thank you, Lou.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL, VERMONT
ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal year ending June 30, 1994





Lawrence Casey (left) and Lynford Lamphere

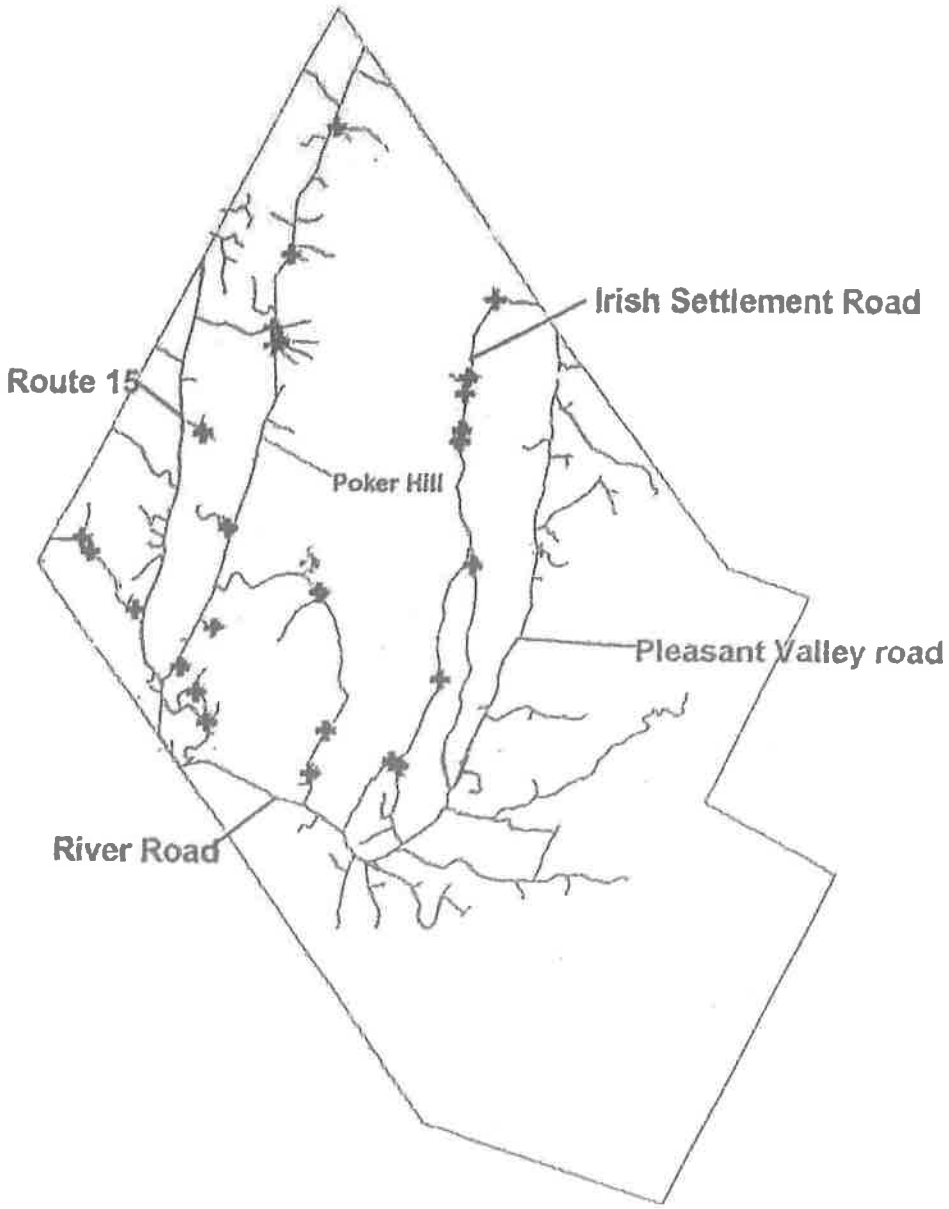
Lawrence Casey and Lynn Lamphere have seen a lot and done a lot in their many years in Underhill. Both were Postmasters—Lynn delivered our mail for many years and Lawrence sorted it for even more. Both worked on our roads when we looked after them with an old Dodge truck and a D4 Caterpillar bulldozer. Both talk about horsepower when it meant how many horses. Casey's sliding hill is an Underhill institution, and Lynn's years on the Planning Commission show how both have made a mark here for us. Truly Town Fathers, we hope that your interest in our Town will encourage you to make their acquaintance. We are proud of them and wish them well.

COVER:
Postcard from the Gary Irish collection.

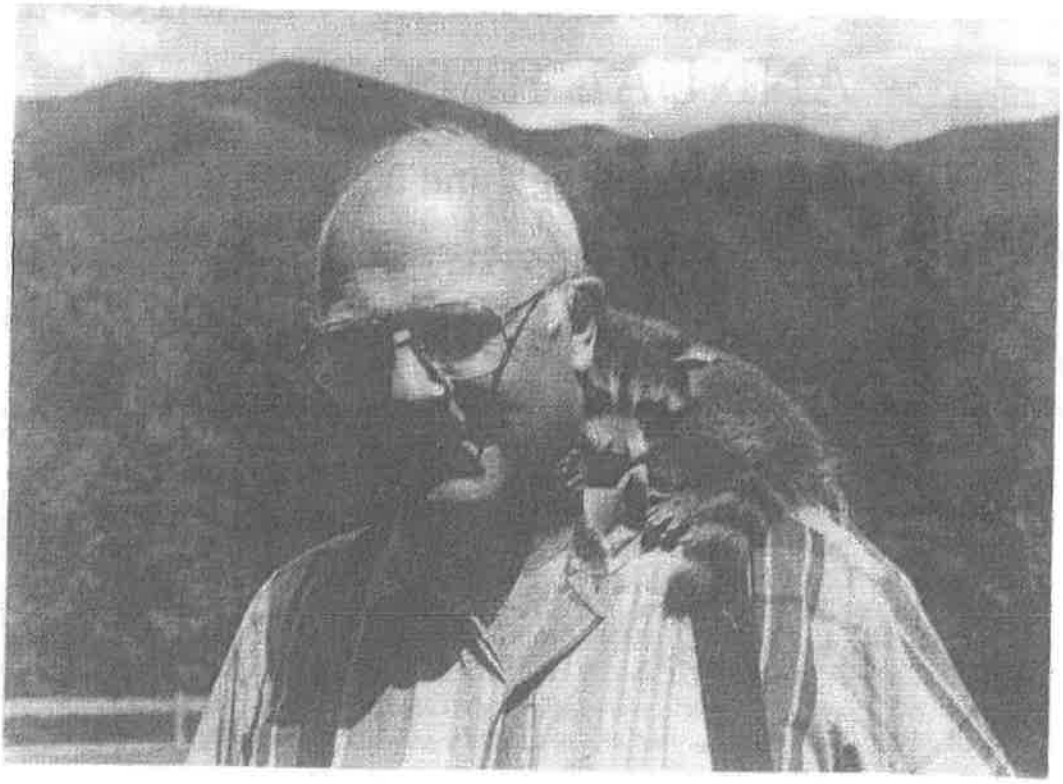
TOWN OF UNDERHILL, VERMONT
ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal year ending June 30, 1998

YEAR OF THE FLOODS



✤ Flood Damage Details Inside



TIME FOR A WORD OF THANKS

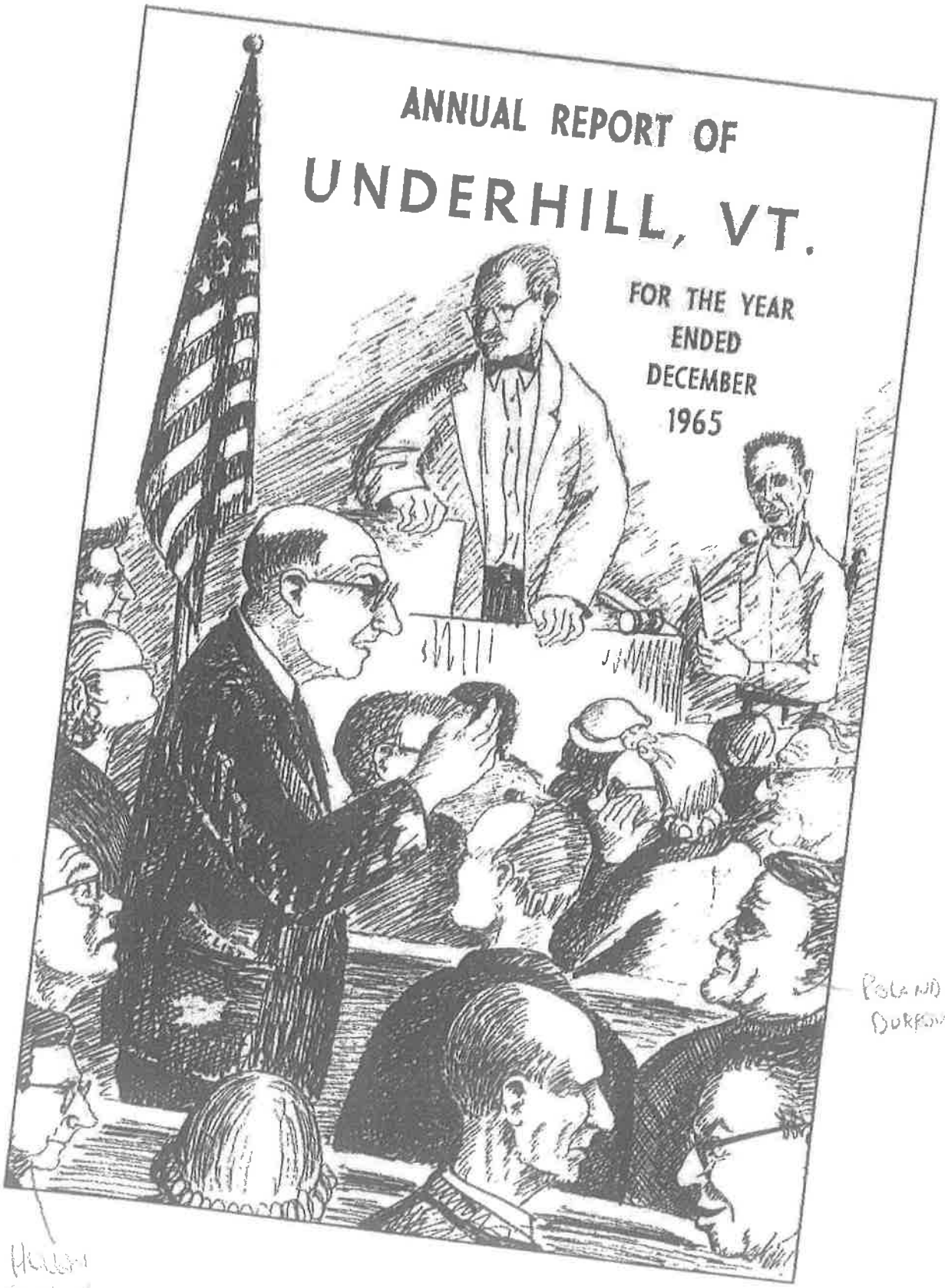
To Ed Moore,

- Selectboard member from 1970 through 1979.
- Moderator, Town and School Annual Meetings from 1986 through 1991.
- Organizer and supervisor of volunteers in the Great Town Hall Restoration project.
- Computer whiz, installing the first computer system for the Town offices and generously trouble-shooting for Town personnel at the drop of a hat).
- Generator of survey maps for the entire Town, followed up with the new GIS mapping and maps for the Town's E-911 program.

THANK YOU ED!

TOWN OF UNDERHILL, VERMONT
ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2000



DEDICATION



Roy Kennedy - Self-portrait of the world-renowned artist, surrounded by copies of some Town Report covers he contributed over the years. Roy volunteered in the art program at the Underhill Central School for many years and was active in the earlier restoration of the Town Hall, including replacing spindles of the stage railing and (in collaboration with former resident Roland Ellis) the silk-screening of the eagle design on the Town Hall chairs. Many thanks from your Town, Roy.





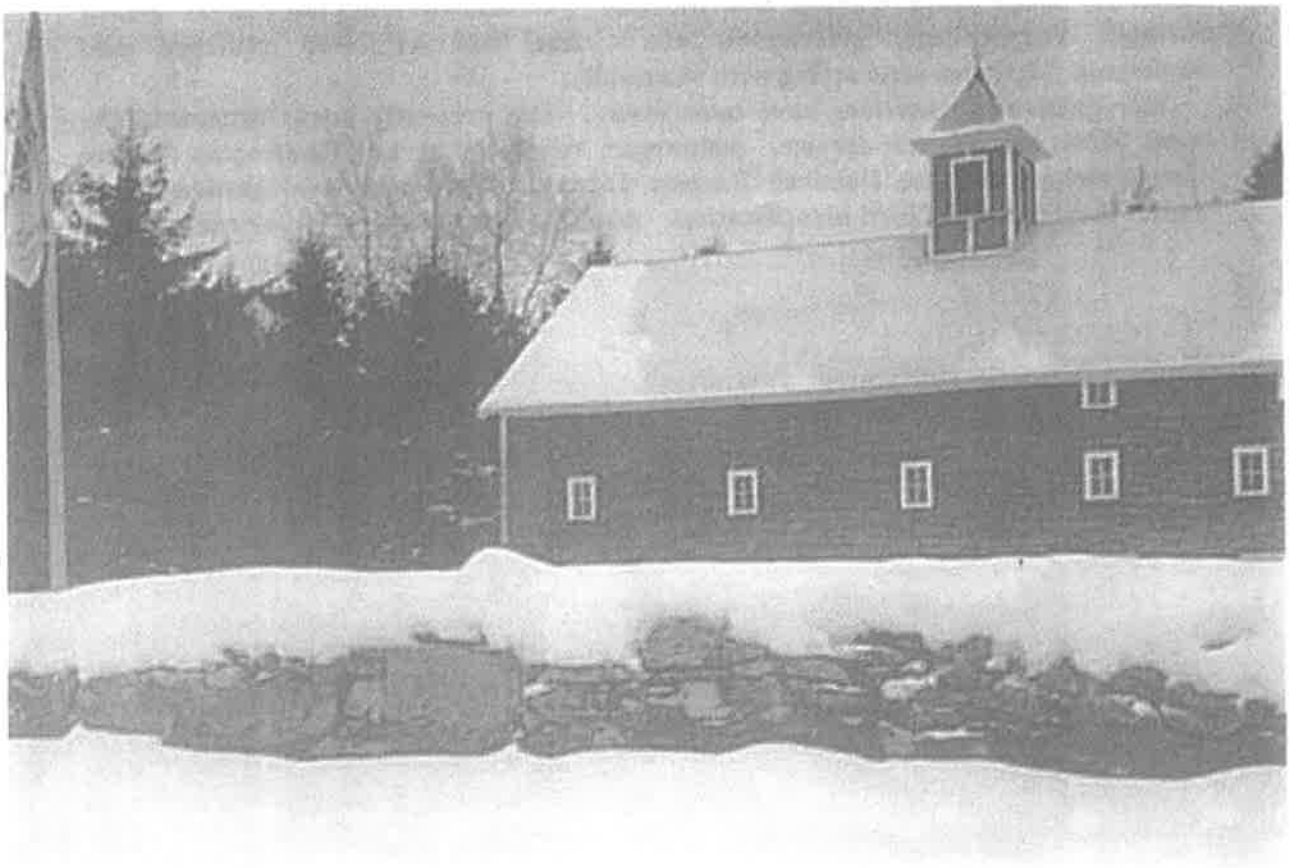
Town report covers and Kennedy portrait reproduced by Tim Durbrow

TOWN OF UNDERHILL, VERMONT

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2001





Cover: John and Polly Connell barn before and after the record snowfall of 2001.



MARY FELL

One of the founding members of Underhill's Planning Commission (1971), supporting a land use plan, a zoning ordinance and solutions for solid waste and sewage disposal. She also serves on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and has been a Lister for many years, training new members and maneuvering the Listers' Board through reappraisals, grievances, etc. She has exhibited patience and understanding when interacting with the public.

Her community services have been many. She presently keeps organized the local Meals on Wheels service, volunteers regularly at the Huntington Nature Conservancy and the Deborah Rawson Library. She is an avid gardener and expert local source of bird identification. A truly giving member of our community.



Margaret Parmelee Hummel

Town government and the people of Underhill will lose the volunteer services of Margaret Hummel after this Town Meeting. Margaret is NOT leaving town. She is still our State Representative, but she decided not to run for re-election to the Selectboard this year so she could concentrate on her legislative duties.

Margaret began serving the Town in 1987 as a member of the newly formed Solid Waste Committee. When the State mandated the closing of our landfill, Margaret was a major contributor to the Committee's plan to close it and provide another means of disposing of town trash.

She also served for five years on the Planning Commission, and again she was invaluable in major decisions. She gave up her seat as Chair of the Planning Commission when she was elected to the Selectboard in 1991.

Those who have served with her on those three boards over the years have marveled at her seemingly limitless energy and knowledge of town governance. When she doesn't know the answer to a question or a problem she studies it, talks with local or State officials and comes up with what is invariably the right solution. She has always striven to do what is best for the Town and its residents. Her intelligence, common sense and selflessness have been hallmarks of her service to the people of this community. We salute her and honor her for the good she has done for all of us.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL, VERMONT ANNUAL REPORT



Fiscal year ending June 30, 2003

DEDICATION

Loraine Dwyer – Long-time Underhill resident.. Loraine has recently moved to Burlington, but during all her years in Underhill she took part in many community projects: She was a Town Lister for some years and was a member of The Seed and Weed Garden Club, the Underhill Historical Society, the Old Cemetery Association and the Folklore Society. She is the author of *The History of Underhill* and has done many genealogical studies for many people from many states. Loraine was a graduate of UVM 's School of Engineering and has been helpful in her researching and appreciation of our historical buildings. Underhill salutes her and wishes her well in her new surroundings..



COVER PICTURE: *Humphrey Homestead, c. 1808*, now owned by Robert Best & Julia Johnson, at the corner of Main Street (Route 15) and Poker Hill Road. Jonas Humphrey was among Underhill's earliest settlers, and the rear ell of this house is among the town's earliest permanent structures. The brick main house, c. 1835, features a Greek Revival entrance and heavy stone lintels over the door and windows.

Underhill Historical Society picture. *Photo enhancement by Tim Durbrow*

TOWN OF UNDERHILL, VERMONT ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2004



Please bring this report to Town Meeting

JIM NASSAU

Jim Nassau created by hand the basic parcel map of the town. The boundaries of Underhilll lie within 18 orthophotomaps – photographs of the ground taken with specially equipped aircraft. Zilda Metcalf, then Town Clerk, copied the deeds and available survey maps for the properties on each road. Jim studied them carefully and made meticulous scaled engineering drawings for each property. Using these as templates, he fitted each property on a transparent mylar overlay on the orthophomaps. It was nearly a four-year project, completed in 1988. Jim's maps were then traced on an electronic digitizer and entered into a computer mapping program. These computerized parcel maps, based on Jim's work, are the foundation of the 911 emergency system and are used for listing and town planning as well. They are fundamental for town governance and are now taken for granted. Thanks Jim for these gifts to the town!



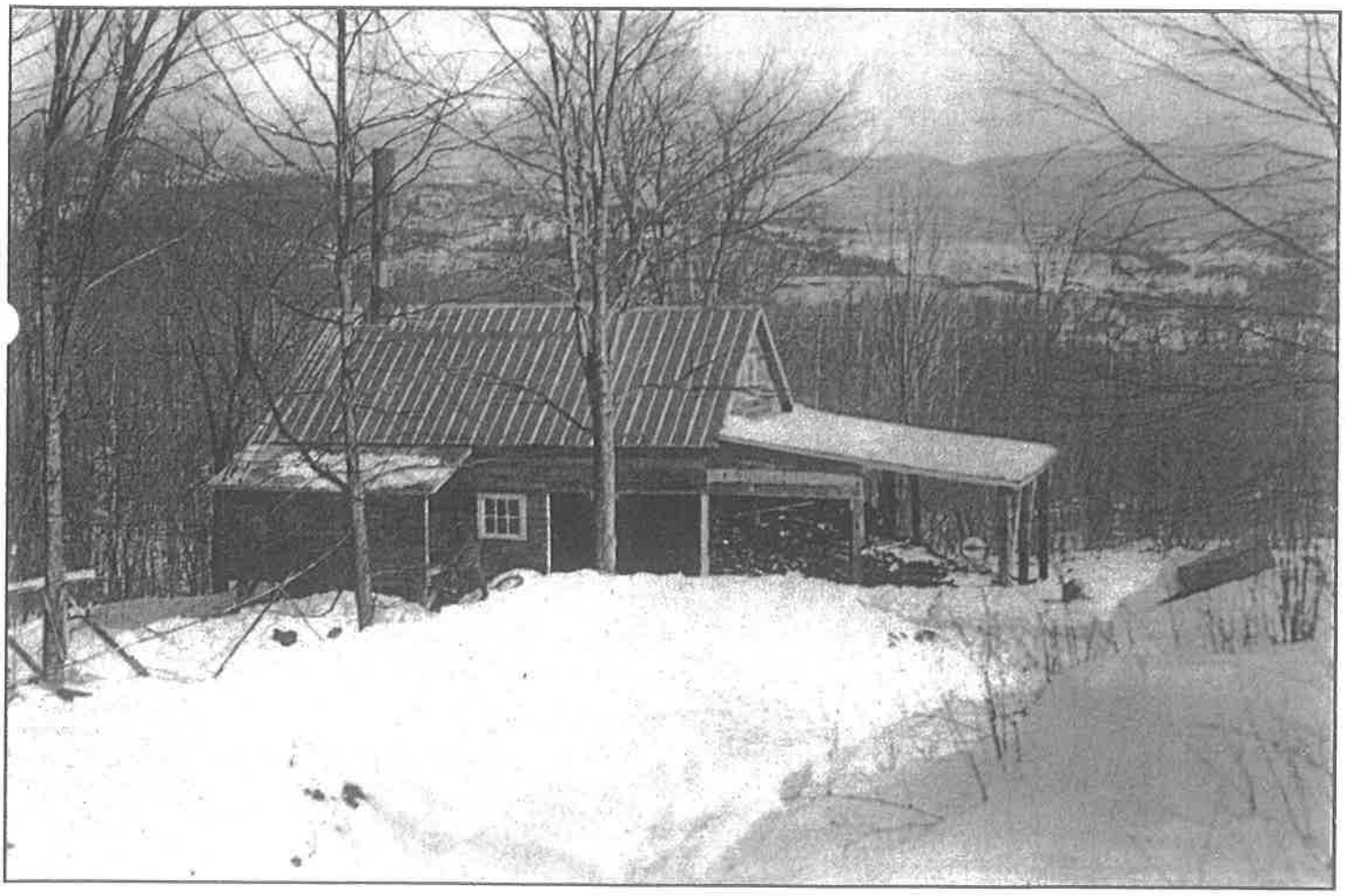


MARY JANE LEDERMAN – **Underhill Flats Postmaster**

Mary Jane had a long and varied career in the U.S. Postal System. She began her career by unloading mail bags at the Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Processing Center and moved on to operating a Zip Code machine. As Underhill Postmaster, Mary Jane renovated the Cambridge/Underhill delivery system, helped design the new Post Office, worked hard to improve the upward mobility of women in the Postal System, exhibited local art work in the Post Office and showed many individuals and small businesses how to better utilize available postal services. A reception at the Town Hall also celebrated her 20-year service in Underhill and offered best wishes for her retirement.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL, VERMONT ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2005



Please bring this report to Town Meeting

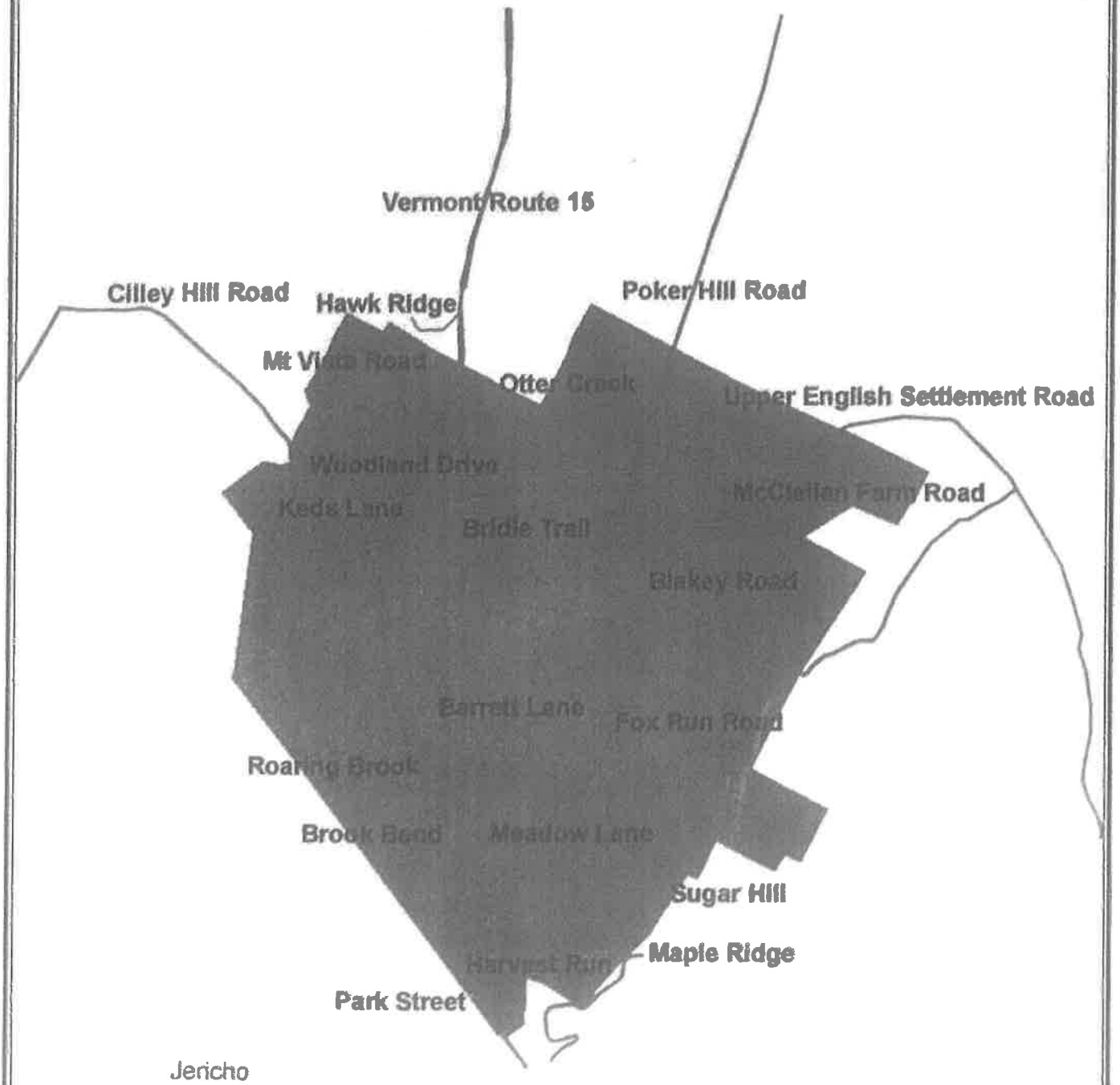


Underhill Town clerks gathered in the summer of 2005 for a historic photo!
Pictured are Luella Lamphere, Zilda Metcalf, Lou Farmer, Nancy Bradford and Sherri Morin.
Their terms cover the years from 1940 to 2006. *Photo by: Ken Morris*

Can you identify the location of the sugar house on the front cover? Please let us know.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2007



Please bring this Report and your School Report to the Town and School Meetings



Honorary Chief Randy H. Clark marked 50-years of membership with the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department in 2007. He joined the UJFD February 10, 1957 at the age of 16. Through the years he worked his way up the ranks and served as Chief from 1971 to 1987. Today Randy remains an active member and serves as Treasurer of the UJFD.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2008



Please bring this Report and your School Report to the Town and School Meetings. Pot Luck Lunch follows Town Meeting.

A TRIBUTE TO LUELLA LAMPHERE

Following is a reciting of memories by one of Luella's sons, Patrick. The Town of Underhill is grateful for the years of service Luella has contributed to us all. As Town Clerk from 1939 to 1958 she gave her experience and general knowledge to the Town. This issue of the Annual Town Report is a small but sincere nod of thanks to her.

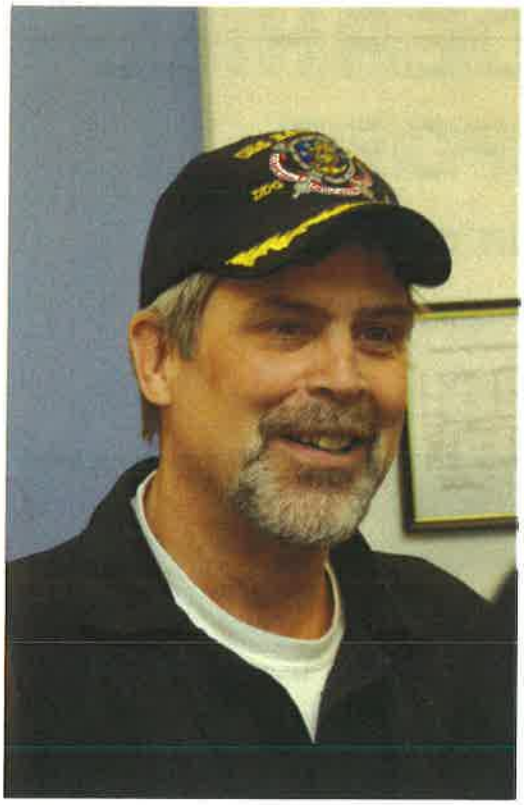
Some of my early memories of Mom include Town Clerk offices. Her father was treasurer for 41 years and clerk for 18. The clerk's office and Post Office were in their home. She assisted her father then took over the work when he became ill. She was elected Town Clerk and Treasurer in 1939 and continued for twenty years. In the early years before regular road plowing she sometimes skied to work. The office was moved to our house for a while and I would play there as a toddler. After starting grade school I would stay at the office until Mom finished work. I remember the clacking of the typewriter, hunters coming to our house at all hours to get their licenses and bringing stinky Porcupine ears which Mom had to count to determine the bounty. Men would come in barn clothes and boots and women wore aprons and hats. Mom would accept the tax payments, pay out the checks for town workers, look up information in huge ledgers, record documents and try to keep me from scribbling on important papers. I think her salary was $25 per week. It seemed as though she was always involved in the community. She helped start the hot lunch program and later she served as Selectman for a two year term. It was reported that she and Marion Fay were the first women elected to that office in Vermont. She worked in the Burlington school system and was treasurer of the Chittenden East School District for fourteen years until retirement. She worked several years on cemetery maintenance and records. In recent years she has researched and compiled historical data and written stories about the old days. In her 94th year she still finds reasons to write to various town officials about important issues. I am very proud of her contribution to our community.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009



Please bring this Report and your School Report to the Town and School Meetings. Pot Luck Lunch follows Town Meeting.



CAPTAIN RICHARD PHILLIPS

On April 8, 2009, Captain Richard Phillips, a resident of Underhill for a number of years, was taken captive by Somali pirates who had boarded his ship, the Maersk Alabama. On April 9, he was transferred to a small life boat by his captives. And three days later, on April 12th, the US Navy Seals were successful in rescuing him. His crew and ship had been escorted to their destination, Mombasa, Kenya and arrived on April 11. Captain Phillips and his family live on River Road and were the focus of much media attention during this past year. We are glad you are home, Captain Phillips!

JOAN LEHOUILLER

Joan Lehouiller, a long-time resident and Town employee as lister and most recently as Town Treasurer, has decided to retire! She and her husband, Marcel, raised their family here in Underhill and have been involved in our community in a variety of capacities throughout the years. Joan has so many interests, including the grandchildren, we know she will be busy for years to come! Congratulations Joan and best wishes for the future.

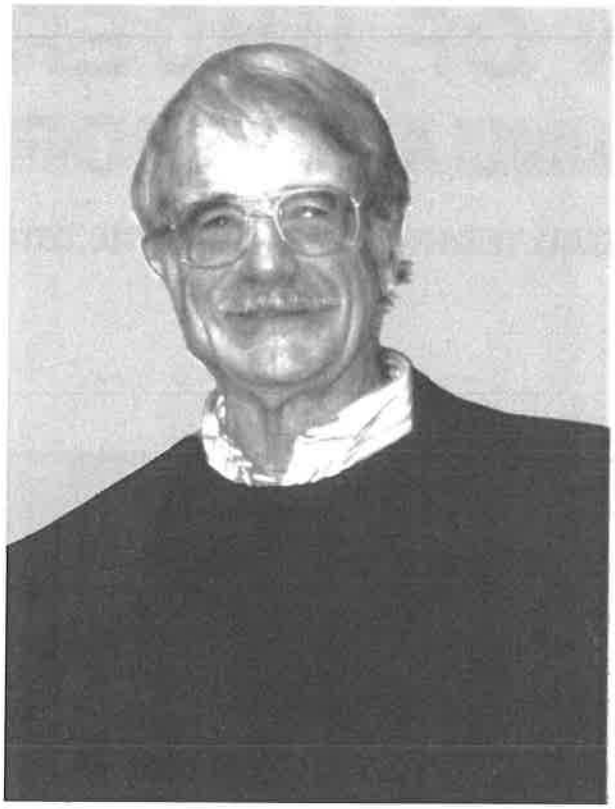


TOWN OF UNDERHILL
ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2010



Please bring this Report and your School Report to the Town and School Meetings. Potluck lunch follows Town Meeting.



STAN HAMLET

A tribute to and in memory of an able, willing and conscientious contributor to the Town of Underhill. An avid railroad/model railroad buff and baseball fan, he was also an historian of both fields, ready to fill in the dates of a certain train or the batting average of a baseball player - past or present. He was an architect and architectural historian, as well as, editor and illustrator of *The Short Line*, the monthly magazine of the National Railway Historical Society.

Stan was a member of the Underhill Planning Commission, the Development Review Board, the Selectboard and the Town's representative to the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Commission.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011



Photo courtesy of John P. Sheppard, M.D.

Please bring this Report and your School Report to the Town and School Meetings. Potluck lunch follows Town Meeting.



Suzanne Kusserow is fondly known as 'Gramma Sue' at Underhill Central, where for many years she has played guitar and taught the children new songs. Some parents may remember her role in the creation and oversight of the Town Park and as a long-time member of the Conservation Commission. Many summers have been spent, along with her husband Bill Lewis, as visitor and sometimes guide at Yellowstone National Park. Professionally, she served with the Visiting Nurse Association for over 50 years, first as director, then on the Board, providing special care in Underhill and neighboring communities. But long-time residents will remember that long before Underhill was covered by EMS, our emergency service nurse was Sue Kusserow. She seemed to be there for us at all times -- no matter what the needs or what time of day or night it might be. For so many memories, Underhill gives thanks, indeed.



Kathleen Blakey Clark, Kitty, was honored by the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department this year for being the first woman to become a Life Member, which takes 25 years of dedicated service. Kitty's association with the UJFD started over 50 years ago when she worked on the Annual Chicken Bar B Q, was a Red Phone Operator, a founding member of the UJFD Ladies Auxiliary in 1972 and remained an active member for 30 years when the auxiliary became a part of the Fire Department.

On August 24, 1986, Kitty was voted a member of the UJFD after serving the previous nine years as a fill-in dispatcher. She has served on many committees and received several awards in the last 25 years including the Building Committee for the Underhill station (Built in 1997) which met for over four years. In 1997, Kitty was recognized by her peers as the Underhill-Jericho Firefighter of the Year and in 1998, she was selected from a state-wide field of applicants and presented with the most prestigious award in the Vermont Fire Service for a non-officer, - Vermont State Firefighter of the Year. She was the first woman in the history of the Vermont State Firefighters (over 100 years) to ever receive that award. Kitty has served as Clerk of the UJFD for the last 20 years and also the Fire Prevention Coordinator. For the last 25 years, Kitty has been the UJFD's Most Dedicated Member. She has attended more emergency calls in those 25 years than any other member of the department and takes her position as Dispatcher as a priority, a true testament of her love for the UJFD. Thanks Kitty for all you have done for our community!

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2012



'The Deer Chasers'

This group of Underhill deer hunters, who called themselves "The Mount Mansfield Deer Chasers," are shown on their return from a hunting trip in 1945. The group normally hunted in the Newfane area. From left: Earle Cross, Stanley Hoag, Otis Prior, Paul Lindner, Christian Walker, Ralph Wheeler, Cerrol Carpenter, George Flynn, Elbridge Fuller and Ed Fuller.

Please bring this Report and your School Report to the Town and School Meetings. Potluck lunch follows Town Meeting.

DAVID L. SULLIVAN



When people move into a community like Underhill many of us want to give back to that community and Dave did that for 46 years. He gave freely of his time and expertise as a dedicated member of the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department and served for many years as a Chief Officer during the department's fast growing years. Dave was a quiet man but when he spoke he knew what he was talking about and you better be listening, because he was usually right! He served on seven truck and two building committees being sure that the taxpayers received value for their dollars without frills. Being a volunteer firefighter is different than serving on other committees...yes, you still have those weekly meetings but you also have training; truck; building; safety; officer meetings; and all those other things that make an organization run smooth but to top all that off, you have emergency calls to respond to and those are never planned, they could be on Christmas eve; during church; chore time; or when you just sit down to dinner with your family and you are requested to help a community member. Dave gave to the community through the UJFD and by being the Underhill Forest Fire Warden...he gave 110%. May God rest his soul.



IRENE LINDE

Long-time resident of Underhill Irene Linde is a woman who has quietly devoted countless hours to the town. Irene has served in numerous volunteer capacities over the years - as a member of the Underhill Energy Committee, as a Mount Mansfield School Director, as a Town Auditor, and, most notably, as a 32-year member of the Planning Commission. Now that's dedication! Her kindness, generosity, and, as you can see from her photo, great sense of humor have been what make Irene so well-loved in her community and beyond. So this year we recognize her contributions and say, from the bottom of our hearts, "Thank you, Rene!"

PETER SEYBOLT



In 2012 the town lost a long-time member of the Development Review Board with the passing of Peter Seybolt. Peter was a generous and giving member of the Underhill community, and provided a consistent voice for fairness and equity in matters relating to development within the town. Many of us only knew Peter through his volunteer efforts with our civic boards, but his life and the people he touched expanded far beyond the borders of the town. We feel honored to have made his acquaintance, and privileged to call him our friend. Our lives have been enriched by you. We miss you, friend.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013



On June 8, 2013, the Town of Underhill came out in big numbers to celebrate its 250th birthday! After a fantastic parade, the residents proudly posed for the town picture and sang "Happy Birthday" to the Town they love! A fun filled day of activities, entertainment and great food followed behind the Town hall.

Please bring this Report and your School Report to the Town and School Meetings. Potluck lunch follows Town Meeting.

PETER ALLENDORF

Peter Allendorf was active in town politics, serving as selectman from 1969-1971 as well as a Justice of the Peace and on the regional planning commission for Chittenden County. One of his accomplishments for the town he was most proud of was securing the former "dump" property with his fellow selectmen. He also served as moderator for the Chittenden East Supervisory District and was a member of the Chittenden East school board. He was instrumental in securing the land for the building of the Browns River Middle School, and the Underhill I.D. School. He was a member of Hannaford's Fife and Drum Corp's Color and served as auctioneer for the Harvest Market in the "early" days. Peter proudly served as a member of the Underhill/Jericho Fire Department and as a 3 term State Representative in the 1980's, where he co-sponsored the seat belt law and served on the Institutions Committee. Thank you Peter for your service to Underhill.





Town Clerks (Sherri Morin, Underhill; Amy Grover, Bolton; & Jessica Alexander, Jericho) at the Trimarker where Underhill, Bolton & Jericho meet.



The Underhill, Bolton & Jericho Trimarker is located on Ethan Allen Firing Range.

ED & BETTY MOORE



Ed and Betty Moore have always put the greatest value in life on family, faith, and community. For the past 47 years the Moores have called Underhill their home and they have unselfishly given countless hours to making Underhill a community in every sense of the word.

In 1967 Ed and Betty moved to Underhill, when Underhill's population was a mere 800 people. Shortly after moving to Underhill, Ed served his first term as Selectman and remained a member for 9 years. During those years, Ed was often called upon to serve the community in a variety of situations, from responding to domestic violence complaints to locating lost people on the mountain, to negotiating for land on Stevensville Road for the current recreation area. Ed also served as the Moderator for town and school annual meetings from 1986 through 1991.

E.T. Moore Computer Services was formed in 1983. Ed successfully installed the first computer system at the Town Hall, which allowed him to create computerized survey maps for the 1988 Town Plan. From there the town's E-911 mapping was created, along with cemetery maps and the road and culvert maps. Services that Ed contracted to other municipalities as part of his livelihood, he donated to his home town, and he continues to do so.

Betty's 25 years as a geologist served her well on the Underhill Planning Commission, as she was pivotal in drawing a zoning map based in large part on soil suitability for supporting onsite septic systems within the town. From 1978-1986 she served on the Zoning Board of Adjustment, followed by 6 years as a representative to the Regional Planning Commission. A year later Betty was asked by the Selectboard to return to the Planning Commission, where she served for the next 15 years.

Betty has written and illustrated with photographs a number of books depicting the community and history of Underhill. Her most recent editorial accomplishment is entitled: Some History of the Town of Underhill and Riverside, Vermont, an in-depth historical depiction of Underhill with chapters ranging from the area physiography to summer activities and winter sports.

The Town of Underhill wishes to thank Ed and Betty Moore for their generosity to the Town for all they have given in the past and continue to share today.

Cover: Painting entitled "Holiday Kinn" (1993, 24"x26", House Paint on Masonite) by long time Underhill resident Walt Scheffley, formerly of Stevensville Road. An exhibition of the Artist's works was sponsored by the Underhill Historical Society and hosted by the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in November 2014.

Incorporating Underhill residents and landmarks; Mr. Scheffley's paintings are celebrated for their fine detail, humorous whimsy and for showing Underhill as it was... and as it might have been. Identified with various degrees of certainty are: Lawrence Casey, Michael Jacobs, Wayne Pollard (?), Roland & Mary Ellis, Lorraine & Roy Kennedy, Zelda & Wendell Metcalf, Dr. Elliot Danforth (?) and Matt Parisi. Painting provided courtesy of Gael Boardman, who self-identifies as the torsoless legs and would appreciate assistance in identifying the remaining individuals.

Underhill Celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the Town's Charter June 8, 1763

by Rick Heh
2015

A series of events were held throughout the year, culminating in the burial of a 3,000 lb Time Capsule to be opened at our 300th Anniversary!

Included in this chapter:

- Overview and highlights of yearlong activities
- Newspaper articles describing and publicizing activities
- The flyer mailed to all town residents announcing the June 8, 2013 Parade, BBQ, Town Photo, etc.
- Schedule of June 8 activites, displays and musical performances
- Planning and scheduling documents
- Acknowledgement of major participants
- Time Capsule detail and contents
- Our Town Photo, June 8, 2013 (700+ town's people)

250th Anniversary Celebration

(June 8, 2013 – June 7, 2014)

It was an extraordinary Anniversary year, filled with numerous fun, educational and Community building activities. This chapter is intended to document the activities as well as the comprehensive planning, promotional and production processes (begun in the Fall of 2012) that enabled these events to come to life.

The 250th Anniversary Planning Committee would like to thank our town residents, family and friends who participated to make these unique events a great success. We received loads of positive feed-back, much of it centering on how these activities brought us together as a community and suggestion that we should do more of this type activity in the future. I know I speak for our diehard committee members, that the effort invested to conceive and produce events enjoyable to the broad spectrum of town folk, families, children, adults, history buffs, music lovers, friends and neighbors was truly a labor of love.

** <u>250th Anniversary Day - June 8 Festivities:</u>

The day's events began with a fabulous parade coordinated by our Road Foreman Nate Sullivan. The misty morning and thankfully warm light rain did not damper the spirit of townsfolk clustered along the River Road beginning at Lower English Settlement, culminating at Town Hall. Word having spread during weeks prior, the parade encompassed broad community participation including: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Little League baseball, Color Guard, Hannifords Fife & Drum Corps., 4H Club, Poker Hill School, street yoga acrobats Abbi Jaffe and friends, Mary Hill banner brigade, Emily Diffenderffer VW bus & children, Red Cross, Fire Department, antique automobiles. There were more tractors, Farm, Fire and Town vehicles than most of us had ever seen in one place at any one time. The excitement and joy seen on children's and adult's faces alike gave me goose bumps. Parade announcer Bill Wilson read the history of Underhill from the steps of Town Hall as the parade worked its way down the River Road on in to Underhill Center.

Immediately following the Parade as the crowd gathered in front of Town Hall, Sue Kusserrow having distributed word sheets, led a sing along of popular songs from the past 200 years. Sue kept the crowd occupied while Photographer Martin Miles prepared to take "the Town Photograph" a memento including 800+/- residents. Utilizing a most ingenious technique to insure all eyes open, Martin instructed the crowd: "now close your eyes and when I count to three, open your eyes and say 250th Anniversary." Brilliant! Aroma from the Kurt & Donna Johnson hamburger, hot dog grill team drew folks to the big tent area behind Town Hall for the "main course" Chicken Barbecue dinner and afternoon's activities. Jason and Michaela Crooks entertained children of all ages with the, sawdust /candy pile, dunking booth, greased climbing pole, ongoing games and races.

Numerous talented local musicians coordinated by Sarah Bahr (also a violinist) entertained us throughout the day. There was face painting by Cathy Leathersich, impromptu interviews by Joyce Babbitt & student Sianna DesRoches, Pie eating contests lead by Jean Archibald. Town Clerk Sherri Morin, Nancy Bradford and Betsy Page displayed an amazing array of Historical memorabilia from the Town vault including the original Town Charter. Pat Lamphere shared family treasures including a musket rifle. Scott Tower displayed detailed Ancestry family tree lineage posters at our Historic School House #5. Gary Irish demonstrated the functionality of antique tools, machines and gadgets from his extensive private collection, under a large tent set up in Ed Moore Park. Special thanks to Ellen Eccleston, Nancy Davis and Irene Linde for Night

security, food & sundries provisions & service, large banner from Coke Co. and so much more. The day's activities and fun were captured on digital media by Tim Chamberlin and his sons – beautifully edited and now available on DVD!

(Partial list of individuals who provided tractors for the Parade: Gary Irish, Gael Boardman, Chamberlins Paul, Tim & sons, Dolphia Wells, John Wursthorn, Reggie Potvin, Nate Sullivan, Bill Russel, Tom Niles, Scott Tobin, Luke Dandurand, Dan Manz, Steve & Nae Guay, Bob Ettenburger, Walter & Steve Weir)

Other major projects and activities during the Anniversary year included:

** Artistic hand painted banners hung along the roadways throughout Town: Coordinated by local artist Mary Hill, thirty three artists, friends and children, produced 86 cheerful scenes on two sided banners. Kurt Johnson and Rick Heh hung the banners on telephone poles throughout "the Flatts" and "the Center" to brighten our travel and our days. We plan to recondition the existing banners and encourage a fresh round of artistic expression to generate additional banners for following years.

** Champlain College student Spencer Salinder (Mary Hill's son) designed two versions of 250th Anniversary commemorative T-Shirts. Committee members sold approximately 750 of these T-shirts at the three local markets and via word of mouth, in support of our yearlong activities and for the benefit of our reinstituted Underhill Historical Society.

** The Fall Bus tour of Underhill historical sites was a true adventure. Dan Close (author of "A Day on the Bus") navigated some tight squeeze country roads while Gael Boardman and Betty Moore treated us to historical perspective, town lore and comic relief stories. Donuts, Cider, Coffee, historical displays and comradery were shared upstairs at Town Hall afterwards.

** The Pig Roast produced by Nate Sullivan at John & Polly Connell's Barn provided perfect opportunity for delicious "pot luck" accompaniment and excuse to socialize with friends on a weather perfect September evening.

** October Speaker events: Michael McKnight's discussion group (*Ethan Allen's philosophical views - Reason: the Only Oracle of Man*) and Vince Feeney's talk (*The Irish in Underhill*) were choice opportunities to gain insight on our notable Vermont and Underhill characters and corresponding historical context.

** The November Contra Dance coordinated by Rick Heh, held at Dave & Rebecca Rogers (Mead/Fay) barn, was a hoot with as many as 40 dancers at once moving in synch to the fiddle tunes of Brian Perkins, Eileen O'Grady and our own Sarah Barr. Peter Johnson of the Mad Robin Callers did a fantastic job of first describing the various dances (all unique), then talking us through step by step, on this thankfully mild and full moon evening.

** Burial of a Time Capsule (to be opened in 50 years) was delayed until early Summer 2015 – the final day of the anniversary year. The "capsule" consists of a 2,800lb concrete casket vault nearly eight feet in length. Intent was to encapsulate items familiar to us in 2013. The committee collected hundreds of items and documents encompassing subject matter: household, hygiene, entertainment, sports, toys, money, social, business and technology including a Keurig coffee machine, two cell phones and a laptop computer. To round out our collection and insure we adequately represented our culture, Gael Boardman, Kurt Johnson and Rick Heh went on an afternoon shopping adventure to acquire representative sporting equipment, children's games,

toys and household goods. A late breaking idea, we offered parents the opportunity to write a letter to their children and/or grandchildren, whom we hope will be around for the mystery and excitement fifty years hence when the capsule / vault is unearthed during the Town's 300th anniversary. To aid our memory as to where and how the capsule was buried, a plaque containing necessary information is mounted in our Town Hall office. This all should prove quite interesting for our youth of today (adults in 2063 !) many of whom also contributed an essay with predictions on what life may be like 50 years from now. I wonder how accurate the predictions will be ?!

** The Recording of Interviews of long term citizens project was initiated and captured a half dozen detailed conversations with willing townsfolk. Focus being our senior residents who grew up in Underhill preferably in the 1930's / 1940's. We would like continue this effort and acknowledge the challenge being how/where (media) to best store and safeguard these recordings.

Planning Committee Mission Statement

To learn about the past history of the Town of Underhill
To honor some of its long-term residents
To reach a broad scope of people via meaningful programs
To regard and envision its future
To carry forward a residual of community pride

Special acknowledgement to journalist and author Ted Tedford who initiated a call to action on Front Porch Forum suggesting back in the early Fall of 2012 that we organize and plan for our 250th Anniversary; and to Ted and Sue Kusserow who produced Mtn Gazette and other public relations articles; and to Sue who regularly instructed us as to proper grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Chair of 250th Anniversary Planning Committee - Rick Heh

Underhill: 250 Years Young

By Phyl Newbeck, June 6, 2013

The Essex Reporter

Right on the heels of Jericho's 250th anniversary celebration on June 1, comes the sestercentennial for the town of Underhill on June 8. Jericho celebrated its anniversary with walking tours of its two historic village centers, a historical display at Town Hall, recognition of descendants of the town's original settlers, and a concert by the Vermont National Guard 40th Army Band.

Underhill has been planning its party for over half a year and it's looking like it will be a gala event. The town has already gotten into the spirit of things with forty double-sided festive banners which were painted by residents under the direction of artist Mary Hill. Hanging from telephone poles, the banners have already elicited praise on the local Front Porch Forum. Recent rains knocked some of the banners down but new brackets have been purchased to get them reinstalled. In the fall, the banners will be moved to indoor locations.

Since annual events like the Memorial Day Parade and Harvest Market take place in Underhill Flats, members of the anniversary committee decided to focus the festivities in Underhill Center. The anniversary celebration will begin with a 10 a.m. parade which will include at least 20 tractors, leading from English Settlement Road to the Underhill Elementary School. At noon, residents are encouraged to gather in front of Town Hall for a town-wide photo to be taken by Martin Miles. The Underhill Jericho Fire Department will set up scaffolding across the street for the wide-angle shot. Miles has suggested that the assembled Underhillians sing happy birthday while he composes the shot. After the picture is taken, people can start smearing barbecue sauce on their smiling faces courtesy of a chicken barbecue put on by Weatherbee's Catering (the same folks who take care of the annual fire department barbecue) at Moore Park. An extra grill has been donated for the day so hamburgers and hotdogs can be added to the feast.

The afternoon will be filled with a variety of events including music, children's games and historical displays. Sarah Barr, a local high school student and fiddler, is in charge of the music. From 12:30 to 5 p.m., a minimum of seven musical acts will perform sets of 30 to 60 minutes. The children's games are all throwbacks to the past and will include a dunking booth, a greased pole, sack races and sawdust/candy pile. Rick Heh, chair of the anniversary committee, said children in three different age groups will be invited sequentially to dig in the sawdust pile for wrapped candies. He has been assured that not only is there enough candy for all but when the pile is "recycled" to be used as animal bedding, invariably more is found. Tents have been secured for the various events in case of rain and there will be three port-a-lets including one that is handicap accessible.

There will be historical displays at both Town Hall and School House #5, and a small information booth borrowed from the Harvest Market to provide maps and directions. School House #5 was cleaned and brought up to code for the occasion. Decades of storage and trash was removed from the second floor by roughly 25 volunteers. In the process they found a number of VHS tapes of groups of residents talking about the history of the town. A committee is being formed to look into ways to re-use the old structure and continue its rehabilitation. The old school house will have a display of vintage photographs, enlarged to 8x10, as well as some ancestry documents. Gary Irish's PowerPoint presentation of Underhill past and present has been converted to DVD and will run as a continuous loop in the building. At Town Hall there will be a collage display of photographs superimposed on oversized maps showing former buildings in town.

A farmers' market will be set up next to the old school house and a variety of antique farm equipment and vehicles will be on display outside in Moore Park. Throughout the afternoon, middle school students will interview citizens so history can be recorded for the next anniversary celebration. At 3 p.m., a no-hands pie eating contest will take place, designed for maximum messiness with chocolate cream pie with whipped cream. The festivities will end with some of the vintage vehicles taking a spin through town.

In addition to this being Underhill's 250th anniversary, it is also the centennial for the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department and the 50th anniversary of the local Boy Scout troop. The UJFD will have historical displays and equipment at Moore Park and the scouts will also provide information on their history in town.

Heh is looking forward to seeing his committee's plans come to fruition. "Over the past eight months, our team of volunteers has evolved a multitude of ideas into concrete activities catering to all ages," he said. "I am especially proud of the beautiful and unique banners decorating and setting Underhill apart from all other towns. For me personally, it has been a pleasure working with our diverse group of committed neighbors, who I know feel a great sense of satisfaction in all that we have accomplished leading up to our big day. Let the party begin."

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE

Help Underhill throw a 250th Anniversary party

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Underhill is throwing a party. On June 8, the town will celebrate its 250th anniversary with a parade, a historical display, a town-wide photo shoot and a hearty barbecue. Planning for the event began in December and is overseen by a committee which includes Town Clerk Sherri Morin, Gael Boardman, Mary Hill, Nate Sullivan, Ted Tedford and Bill Wilson, and is chaired by Rick Heh. Several other residents have also lent a hand to plan the celebration.

The backbone of the anniversary celebration will be a parade which will end with a barbecue and a town photo. At this point, the exact route for the parade has yet to be determined but ideally the committee would like the gathering to end at the Underhill Central School. Since other town-wide celebrations such as the Memorial Day Parade and Harvest Market are centered in the Underhill Flats/Riverside area, the plan is to honor the 250th anniversary in Underhill Center. The goal is to hold the celebration in an area where there is sufficient parking for people to walk to the various events.

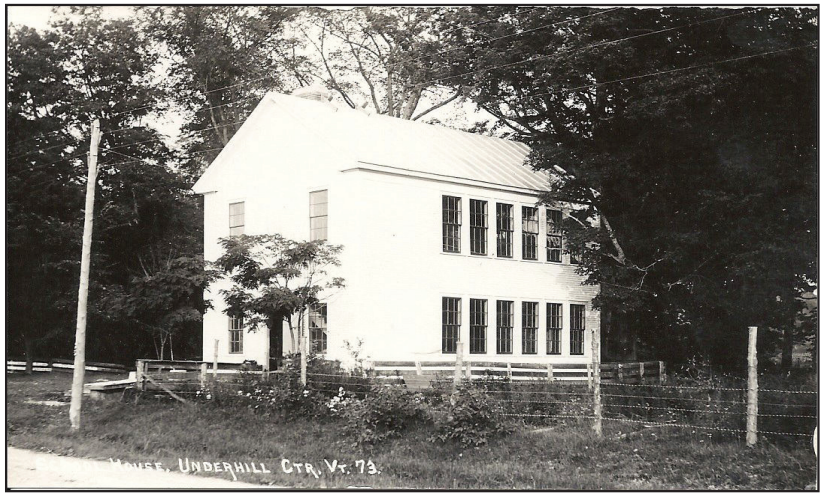
For several years, the Underhill Historical Society has been on hiatus, but the group has been revitalized by the anniversary planning. The anniversary planning committee hopes the old District 5 school house can be used as part of the celebration, perhaps for a living history celebration with people dressed in historically appropriate clothing. Care of the building which was last used seven or eight years ago as temporary town offices is entrusted to the Historical Society.

In addition to the parade, the cornerstone of the celebration will be a barbecue which might utilize the same people who put together the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department's annual Labor Day event, and a town photo. The committee is currently looking for someone with a wide-angle lens who would be able to photograph a large group of people. There is a possibility the photo shoot might have to be moved indoors but the committee is counting on good weather. A variety of contests and games for children will be scheduled during the festivities and old tractors and automobiles will be on display.

Various historical exhibits will also be part of the celebration. Gary Irish will probably do a slide show and Sherri Morin, Betsy Page and Nancy Bradford will put together several collages of photographs imposed on oversized old maps. One map will incorporate all the information Ed Moore has collected on the seven cemeteries in Underhill while others might highlight historic buildings.

The planning committee hopes to use the anniversary as the impetus to put together an oral history of the town. Volunteers are being solicited to interview people who have been in Underhill for over fifty years. Joyce Babbit will recruit students to do shorter, more generic interviews with residents during the course of the June 8 celebration.

Prior to the event, artist Mary Hill is hoping to get residents to paint banners which would be hung from telephone poles in town. The committee will supply the materials and the hope is that residents will create colorful displays to commemorate the anniversary. The banners would stay up throughout the summer and the move indoors into some of the public buildings in the fall. Another, slightly less creative project could involve painting and maintenance of the District 5 school house.



From the collection of Gary Irish

Planning Committee Chair Rick Heh hopes more town residents will volunteer to help plan the anniversary events. At Town Meeting Day he will be displaying three T-shirts designed by a Champlain College student with potential town logos and requesting feedback on which should be used for the celebration. The committee is also soliciting old photographs to copy and use for displays. Ironically, there are quite a lot of old photos available but less from the 1950's, 60's and 70's.

The anniversary planning committee meets every Tuesday at 6:00 PM at Town Hall and would welcome additional members. Those interested should contact Rich Heh at *rheh@us.ibm.com*.



The Planning committee, holding banners to be mounted on telephone poles. Left to right: Ted Tedford, Bill Wilson, Rick Heh, Nate Sullivan, Rita St.Germain, Irene Linde, Betsy Page, Nancy Davis, Kurt Johnson, Sarah Barr, Sue Kusserow. Taking the picture: Abbi Jaffe & Gael Boardman

Underhill to kick off 250th anniversary with a June 8 parade through Center

By Ted Tedford

Mark your calendar for June 8.

That's the day when Underhill celebrates its 250th anniversary with a parade and lots of fun activities for kids and adults.

A parade will form on English Settlement Road, start off at 10:30 AM and end up at Underhill Central School.

Among the parade participants will be Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, several floats, a band and several volunteer Fire Departments, including the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department. That department is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Nate Sullivan is coordinating the parade assisted by Richard Becker who has organized the Underhill-Jericho Memorial Parade for years.

Residents and town groups wishing to join the parade should contact the Underhill 250th Anniversary Committee at the Town Hall.

There will be several activities at the Town Hall and events at the District 5 Schoolhouse,

Town photo shoot planned at Underhill's June 8 party

By Ted Tedford

Smile! You'll be on camera with a whole bunch of other town residents.

At least if you want to be.

As part of Underhill's 250th anniversary celebration Saturday June 8, townspeople will be asked to gather in front of the Town Hall for a town picture.

Professional photographer Mark Miles of Underhill will be across Pleasant Valley Road in Moore Park where he will take the photo.

Every resident of the town is invited to betake part in the photo session and a host of other events preceding the photo and after.

The day will start off with a parade starting at English Settlement Road. It will proceed east on River Road to Pleasant Valley, past the Town Hall where most of the day's events are scheduled to take place and end at Underhill Central School.

Following the photo session there will be a barbeque behind the town hall, at about 12:30 p.m. During the barbeque and the rest of the afternoon, there will be musical entertainment by local musicians, also on the Town Hall grounds. The anniversary committee has arranged for a large tent to accommodate diners.

A display of town maps and photo collages of Underhill will be set up upstairs in the Town Hall.

There will be something for the kids, too. They are invited to enjoy games in back of the Town Hall after the barbeque. And if anyone is still hungry after the barbeque, a pie-eating contest is scheduled in the Town Hall grounds.

About mid-afternoon June 8, a caravan of old cars owned and driven by members of the Vermont Auto Enthusiasts will come

Photo continued on page 12

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

You are Invited to a Birthday Party

250TH CELEBRATION



UNDERHILL • VERMONT • 1763

Come Join Us !!

* Saturday June 8th *

10:00 Parade begins (from Lower English Settlement Road)
Parade ends @ Underhill Elementary School

12:00 Town Photo - In front of Town Hall
- All residents encouraged to join in!
- Martin Miles is our Photographer

12:30 Chicken Barbecue begins
- Local Performers provide Music & Song
- Children's Games and Activities
- Displays in Town Hall and Old School House #5
- Antique Farm Equipment & vehicles
- Farmer's Market
- Impromptu Interviews for posterity
- Commemorative T-shirts for sale ($12.00)

..... and more.... See Activities next page...

3:00 Pie-Eating Contest (no hands!)

Sometime between 3-4pm Vermont Auto Enthusiasts will drive through UnderhillCenter

Displays & Equipment-viewing through early evening...

Underhill residents Barbeque

Donations accepted

*** *For planning purposes we need to know how many are coming* ***

Leave a message with one of the following:

Ellen Eccleston – 899-2125

Betsy Page – 899-2123

Nancy Davis – 899-2554

Tell us the number of adults & children

Community Project

Old School House #5

May 11, 9am – Noon

Hosted by our Underhill Historical Society

* Clear 2nd floor contents

* Building & Grounds Clean-up

*** Contact: Pete Czaja 899-5439 ***

Underhill Historical Society

Activities Detail & Volunteer opportunities !

Activities Detail

Entire Town "group" Photo by Martin Miles

Old School House #5 (Historical Society)

- Photos & ancestry documentation
- Gary Irish (historian) video presentation

Farmer's Market – adjacent to Old School House

Children's Games: Dunking booth, Greased pole, Sack races, Sawdust /Candy pile and much more

Underhill Musicians performing throughout the afternoon

Pie-Eating Contest

Impromptu Interviews by Joyce Babbitt's Middle and High School students

Fire Department Displays (100 year Anniversary)

Boy Scouts (50 year Anniversary)

Chicken Barbeque grilled by Weatherbees

Participate or Volunteer Contact

Join the Parade ! We'll provide the wagon; or walk, or march	Nate Sullivan 899-4732
Show off your old or Antique vehicle and Farm equipment	Ted Tedford 899-4447
Join in with the Musicians Share your Music..	Sarah Bahr 777-5094
Pickup & Drop-off local tables & Picnic tables. Set up tents.	Nate Sullivan 899-4732
Site & Food tent Set-up	Abbi Jaffe 318-3927
Evening & Night Security Friday & Saturday	Ellen Eccleston 899-2125
Help with Children's Games	Jason Crooks 899-5139
Grill attendants needed for burgers & dogs	Abbi Jaffe 318-3927
Break down & Clean-up Sunday	Abbi Jaffe 318-3927
Chairman – 250 Celebration Committee; Misc. Questions	Rick Heh 899-2747, 355-0228

Underhill History…

(By Ted Tedford)

Underhill history began June 8, 1763 when a group of speculators bought grants issued by New Hampshire Royal Governor Benning Wentworth. In 1749, Wentworth began selling grants in what would later become Vermont despite claims on the land by the Province of New York and a subsequent order by King George III to cease. Wentworth became rich, pocketing a 20-Pound fee paid by each of usually 60 grantees per town and reserving two shares comprising 500 acres for himself. A Group of speculators, including Joseph Sackett Jr. and members of the Underhill family, were the original properties June 8, 1763 in land that would become Underhill. None of the speculators lived in town.

Underhill Buries Vault for 50 Years



Gael Boardman and Kurt Johnson guide as Nate Sullivan lowers the 3,000 lb capsule into the ground using an excavator. *photo Rick Heh*

Underhill's residents buried a 3,000 lb time capsule on June 7 atop Casey's Hill on Pleasant Valley Road.

The 30 by 80 foot sealed concrete vault contained hundreds of items and was buried in a brief ceremony. The capsule is to remain sealed for 50 years. Among the items included in the capsule were sports and electronic equipment, letters from children at Underhill Central and the ID School about what they think life will be like, town reports, and information from churches, clubs and other organizations.

Underhill celebrated the 250th anniversary of receiving its royal charter as a town on June 7, 2013. The capsule burial was the final work of the town's anniversary committee. (Free Press staff)



Rick Heh, chairman of the 250th anniversary committee, reads the dedication. *photo Ted Tedford*



Items to be included in the capsule are seen in the Town Hall, with the event committee in the background. Left to right: Ted Tedford, Rick Heh, Irene Linde, Nate Sullivan, Gael Boardman, Kurt Johnson.



Mike Diffenderfer, center, Pam Billings, far left, their children, local residents and town officials share the task of shoveling dirt to cover the capsule. *photo Rick Heh*



Rick Heh, Kurt Johnson, Irene Linde and Gael Boardman pause for a photo at the town garage while loading items into the vault. *photo Rick Heh*



Kurt Johnson is lowered via excavator bucket into a 9 foot hole, so he can square off the corners and edges in order to fit the time capsule.



Time Capsule Contents



Project coordinator Mary Hill displaying two of the 40+ two sided banners hung throughout Underhill beginning in 2013.

Underhill 250th Time Capsule

Items included in the +/- 3,000 lb concrete vault capsule

Technology

Dell Laptop comp. Windows-7
I phone
flip phone
land line phone
Sony Cybershot digital camera
Minolta (film) Camera
Calculator
Crank LED flashlight (2)
iPod Docking station & speakers
VHS/DVD player
flash drive

Town Items

Town report
2012 ballot
250th T shirts
250th banners
250th town pic
Photos around town
2010 Town plan

Sports

Baseball - hard ball(s)
Ultimate frisbee
roller blades
Football
Baskeball
Soccer ball
Titlest Golf balls
Darts
Tennis balls - Penn
Shuttle cocks - badmitten

Appliances

Hair dryer
Electric Dryer
Electric Clock
Digital Clock
Keurig Coffee maker
Toaster
Light bulbs (incandecent)
Light bulbs (energy saver)
Stapler

Media

Mtn Gazette issues
Seven Days
Many many different current magazines
Betty Moore History of Underhill chapters & the Moore family history
Captain Philips movie DVD
Store adds & various price lists
Flyers, calendars & info. from local businesses
Town Phone book
Fairpoint phone book

United Church of Underhill

Harvest Market 2003-13
Harvest Market 35th dvd
United church of Underhill

Scouts

handbook
roster
troop pic
neckerchief / patch

Schools

Underhill ID

Student predictions
for the future
faculty/staff pic
school calendar
Lunch menu
text books

MMU High School

Yearbook 2013

Schools

Und. Central Sch.

Student predictions
for the future
Autographed baseball
Photo book
other

Fire Dept

100th Anniversary publication
911 medal
100th T shirt & mug

Miscellaneous

Dog tags
Candy - M&M's, twizzlers
Town Photo (700+ town folk)
Switchback bottle
Heady Topper beer can
Vt related T-shirts
Sun glasses (4 pr)
Rolls of 2013 Coinage, Bills &
Vt commerative quarters (40)
Popular cereals (4 bx)
Bowling ball, Kiss album (what?)
15ft 250th Celebration banner
Pringles potato chips
The Psychology of Winning
- cassette & course materials
Pkg of mechanical pencils
Pkg of Georgia Pacific paper
Tooth paste (2), tooth brushes
Hunting & Fishing liciences
Stamps
Ben & Jerry's cartons
etc. etc…

Toys

Spider-Man- Action figure
Radio control truck
Barbie dolls (2)
Crayons
Coloring book
Popular movies game
Lego - childs train
Lego - Ninjaq warcraft
Lego - Disney Princess
Disney Princess pom-poms
Hot Wheels (2) cars
Game - on Current movies

Letters written

by
Parents to their
children and
grandchildren…

Dedication

read prior to burial on
June 7 by R.Heh.
and
other documents assoc.
with the burial.

LETTER to: Underhill Town Residents on 2063

Dear Friends, neighbors and descendants of Underhill:

If you are reading this, then we are somewhat successful. Fifty years ago we celebrated Underhill's 250th birthday by looking back and musing ahead. We wonder if at the town's 300th anniversary you will do the same.

What you have come across here are out musings. This time capsule was a community effort to gather and show you a little of Underhill and the world in 2013. There is nothing of great economic value herein, sorry … but we have assembled some things that might give you a glimpse of our era and some of our guesses as to what you might be dealing with 50 years hence.

These items break down into several categories, the town, schools, churches, organizations, sports, games, toys, technology, fashion, publications, politics, food and economics.

We committed these things with community support and ceremony and we are hoping you will recover them in the same way. We hope that before dispersal or disposal you will be able to display these pieces of the past in a local public place, the Town Hall, or a school with some support from the entities involved – schools, churches, etc.

We hope that our school children's' predictions will be shared with current students (and maybe) by the media. We hope you will contribute the town and community items to the town historical society. The technology things will surely be inoperative artifacts; we trust you to find good homes for them. (We wonder if any of them will still work). The sports items, games and toys should be auctioned off to benefit the historical society which we hope will still be thriving.

We have had fun celebrating our community at 250 years of age. It was good getting all of our residents to think of Underhill as our home town. It's a good town. Our wishes go forward to you, hoping that you love and respect Underhill in 2063 as we did in 2013. If you consider a time capsule of your own, please include this picture of us taken during our 250th birthday. We would like to be a part.

Best wishes and good luck.

We folks of Underhill, 2013

Read by Rick Heh - June 7, 2014

Underhill 250th celebration 1763-2013

Thank you !

On behalf of the town, our 250th Planning Committee expresses its special appreciation to the following individuals, corporations, and organizations for their support.

- Wells Corner Market, Jacobs Store, Underhill Country stores: For T-shirt Sales
- Underhill Country Store- Peter & Nancy Davis: For securing corporate and food donations
- The Select Board: For commitment of resources for the events
- Mary Hill: For Celebration Banners project
- First Step Printers: For Printing our Flyer, sent to all Town residents
- Blue Flame Gas: For use of their Barbecue Grill
- Underhill Historical Society: For its Rebirth in celebration of this event
- Coca-cola corporation: For announcement banners
- Martin Miles: For town picture (Photograph prints available -<petcare@greenmountainpetprofessionals.com>)
- Spencer Salinder: For T-shirts and Logo designs
- Emily & Michael Diffenderffer: For use of their property
- Underhill-Jericho Fire Department (celebrating their centennial): For supporting work

And with special appreciation to:

* Sarah Bahr for coordination musical entertainment
* Abbi Jaffe coordination of volunteers & site set up
* Ted Tedford for public relations
* Tim Chamberlin For videography, DVD & technical support
* Jason Crooks for arranging and running children's games
* Rick Heh for his leadership of the Underhill 250 Planning Committee
* Nate Sullivan for his work and guidance in Planning and arrangement the events
* And finally . . . for the many members of the community (known and anonymous) who volunteered their time energy and resources !

Visit Selectboard - Thursday May 23.

- Rick Heh, Nate Sullivan, Ann Linde

(Reconcile Actual & projected spending for "250 Celebration activities)

Donations:

BBQ for 250 persons (food, drinks, extras)	Est. Value:	3,500.
Tents (appox. 3 small)	Est. Value:	1,500.
Dumpster	Est. Value:	150.
Professional 5' Grill	Est. Value:	160.
Printing at cost	Saved:	150.
Photographer (Town Photo)	Est. Value:	150.
Donation $100		100.
Road Banners, Misc. Food, beverages & sundries From Coke, Foods, etc.	Est. Value:	1,000.

Total Cost Reduction: 7,150

Expenses:

Print /Mail Flyer to all Town residents: Printing @ cost: 400.
Postage 224.80
(1405 addresses / 44 cents per household) Total: 624.80

Banners (42) telephone poles:		
	Canvas & scissors (50% discount)	252.83
	Paint	272.83
	Brackets (20/25% discount)	349.42*
	PVC pipe: (12% discount no tax)	34.33
	Screws, Grommets, Rope:	41.08
	Total:	< 950.49

(* will Return portion of failing brackets $40-75.)

(Cost ~ $22 per Banner vs. ~ $130 per Banner commercially)

Food Tent (40 x 60)	2,467.44
Portable Toilets (7)	733.80

Total Expenses to date: 4,776.53

Volunteers needed for various Committees

Area **(Organization and/or Lead Contact Person)**

1) Traffic Control (Judy Kellner / Fire Dept.?)

2) Parade Marshal (Nate Sullivan)

3) Town Photo - people management (Martin Miles / R.Heh)

4) Food Service (Deliver food, serve & manage plates, utensils, cups, drinks, etc.)
(Nancy, Polly, Sherri, N.Davis, Ellen....)

5) Trash management during the day (Mike Henry)
- Mike supply cans, Underhill Country Store supply HD trrash bags

6) Displays Security on June 8 (Judy Kellner / I.Linde +...)
Equipment Security - over night (Judy Kellner)
Site / Tents Security - over night (Ellen Eccleston & family)

7) Site preparation - brushhog, grounds (Gael)

8) Coordinate "list" who will loan (tables, chairs, picnic tables & where located? (Nate)

9) Coordinate "pick-up" of the above (Nate & friends)

10) Setting up Tables, chairs, (Nate, Abbi, etc.)

11) Coordinate return of borrowed items (tents, tables, chairs, etc.) (Nate & friends)

12) Coordinate return of equipment, tools, display materials (Nate & friends)

13) Musicians communications & schedules (Sarah Bahr)
- Do we need Sound System ?

14) Children's Games (Jason Crook)

15) Pie Eating Contest (N.Davis with help....)

16) Clean up following event (Bill, Nancy, Polly, Ellen & Bruce, etc....)

UNDERHILL 250TH Celebration 1763-2013

Schedule

10:00 Parade from Lower English Settlement road to Underhill Elementary school.

12:00 Town Photo in front of Town Hall. All residents are encouraged to join in !

12:30 Chicken Barbecue Reservations accepted first. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs available for all (Donations Accepted)

12:30-5:00 Activities

* Local Performers provide music and song- (See separate music schedule)
* Children's games and activities
* Displays in town hall & old schoolhouse #5
* Antique Farm Equipment and vehicles
* Farmers' market @ Old School House
* Impromptu interviews for prosperity – Brief Question & Answer by students (Interview tent)
* Commemorative T Shirts for Sale- Vermont Historical Society Tent
* Information booths-civic organizations

Special events

* **3:00 Pie eating contest**
* **~4:20 Antique Auto Club Parade**
  - Will Drive through Underhill Center between 4:20–5:00pm

Underhill 250th celebration 1763-2013

Schedule of musical events

12:30-1:00 Sarah Hotchkiss

1:00-1:30 "Owl Stars" with Andy & Elizabeth Patterson

1:30-2:30 Shaun & Shelby King (Brothers- "King Me")

2:30-3:00 Ed Moore's band

3:00-3:30 Sarah Bahr, Mark Sustic, Sarah King, Johanna Taylor, Maria Naumann (portion of "The Fiddleheads")

3:30-4:00 Alex Cliff & Friends

4:00-4:30 Regina Christenson & Stephen Whiteley

4:30-5:00 Paul Rocheleau - keyboards

5:00-5:30 "The Lesser Gentlemen."

Plentiful news articles publicizing 250 Celebration events throughout the year

Underhill to bury time capsule

By Ted Tedford

Underhill's 250th Anniversary Committee will bury a huge concrete time capsule atop Casey's Hill on Pleasant Valley Road, Underhill Center, at 12:00 noon Saturday, June 7.

Committee Chairman Rick Heh urged townspeople to attend the final event of the committee's efforts that that began two years ago. Then last year on June 8, hundreds of Underhill residents and others marked the 250th anniversary of a royal charter issued by a British governor that founded the town.

On June 7 in a brief ceremony, an 80"x30" concrete burial vault containing hundreds of artifacts will be lowered into a large hole on top of the popular sliding hill and then covered over. Soon after, a plaque will be set above the capsule, marking its location, with instructions for town residents 50 years from now to dig it up and see what life was like at the time of its burial.

Among the hundreds of artifacts included will be everyday things people used – household items, electronics and sports equipment, pictures and letters from Underhill school children about what they think life will be about 50 years in the future, town reports, a town plan, current magazines, and information from local churches, businesses, clubs, and other organizations.

Hundreds of items have been sealed in waterproof bags and will be placed in the capsule the morning before the ceremony. Members of the anniversary committee have been gathering the artifacts for several months.

The capsule's burial will be the final event of last June's anniversary that included a parade, sit-down dinner and barbeque, old-time equipment, games, music, and a picture of more than 800 celebrants taken in front of the Town Hall.

Underhill was founded June 8, 1763 when a group of speculators bought grants issued by New Hampshire's royal governor, Benning Wentworth. Among the proprietors were Joseph Sackett Jr. and members of the Underhill family. None of them lived in the town.

Wentworth's grants, sold in much of what is now Vermont, set off a bitter struggle between "Yorkers," settlers from the colony of New York, and "Vermonters," among them Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys.

King George II had set the New York boundary east of the Hudson River. His successor, King George III changed that, moving the line farther east, to the Connecticut River, invalidating the Vermonters' claims. New York courts then ruled that the settlers in the Green Mountain State would have to buy their land all over again. That set off a long struggle, with the Green Mountain Boys "removing" the "Yorkers."

Underhill Town News

Peppery Porker to please the public – Fall Pig Roast - The 250 Anniversary Committee, formed to commemorate Underhill's incorporation as a Town, is still busy! The enthusiastic numbers for the Town Party convinced us that we should keep the momentum going, right to the end of the 250th year: 2013. One way to do that is to take advantage of the skills of one of our committee members: Nate Sullivan. He has volunteered, not only his expertise on how to roast a pig to a crinkly-skinned perfection, but the pig itself.

September 14, Fall Pig Roast, Connell's Barn, Krug Road, Underhill Center - Come at 2:00 PM to watch the chef at work; servings will be ready at approximately 3:00 PM. Corn on the cob will be done by the committee. We are asking for donations of salads and desserts. No reservations are necessary. BYOB. If you can bring chairs, stools and light tables, that would be a good idea. We are arranging ample parking. Please call any committee member for more details: Sandy Gillim, 3106; Irene Linde, 4734; Rick Heh, 2747; Gael Boardman, 2260; Ted Tedford, 4447; Sue Kusserow, 2215 Mike McKnight, 4185; Nate Sullivan, 4732. What a great way to celebrate our Town!

We also have plans right through December 2013:

October 12: Bus Tours to historical sites, with tea and cookies at our last stop. By donation and reservation; more details later.

October 30: Vince Feeney, The Irish in Underhill, Rawson Library

Mid-November: Michael Mcknight: The Philosophical views of Ethan Allen, Rawson Library

Early December: Contra Dance

Cub Scouts registering now

Donate items for Underhill time capsule

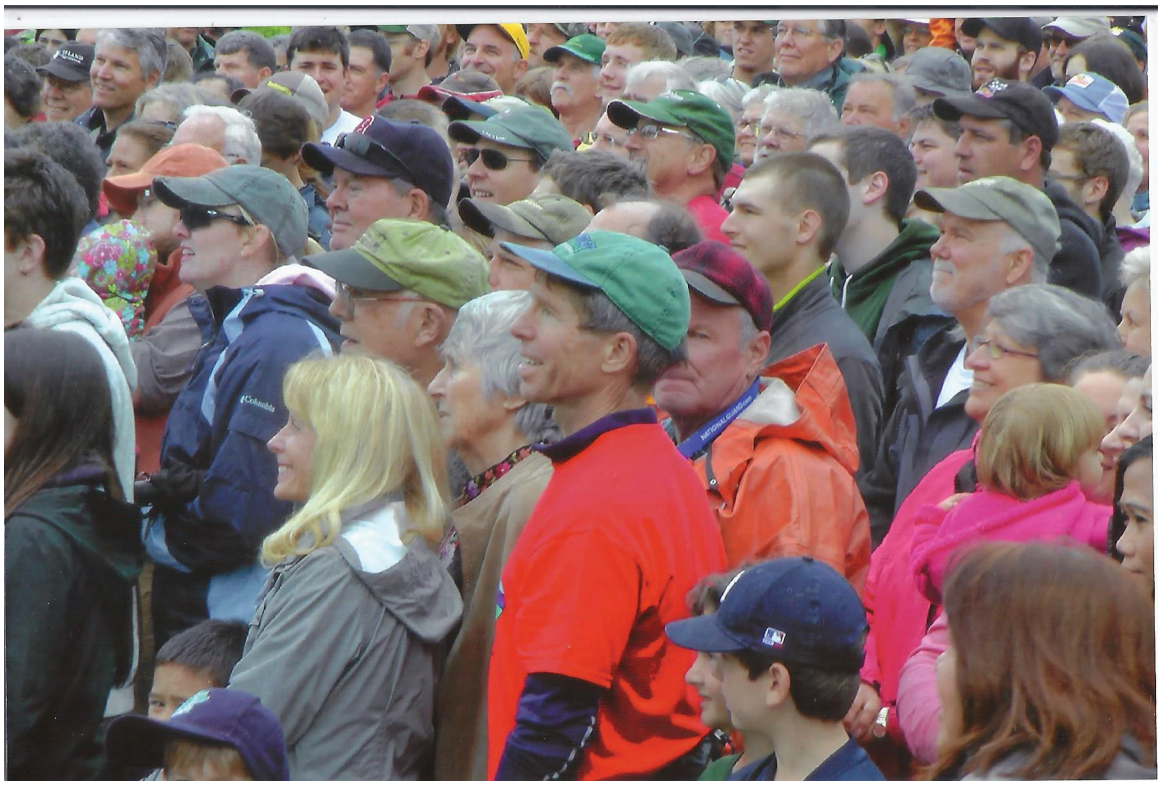
By Ted Tedford

Underhill's 250th Anniversary Committee is urging town residents to donate articles for a time capsule to be buried Saturday, June 7, atop Casey's Hill on Pleasant Valley Road.

Committee Chairman Rick Heh and member Kurt Johnson said the committee seeks a variety of items, some that people may not think at first should go into the capsule but would be viewed with great interest 50 years from now when it is opened.

What is the committee seeking for the capsule? Some suggestions: pictures of activities during 2013 and up to June 2014, popular children's toys of this era, sports equipment, programs for plays or other events that took place in 2013, a 2013 yearbook from Mount Mansfield Union High School, and anything else that would show what Underhill residents did, bought, used, or saved during the early part of this decade.

Nate Sullivan is making arrangements for the vault and for its burial. After the capsule is buried atop Casey's Hill, a large, heavy metal marker will cover its location. No time has been set for the ceremony. The committee members hope students will help donate articles and take part in the ceremony. "It is they, our committee hopes, who will open the capsule five decades from now," said Heh.



Ed & Betty Moore, Daughter in law Deb Moore & son Kurk, Rick Heh along with 800 town residents prepare for the taking of 2013 Town Photo by Martin Mile.



Road Foreman Nate Sullivan on one of thirty some local tractors passing by Town Hall during the June 8, 2013 Parade.



Ted Tedford dressed as a Colonial Patriot, with daughter Laurie enjoying the 250th Anniversary festivities.



Colorful chalk art 250th celebration day agenda by Abbi Jaffe



Side by side tractors driven by Wendy Guay and her son Nate in the June 8, 2013 Parade.



Beautifully restored ‘one lunger’ single cylinder gas engine on display amongst other antique farm equipment.


CELEBRATE UNDERHILL
CHARTERED 1763

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is a compilation of chapters about the history of the Town of Underhill, VT written by a number of authors. Its production would not have been possible without the computer expertise of Kika McArthur, who is also responsible for the graphic design and many of the outstanding photographs. The chapter on the History of Business and Social Life in Underhill Flats/Riverside by Gary Irish, local Jericho historian, is a volume in itself. The pen and ink drawings of historical railroad engines by Stanton Hamlet in his chapter about the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad are particularly notable. The 100 year history of the Jericho Underhill Fire Department by Randy Clark, Sr has been included as originally laid out and published in the Mountain Gazette by Brenda Boutin. Former Underhill Town Clerk and Treasurer, Luella Lamphere, compiled several of the historical databases which were computerized by ET Moore, who also computerized the historical maps.

The first chapter which describes the geology and physiography of Underhill could not have been written without the kind support of former professor and chairman of the UVM Department of Geology and State Geologist, the late Charles H. Doll. He not only shared important references, but peronally showed me many of the oustanding geological features of Underhill.

Underhill Town Planning has been dependent on the original contributions by soil scientist Robert Towne of the US Department of Soil Conservation in Essex Junction, as well as the late chairman, Art Hogan and his assistant, Don Rich, of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.

Some of the early history of Underhill is on the Internet. Tthe history by Emily Flynn, which was unpublished, has been included with some corrections. Thanks go to Judy and Gael Boardman for sharing the trove of Underhill ephemera given to them by collectors, Roland and Mary Ellis. Many new items added greatly to formerly forgotten Town history. The assistance of First Step Print Shop has been invaluable. The book binding is courtesy of Marianna Holzer of Holzer Productions.