

AN  
INFORMAL HISTORY  
of the  
TOWN of SHERBURNE, VERMONT  
CHARTERED AS  
KILLINGTON  
1761



REVISED EDITION  
1972  
Madeline C. Fleming



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The original of this history is given to the  
Sherburne-West Bridgewater Memorial Library, illus-  
trated with a few hundred photographs taken by the  
author or donated by interested friends.

Revised Edition

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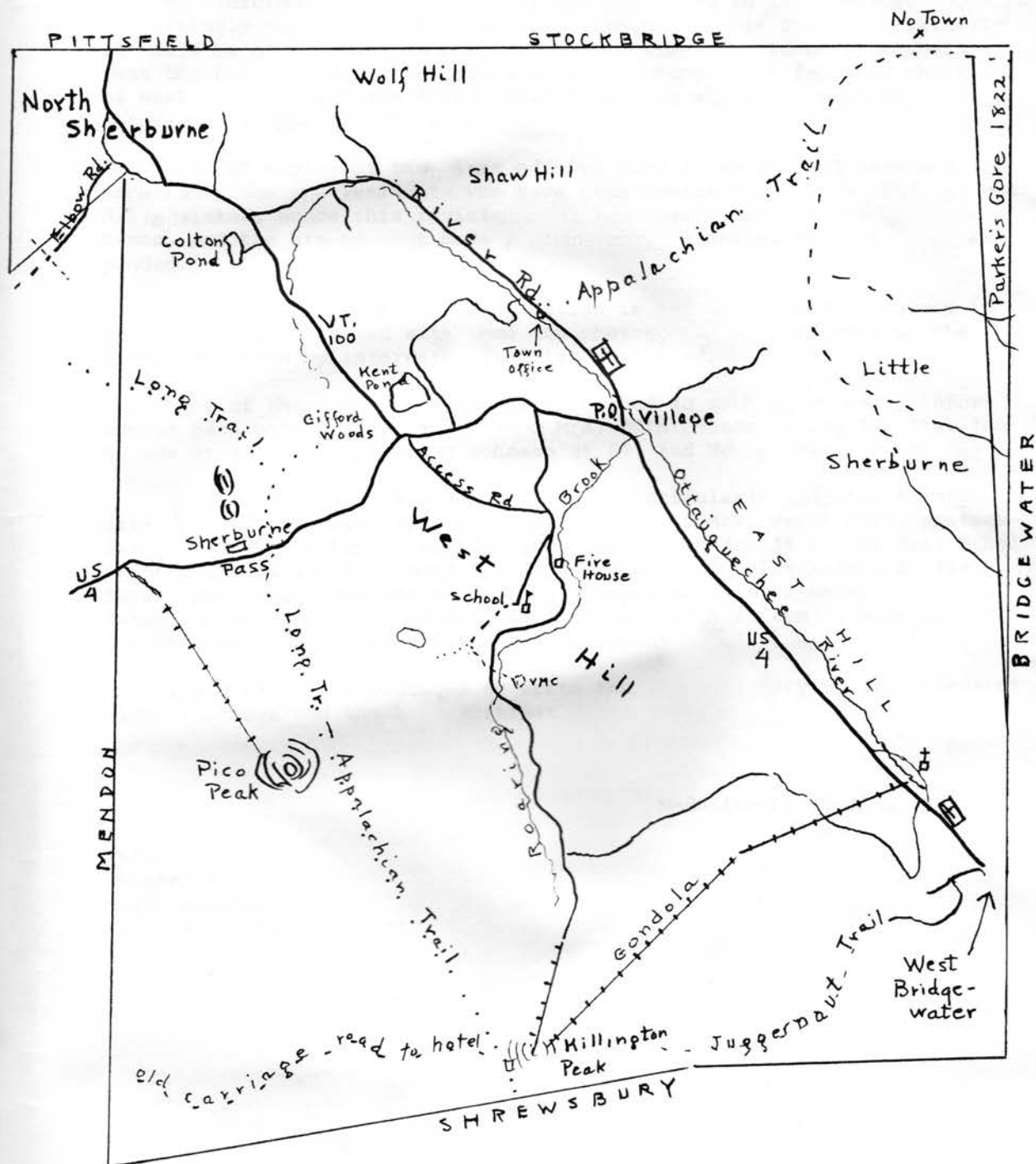
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# 1972 SHERBURNE



## Preface

My "Informal History of Sherburne" published in 1965 became surprisingly popular in this locality although it was thought originally it would be of interest to only a few "old timers." To me it seemed that the Killington Ski development had so changed the face and character of West Hill (Killington Basin) that something should be written about it before it disappeared entirely.

The 200 copies of the first edition came to an end and many people, especially the new residents who have been coming here since 1957, seemed disappointed, hence this revision. It has been updated as to landowners' names, and the arrangement made perhaps more readable, and the Index expanded.

The typescript for the 1965 edition is in the Sherburne Library in two albums, illustrated with some 400 photographs either taken by the author or given by interested families mentioned.

Many of the old residents who furnished so much of my early information have passed away, among them Mrs. Ruth Colton at age 98, Mrs. Ida Wilson at 97, Miss Christine Johnson at 87, and Harry Colton at 61.

It is good that the other ones I am particularly indebted to are still around to answer my many queries, such as Mrs. Hazel Cain, postmaster for 29 years, Mrs. Hazel Johnson, town clerk for 34 years, Mrs. Ethel Gifford with a lively memory for dates, names and cellarholes, Archie Baker, millowner, engineer-inventor, trapper and violin maker, and Oren Bates who started the boom rolling when he sold his farm on West Hill to the Sherburne Corporation for ski development.

I was greatly encouraged to write the first history by Mrs. Margaret Clement Rhodes and the late Mortimer R. Proctor.

Madeline C. Fleming

1972  
Currier Road  
North Sherburne  
Killington P.O., Vermont  
05751



Published Sources

(Most of these are in the Vermont Room of the Rutland Public Library.)

- 1761 - Land Records of Town of Killington, later Sherburne, in original script. In Sherburne Town Clerk's Office.
- 1764 - Map from Newport, R.I. Historical Society giving names of original lot owners. As each house was built it was depicted on this map, through 1800 at least. It names River Road, Mountain Road, and Queechy River.
- 1778-1799 Vermont State Papers: General Petitions, N.Y. Land Patents, Public Papers, etc. In Sherburne Library.
- 1790 - First Census of the United States, printed 1907 by U.S. Bureau of the Census. Entitled HEADS OF FAMILIES-VERMONT.
- 1797 - Series of letters of J. A. Graham, LLD. often quoted in later histories, describing Vermont in general and Killington in particular as follows: "In the quality of these lands there is but little difference, except Killington, which is principally mountainous and designed by nature more for the habitation of beasts of prey than for the abode of man." A descriptive Sketch of the present State of Vermont, by J. A. Graham, late Lieut.-Col. in the service of the above state, Printed in London/London.
- 1800 - Second Census was never printed by the U.S. Government, but in 1938 through the efforts of Mortimer Proctor the Vermont Historical Society printed it, containing a map dated 1796 based "on actual survey."
- 1824 - Gazetteer of State of Vermont, by Zadock Thompson, Vermont's famous historian, resident of Bridgewater. The article on Sherburne was signed by A.A. (Albro Anthony, first town clerk of Sherburne)
- 1842 - History of Vermont - National, Civil & Statistical, by Zadock Thompson, Part III, page 161 mentions Sherburne and the Quechee River.
- 1845-1935 Series of Walton's Vermont Register - Farmers Almanac and Business Directories.
- 1856-1971 Annual Reports of the Town Officers of the Town of Sherburne. In Town Clerk's filed and at Sherburne Library, with a few missing.
- 1869 - Beers' Atlas of Rutland County. Map shows the names of all property owners and the locations of six schools. Also shows division of the Town into the 72 original Rights (336 acres each).

- 1877 - Vermont Historical Gazetteer, by Abby Hemenway. Vol. III deals with Rutland County; page 1121 with Sherburne, written by Hon. Daniel W. Taylor, selectman during the Civil War, and member of the legislature.
- 1881 - Rutland County Gazetteer & Directory, by Hamilton Child.
- 1882 - History of Rutland County - Civil, Ecclesiastical, Biographical & Military. Publ. by White River Paper Co. Article on Sherburne was written by Daniel W. Taylor. Identical with Hemenway volume of 1877, even to page numbers.
- 1886 - History of Rutland County by Smith & Rann. Refers to Sherburne Hollow (the village).
- 1895 - Vol. XXVI of "New Hampshire Grants - being Transcripts of the Charters of Townships," by Albert S. Batchellor. Printed Concord, N.H. On Page 419 is the Sherburne or Killington charter verbatim.
- 1930 - Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society 1930, Vol. I, No. 1, page 83 entitled "Naming Vermont in 1763(?) - An Examination of Sherburne Town Records and Map of 1774." Author is John P. Clement, past president of Vermont Historical Society.
- 1941 - (Typed but not published). History of Sherburne by Christine Johnson. In Sherburne Library and in Town Clerk's files.
- 1961-1962 - Letters from National Archives, Washington, D.C., listing all the postmasters for Sherburne, North Sherburne, and West Bridgewater from 1829 to 1971.
- 1965 - Historical Markers on the Crown Point Road, by the Crown Point Road Assn.
- 1869 - Beers' Atlas of Windsor County.
- 1883 - Child's Gazetteer of Windsor County.
- 1897 - Heart of the Green Mountains, 1897, by H. A. Hodge, a brochure of the Rutland Railroad.
- 1926 - O'Kane's "Trails and Summits of the Green Mountains."

-also-

- 1870 - Diary of Myron Ordway.
- 1890-1917 Diaries of George E. Prior.
- 1897-1902 Diaries of Fidelia Bennett Bates.

In addition to those mentioned in the Preface there were personal conversations with Mr. John LaCoe, Mrs. Verne Dimick, Mrs. Isadore Backon, Mrs. Guy Welch, Mr. Maurice Prior, and many others.

Some Dates in the History of the Town of Sherburne

Gov. Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire was the official agent for King George III in granting land in what is now Vermont, hence the term "New Hampshire Grants." Due to different interpretations of the boundary lines with New York, this same land was being granted to New York citizens, with the resulting disputes, skirmishes, and delay in settlement. Wentworth received \$100 for each town chartered and two corner Rights. (See Vermont Life, Spring 1948).

- July 7      Town chartered as "Killington" to Ezra Stiles and Benjamin  
1761      Ellery of Newport, R.I., 24,640 acres. Origin of name  
            Killington is not known.
- 1764      Surveyed by Simeon Stevens and divided into Rights of 336 acres  
            each.
- 1774      One document still refers to Killington as lying in the colony  
            of New York and is called "Newry." See State Papers Vol. XI.
- 1779      Bridgewater was founded and trails led westward to Killington.
- 1780      A map names the area "Vermont" and shows it divided into four  
            New York counties. (Vermont Historical Society's quarterly  
            issue of Fall, 1971).
- 1785      Isaiah Washburn and first settlers including Nathaniel Fuller  
            arrive to take up land. Washburn had 50 acres on Right 64.  
            About 10 years later he signed a debtor's petition (1797).  
            See State Papers, Vol. XI, page 27.
- 1785      Generally accepted date of the naming of Verd-Mont from top of  
            Mt. Pisgah (Killington Peak) by the Rev. Peters . . . . but see  
            above note for 1780.
- 1790      First U.S. Census. Killington population 32 in eight families.
- 1791      A lottery paid for building the road from Woodstock to Rutland.
- 1794      Town organized. First Town Meeting. Albro Anthony was first  
            town clerk, sworn in by his father, John Anthony, Justice of  
            Peace.
- 1797      Josiah Wood arrived, settling where the Mission Church now  
            stands, which his daughter Elizabeth Wood Clement built a  
            hundred years later.
- 1800      Town renamed "Sherburne" for one of the original grantees.  
            Reason unknown. First mention of "Sherburne, late Killington"  
            is in State Papers, Vol. 2, page 212/213, Oct. 29, 1800.
- 1800      Census now lists the Easterbrook families, early settlers in  
            North Sherburne and River Road area.
- 1805-      Bridge Dean built the first grist mill and first saw mill at  
1808      Sherburne Hollow, near present P.O.

- 1808 Turnpike opened from Stockbridge to Rutland, probably over Elbow Road.
- 1816 Cold summer of "Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death." "Not an ear of good corn in all New England. Mid-June the snow was half a leg deep."
- 1817 Josiah Wood Jr.'s second house built, now the Mission Church Rectory.
- 1819 First Colton (Silas) arrived from Massachusetts, a widower with twelve children.
- 1823 Dorcas Colton married Richard Estabrook and had twelve children.
- 1829 First postmaster of Sherburne, Cephas Wood, brother of Josiah Wood.
- 1832 Ralph Cain's house built, now Killington P.O. in village.
- 1833 Coffee House on Elbow Road built by Reuben Thrall of Rutland.
- 1849 First postmaster of North Sherburne, Francis Giddings. Giddings Tavern was later called the Coffee House. Mail stage stopped here and changed horses up until 1927, en route to Rutland, but tavern business had been discontinued in 1883.
- 1880 On Killington Peak the resort hotel "Killington House" was opened for 40 guests, at 4100' elevation. Carriage road up from the Wheelerville road is now a hiking trail. Hotel had disappeared by 1915.
- 1900-1918 Lumbering activity by Vermont Marble Co. at its mill on West Hill.
- 1926 For a few months Sherburne post office was renamed Killington, then reversed by a counter petition, to Sherburne Center.
- 1931 Gifford Woods State Park established. Nucleus was the gift by Walter K. Barrows of the maple sugar bush of the old Gifford farm which he owned.
- 1937 Pico Peak Ski area opened by Bradford and Janet Mead.
- 1947 New consolidated Sherburne School opened on River Road.
- 1958 Killington Ski Basin opened by Preston Leete Smith.
- 1961 Bi-Centennial Pageant written by Mary Jean Cain.
- Dec. 1 1961 Post office at Sherburne Center was once again named Killington, due to constant mix-up with Shelburne, Vt.
- 1963-1965 U.S. 4 highway construction project widens, straightens, and reduces the grade all the way from Vt. 100 N. to West Bridgewater. The pretty winding roads in the hills of Vermont give way to the era of speed.
- 1971 Opening of new Sherburne Elementary School near the site of old West Hill School No. 7.

## PART I

### Early History

By referring to Volume I of the Town Records of Killington one can trace the history of the Town from the official copy of the original charter signed by Gov. Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire as agent for His Gracious Majesty, George the Third, dated July 7, 1761.

The ink was lasting and the paper of excellent quality, no doubt made in England since the watermarks show the British lion and crown. These records were copied on microfilm in 1952 by the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) 107 So. Main St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, and a copy deposited in the State files in Montpelier. The State completed the microfilming in 1972.

The two Proprietors were Ezra Stiles, who later became president of Yale 1788, and Benjamin Ellery who became treasurer of the Town. They lived in Newport, R.I. and the early meetings concerning the Town were held and recorded in Newport. Stiles acted as clerk and a large part of Vol. I is in his handwriting, with a characteristic flourish under his signature.

There were 24,640 acres in the original grant, 5-1/2 miles by 7 miles, divided into 72 equal "Rights," each containing 336 acres.

Rights Nos. 1 & 2 in the North Sherburne area were reserved for Gov. Wentworth as was his custom when issuing any charters for the New Hampshire Grants, as Vermont was then called. Eventually he accumulated a total of 65,000 acres in Vermont.

Right No. 23 was reserved for a "glebe for the Church of England as by Law established." Yearly income, or rental, was 4¢ per acre, and still is, since the Vermont Legislature refuses to honor any change of terms. This is along River Road in the neighborhood of Archie Baker's Mill and up Thundering Brook Road. (Taxation allowed 1971).

Right No. 46 was reserved for the "first settled minister." That proved to be Elder Noah Johnson, chosen in 1830. His uncle Asa Johnson built a house on it in 1840/5 just north of the Pirkey barn, on U.S. 4. It was pictured in the Bi-centennial souvenir booklet of 1961.

Right No. 60 was reserved for the "benefit of the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts." It is way up on East Hill in the Little Sherburne area. Mr. John LaCoe of South Pomfret remembers that his family hayed these lease lands about 1910, paying \$12.00 a year rental to a Mrs. Stevens.

After the American Revolution ties were severed with the Church of England and all Glebe lands and Propagation Society lands were to be leased for the "benefit of schools." (Laws of 1794.)

Right No. 66 was reserved "for the benefit of schools," and included the Josiah Wood homestead, a little north of the Episcopal Mission Church.

List of Grantees

1. B. W.	19. Benjamin Church	37. Pollipus Hammond	55. Robt. Stevens
2. B. W.	20. Sampson Sheaf, Esq.	38. John Pitman, Esq.	56. Joseph Howland(Howard)
3. Daniel Wentworth	21. Ephraim Dennit	39. James Stoodley	57. Joshua Paul
4. Jonathan Heath	22. Samuel Gibson	40. Robert Eliot	58. Ashbell Stiles
5. Caleb Jeffer	23. Glebe	41. Jonathan Simmons	59. Nathan'l Russell
6. Ichabod Howe	24. Thos. Phipps Darrell	42. Nath'l Pierce, Esq.	60. Sec'y Prop. Gospel
7. David Heald	25. John Landers	43. John Rindge	61. Urriah Willborne
8. John Starner	26. John Bours	44. Cornelius Dillingham	62. John Dennit
9. Col. Benj. Sherburn	27. Samuel Bours	45. Isaac Stiles of New Haven	63. John Heath
10. Christopher Ellery	28. Josiah Brown	46. First Settled Minister	64. Jonathan Heath, Jr.
11. John Flagg, Jr.	29. William James	47. James Westgate	65. Daniel Rindge
12. Edward Simmons	30. Isaac Dayton	48. Elijah Weeden	66. School
13. Charles Church	31. Edward Upham	49. Benjamin Ellery	67. Jos. Heath, Jr.
14. Zephaniah Heath	32. Samuel Yeates	50. Abraham Dennis	68. William Earl Treadwell
15. Richard Nason	33. Ezra Stiles	51. Alexander Bradford	69. Peter Bours, Esq.
16. John Treby	34. John Hadwen	52. Joseph Crandall	70. Uriah Lyon
17. Maj. Jonathan Otis	35. Archibald Campbell	53. Joseph Wilbore	71. John Downing
18. Jacob Stockman	36. John Butt	54. Daniel Peace, Esq.	72. Jeremiah Phillips

(Note: B. W. means Benning Wentworth, getting his cut)  
Did "Esq." mean "gentleman"?

The Charter - Excerpts

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

GEORGE THE THIRD by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and  
Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith

TO ALL PERSONS TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME  
GREETING ---

KNOW YE that we by our Special Grace, certain Knowledge and  
mere motion for the due Encouragement of Settling a new Plantation  
within our said Province . . . . . etc. . . . Do give and grant  
24,640 acres to contain something more than 6 miles square and no  
more .....according to a Plan and survey made by our Governor's  
order . . . . . (it actually came out 5-1/2 m. x 7 m.)

And further, that the said Town as soon as there shall be 50 families  
resident and settled there shall have the the liberty of holding two  
Fairs, annually . . . . As soon as the Town shall consist of 50 families  
a market may be opened.

First meeting for the choice of Town Officers shall be held on the  
first Tuesday in September, notification by Benjamin Ellery, who is here-  
by appointed Moderator; and next year and thereafter will be the second  
Tuesday of March.

(Requirements that must be met by the Proprietors are as follows)

- 1 - plant and cultivate 5 acres within 5 years.
- 2 - reserve all white and other pine trees for masting our Royal Navy.
- 3 - before dividing the land among the grantees a tract of land as near  
the center of the said township as the land will admit of  
shall be reserved and marked out for Town Lots, one acre  
to each grantee.
- 4 - for 10 years payment is computed at one ear of Indian Corn only on  
Dec. 25th annually if lawfully demanded.
- 5 - every proprietor, settler, or inhabitant shall pay unto Us annually  
one schilling proclamation money for every 100 acres he owns,  
settles or possess . . . and this is to be in lieu of all other  
and services whatsoever.

Witness

BENNING WENTWORTH, ESQ.

Our Governor and Counsellor  
in Chief

and In the First Year of our Rein.

July 7, 1761

Theodore Atkinson, Sec'y

(Note: it was signed July 8, 1761.)

The charter of Killington followed the same pattern as most of the other towns granted at that time, same size, same requirements for clearing and planting, same provisions for market place, fairs, etc. All were to be divided into so many numbered rights, some reserved for special purposes. Deed descriptions were by such numbers, and many are continued that way today.

But what is unique about Sherburne is that it is the only map in Beers' Atlas of Rutland County (1869) which has the lines of the rights drawn in so one can tell at a glance the location of each right.

In addition to the six Rights listed above, 66 more were drawn by lot by men in Newport, R.I., including the two Proprietors, Ellery and Stiles, and also Col. Benjamin Sherburn for whom the Town changed its name in 1800.....reason unknown.

Each Right was 437 rods x 123-1/2 rods, or 1-1/3 m. x 4/10 m., containing 336 acres. In addition each grantee would get a one-acre lot in the village, called a "settling lot."

"Settling lots of 1 acre each on a Tract in the center of the township of Killington, 130 rods square, consisting of 105 acres, of which about 25 acres to be taken up in 4 rod highways, besides a central square reserved for a market, parade, meetinghouse and other public buildings."

However, it didn't quite work out that way. The center of the town was about where Summit Lodge is now, but at that time it was pretty remote and inaccessible. Settlement naturally began in the valley along the Queechy River where mills could be built.

After the chartering of the Town in 1761 and the drawing of the lots there came the trouble between the Governors of New York Province and New Hampshire Province, both granting deeds to the same pieces of land. A note at the bottom of page 15 in Vol. I of the Town Records reads:

"In July 1765 the King extended the bounds of New York (above Massachusetts) to the Connecticut River and so 110 or 120 Hampshire Townships fall into N. York. This was published in America. The winter following, the Governor of N.Y. claimed to regrant the Hampshire Grants demanding 200 to 300 pounds L.M. (meaning Lawful Money) a Township. This Discouraged the settlement of Killington."

1774. "Tried to get settlers by offering Gideon Walker of Rutland 100 acres on 30 or 40 rights to attract them."

April 6, 1774, Vol. I. page 55 records: "Susanne Brown and Elizabeth Brown of Newport, R.I. for consideration of Two pounds Ten Shillings Lawful Money received of Jonathan Otis.....all right and title in and unto the Township of Killington Originally granted by the Governor of New Hampshire and now lying within the Colony of New York." It was called Newry.

By Oct. 15, 1779 Benjamin Ellery, one of the Proprietors, was owner of 15 Rights, much from tax sales (vendues), and in 1785 at a meeting held in Newport, R.I. they voted that "the name of Killington be altered to that of Ellery." Apparently the Republic of Vermont did not concur.

Quotations in the preceding two paragraphs are from the "Itinerary



and Correspondence of Ezra Stiles 1755-1794." The original is in the Yale University Library since he was one of Yale's presidents (1788). Other college presidents were dabbling in Vermont real estate about the same time including a president of Princeton, and Pres. Eleazer Wheelock of Dartmouth owned property in Medway (now Mendon).

Mr. Preston Smith, president of the Sherburne Corporation which has developed the Killington Peak Ski Area since 1957, discovered that Ezra Stiles was an ancestor of his. The Stiles family married into the Preston family of Connecticut, and the Preston family into the Smith family.

What route the early settlers took is not known exactly. The 87 mile Crown Point Road was built in 1759-60 between Fort No. Four (Charlestown, N.H. on the Connecticut River) and Crown Point on Lake Champlain, passing through Springfield, Cavendish, Ludlow, Shrewsbury, Rutland, Pittsford, Sudbury, Whiting, Shoreham and Bridport. But since there was no road north from Ludlow they probably came in from Woodstock. Some settlers were from western Massachusetts and Connecticut and those may have come in via Bennington and Rutland.

From Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut and Massachusetts they could have come up the Connecticut River by boat, and part way up the Ottaquechee, and by trail from Woodstock to what is now the village of Sherburne. The post office, general store, and some saw-mills have been located at the junction of the Ottaquechee and Roaring Brook for many years.

A sketch map dated 1774 on page 173 of Vol. I of the Town Records shows three mountain peaks as follows:

Mt. Pisgah - now Killington Peak  
Mt. Lebanon - now called Pico Peak  
Mt. Carmel - now called East Mountain. It parallels  
U.S. 4 south of the Post Office.

This map was used on the cover of the annual Town Reports in the 1950s, 1960, and 1968. The adjoining town named Saltash is now called Plymouth.

The early settling of Killington was very well set forth in the 1961 Pageant celebrating the Bicentennial of the Town's Charter. It was written by Mary Jean Cain, narrated by Mrs. Elwyn Leysath, and all the parts enacted by the local residents, young and old. It was staged near the Base Lodge of the Killington Chair Lift. A copy is in the history album at the Sherburne Library.

FROM STATE PAPERS OF VERMONT  
Excerpts from Various Petitions to the Legislature to Tax  
Landowners for Benefit of Road Construction

("General Petitions" and "Reports of Committees")

1779 Petition for a road from Woodstock to Rutland, via Bridgewater and Killington 25 miles, instead of present 60 mile route (unspecified). "Would save a great Deal of fateague and Expense of Travil as well as time." (Vol.Viii,p.12) (60 mile route was probably via Stockbridge.)

1783 Bridgewater people petitioned for a "road threw Bridgewater and Killington att the expence of the land holders and proprietors of said Towne, with a tax a 1 penny per acre." (Vol.VIII,p.86) (Note: no legislation was passed granting its prayer.)

Oct. 19

1791

Lottery Petition to Complete a Road

"A road has been opened from Woodstock through Bridgewater, Killington and Medway (now Mendon), but by Reason of the Badness of the Ground, the Interference of Queechy River and the Mistakes of the Persons who directed the laying of the Road, it is not so far completed as to be of general utility, though capable of being made equal to any Road across the Heighth of Land". . . pray to allow your Petitioners to raise the sum of 3 Hundred pounds, by a Lottery, for the purpose of cutting, clearing and bridging said Road."

(Killington signers were: Nathan Eddy, Asa Briggs, Isaiah Washburn, Seth Fuller. . . and 17 others) (Vol. IX p.308).

Note: it was granted Oct. 26, 1791. . .some speed!)

1796 Petition "for taxing 1 penny per acre for road which is laid out between Rutland and Woodstock; and 1/2 of the Killington tax to be laid out in Opening a Road from Saltash (now Plymouth) to Stockbridge which your Petitioners think will open a communication from the North to the South parts of the State, Grately to the advantage of the State." (Vol.X,p.380)

(Signed) John Puller, agent for Killington

(Note: this was referred to Committee, but not granted.)

1797 Report of Committee on Killington Land Tax.

"Petitioners pray for tax of 1 penny per acre on all land; 2/3 to be laid out on the road in said town leading from Woodstock to Rutland; 1/3 on road leading from Killington Mills so called to Pittsfield.

"Pray that John Anthony, Wm. Trip, Jesse Williams be a committee to superintend the expenditure of said tax, and Albro Anthony the Collector of same." (Vol.IV,p.169)

Notes concerning the 1764 plat of lots drawn for Killington

In the Newport, R.I. Historical Society files there is the original plat of the Town of Killington, Vt. showing the names of the grantees who drew lots for each of the 72 Rights on the "Second Tusday of March, 1764 being the annual meeting of The Proprietors" (Ezra Stiles and Benjamin Ellery) at Newport, R.I.

In September 1969 that Society sent me a Xerox copy of the plat saying it was the only thing they were able to locate in their files pertaining to Killington. After studying the plat with a magnifying glass I found many items of interest:

The Queechy River has been drawn and named thus.

Four roads have been drawn in:

RIVER ROAD (named thus all the way from No. Sherb. to W. Bridgewater.

Mountain Road (now US 4 from the present village to part way up to Sherburne Pass). Named thus.

West Hill Road (indicated but not named).

Thundering Brook Road (indicated but not named).

Notations on the margins as follows:

"All Highways four Rod wide."

"The Town of Sherburn mostly covered with Beech, Birch & Maple it is generally Mountainous but verry Fertile."

"Newport Rhode Island, Second Tusday of March 1764, being the annual Meeting of The Proprietors of the Township of Killington The above Draughts were made and the same entered on this plan Certified and in the Presence of

Benjamin Sherburn	)	
Robert Stevens	)	
John Pittman	)	Committee
Johnathan Otis	)	

From the above notation I would deduce that the proprietors kept a running record of who bought some of the original rights which were sold at venue for taxes, from the original date of drawing (1764) through 1800 anyway, which was the year the town name was changed to Sherburne. Even Daniel Wentworth let his No. 3 Right go for taxes.

By this time they have drawn in 25 houses: 21 are along River Road, 1 on Thundering Brook Road, 2 on West Hill Road, and 1 right in the Center Square of 106 acres which was set aside as a civic center and for village lots, one for each Right owner.

Several title abbreviations are used

Col. Benj. Sherburn

Major Johnathan Otis

5 or 6 Esq.s

initials A R after 5 names (Rts. 3-10-12-22-39) ??

The 5 Rights that were always reserved are shown:

Glebe  
Society for pron Gospel  
School (the plat shows a building of some kind here)  
2 for B W (Benning Wentworth, Governor of N.H. grantor).

The east-west dimension of 437 Rods, and the north-south dimension of 123-1/2 Rods are indicated on Right 36 as a sample. That figures out to about 336 acres per Right.

Right 47 of James Westgate shows a secondary owner James G. talor, who I believe is James G. Taylor mentioned in Vol. I of the Town Records. The scribe seldom crossed his t's.

Wm. Tripp acquired Right #64 from Jonathan Heath Jr. Tripp was listed in the Census of 1800, and is the one who owned the slave Chloe whose services were bid on annually after the death of her masters Mr. & Mrs. Tripp, both in the same year 1815. (Town Records Vol. III). This continued through 1836.

#### Gores

A gore is a narrow or triangular piece of land, probably originating from inaccurate surveying. These usually eventually became annexed to one town or another. The Vermont State Papers note the following:

Laws of 1822. P. 35.	Parkers Gore, at western edge of Bridgewater, annexed to Sherburne. See Beers Map 1869.
Laws of 1822. P. 36.	Part of Sherburne annexed to Pittsfield.
Laws of 1827. P. 38.	Re-annexed to Sherburne.
Laws of 1829. Chap.32	An act annexing part of Chittenden to Town of Sherburne ...could be called the "North Sherburne Gore", or "Chittenden Gore", 519 rods, about 1-1/2 m.
Laws of 1884. P. 270	All of NoTown (part of Parkers Gore) which was not claimed by Sherburne was annexed to Stockbridge.

United States Census of 1790

8 families in Killington (32 people)

7	in family of	Asa Briggs.	(His son Luther's was the first recorded birth, 1790)
7		N. Eddy.	(Probably Nathan Eddy, innkeeper at Mission Farm site)
1		Thos. Easterbrooks	(or Estabrook)
1		Richard Easterbrooks.	
1		Amasa Fuller.	
1		Benjamin Mason.	
4		Simeon Nawson.	(Rawson)
10		Isaiah Washburn.	(Credited with being the first settler here, 1785)

United States Census of 1800

14 families (91 people)

9	in family of	John Anthony.	
5		Levi Barnett.	
4		Simeon Barns.	
7		Isaac Bisby.	(Bisbee)
4		Aaron Bissel.	
10		Asa Briggs.	
7		Richard Easterbrooks.	
3		Robert Easterbrooks.	
8		Amasa Fuller.	
6		John Fuller.	
8		Ichabod Johnson.	(tavernkeeper No. Sherburne)
12		William Tripp	
3		Josiah Wood.	(Mission Farm place)
5		Josiah Wood, Jr.	(tavern)
91			

Notes: Nathan Eddy in 1790 census, and Nathan Eddy, Jr. had moved to Pittsfield at the time of the 1800 census.  
 1800 Census for Pittsfield lists 35 families;  
                   for Stockbridge, 8 families.  
 1790 Census of Newport, R.I. indicates that our good proprietor Benjamin Ellery owned two slaves on that date...legal at the time of course.

Population Table for Sherburne Town

				<u>Eligible voters</u>
1790	32			
1800	90	1900	402	
1810	116	1910	409	
1820	154	1920	336	
1830	452	1930	298	
1840	498	1940	266	
1850	578 -high point	1950	283	
1860	523	1960	266	
		1966		198
		1969		266
1870	462	1970	588	269
1880	450			
1890	451			

Miscellaneous Statistics

1824

Population: 154.      2 taverns, 1 grist mill, 1 saw mill,  
3 school districts, but only 1 school.  
(Gazeteer 1824 by Zadock Thompson)

1840

Population: 498.      82 horses, 625 cattle, 1450 sheep.  
1787 bu. oats, 686 bu wheat,  
12,245# maple sugar, 1295 tons hay,  
4,259# wool.  
(Gazeteer 1877, Vol.3,p.1121, by  
Abby Hemenway.)

1861-65

Civil  
War

"Sherburne furnished 70 soldiers, of which  
17 died.  
The Town paid \$13,500 bounty to soldiers."

1881-2

"Sherburne. (P.O.). A small hamlet located  
in the central part of the township on  
Quechee River, contains one church, one  
hotel, one store, one blacksmith shop, one  
saw and grist mill and about 50 inhabitants."

"North Sherburne.(P.O.). A hamlet,  
located in the northern part of the town  
and contains one blacksmith shop, one saw-  
mill, one steam saw and planing mill, and  
several dwellings.

"These constitute the only settlement  
approaching anythings like a village in  
the township."

(Gazeteer & Business Directory of  
Rutland County.)

South Sherburne is the older name for the village of West Bridgewater.  
Little Sherburne is the name for the East Hill Area.

Vermont Farm peak	1880 - 35,500 farms.	84% of state's area.
	1967 - 6,000 farms.	43% of state's area.
		(198,000 cows)

forecast for:

1980 -	4,000 farms.	25% of state's area
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(Vermont Life - 1969)

(From 1869 Beers Atlas of Rutland County)

Elevations above Sea Level

Feet

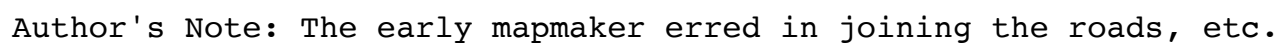
351 - White River Junction  
694 - Congregational Church, Woodstock  
1042 - Jct. Plymouth Road (now West Bridgewater village)  
1076 - Bowl factory bridge  
1143 - Josiah Wood's tavern stand, Sherburne. (J. Wood, Jr. Mission Farm)  
1217 - Benj. Maxham's store, Sherburne  
1211 - Hotel, Sherburne  
1187 - Pond in Quechee River near D. W. Taylor's, Sherburne  
1236 - Union Store, Sherburne  
1252 - Church at Sherburne

(going up West Hill Road)

1504 - Jct. of the Mountain road, Sherburne (at Howard Towne's)  
1812 - Bench. Rock near R. Maxham's (Ransom Maxham?)  
1836 - Bench. Rock near A. Rice's (H. Rice was at "Railroad camp")  
2097 - Bench. Rock Manley's barn  
3385 - Rock, summit of 1st ridge  
3546 - Summit of 2nd ridge  
3935 - Pico Peak, Sherburne  
3951 - Little Killington, Sherburne  
3707 - Shrewsbury Mt., south peak  
3898 - Mendon Peak  
4220 - Summit of Killington

SHERBURNE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Chapman, J. E.	Teacher & Civil Engineer
Chamberlin, Thos. S.	Blacksmithing & Jobbing - Nth. Sherburne
Dutton, J. H.	Carpenter & Joiner also Wheelwright & Wagon Repairer, Sherburne
Estabrook, E. D.	Propt. of Coffee House - North Sherburne
Estabrooks, A. D.	Manfr. & Dealer in Lumber, Nth Sherburne
Hodgman, L. H.	Supt. Publ. Schools also Constable & Collector
Estabrooks, R.	Farmer
Maxham, B.	Propr. of Hotel Sherburne
Newton, Sylvester	Farmer, East Sherburne
Slack & Derby	Dry Goods, Groceries & Genl. Merchandise also Shingles, Sherburne
Taylor, Dnl. W.	Claim Agt. & Cattle Broker
Wood, L. E.	Farmer
Willard, L.A. & C.C.	Millers also Manfrs. & Dealer in Lumber





### Various Area Names in Sherburne Town

The village of West Bridgewater lies partly in the Town of Sherburne and partly in Bridgewater. It was known as West Bridgewater certainly as early as 1867 when Joseph Spaulding was appointed "first postmaster of West Bridgewater," and perhaps a lot earlier than that. However, it was also known as South Sherburne, and the village school was always referred to in Town Reports as the South Sherburne School.

Sherburne Flats is the area along US 4 between the Mission Church and Sherburne Village. Early pictures show the road as a narrow winding dirt (not gravel) road. Then in 1921 Gov. Clement had it improved with the use of labor from the State Prison at Windsor. He felt this was an economy for the State and better for the men than idleness in jail. They were housed in barracks at which is now Happy Valley Camp, and they enjoyed bathing in the Ottaquechee. Mrs. Rhodes felt the experiment was successful and there were no known bad effects or experiences, but the custom was not continued.

The junction of Roaring Brook and the Ottaquechee (US 4 & River Road) was a natural for the location of mills, and a very early name for Sherburne village was Killington Mills, later Sherburne Hollow, still later Sherburne Center. The designation of the post office was changed in 1961 to Killington.

As for the Town (or township), it was chartered as Killington in 1761, changed to Sherburne by Act of the Legislature in 1800, and remains that to this day.

The North Sherburne area had its own post office from 1849 to 1919 and its own school.

West Hill was the name given to what is now the Killington Ski area.

A little known and sparsely settled section of the Town is Little Sherburne, also known as East Sherburne, or East Hill. The 1869 map shows a Little Sherburne creek. Since the drop down into the Sherburne valley was too steep to encourage the building of roads the residents of little Sherburne used roads that led to the Bridgewaters. One such road led through a section known as Chateaugay, spelled with many variations, but always pronounced Shattagee. A 1912 road map calls it North Bridgewater.

## PART II

### EARLY SETTLERS

Since it is likely the earliest settlers of Sherburne came in from Woodstock, perhaps only a trail, we will begin our story of Sherburne at its southeast corner near the Bridgewater line, which is also the county line between Rutland and Windsor Counties.

The 1764 map mentioned earlier shows a road labeled River Road paralleling the Queechey River all the way from West Bridgewater to North Sherburne and by 1800 there were about two dozen houses built along it. The road was across the river from where US 4 is now and Maurice Prior had seen many cellarholes in years gone by which prove this. Traces could be followed through his Happy Valley Camp area and on up to the Riverside Cemetery.

Isaiah Washburn is credited with being the first, or one of the first settlers, in 1785. With the general confusion surrounding the "New Hampshire Grants" it was nearly 25 years after the Charter of 1761 before anyone came to settle here. He is listed in the 1790 Census and owned 50 acres on Right No. 64 perhaps near Maurice Prior's.

In 1797 however he found himself deeply in debt and petitioned the General Assembly for a suspension from his debts for three years in a self composed plea for his suffering family.

The Census of 1790 lists N. Edy. This was probably Nathan Eddy the tavernkeeper who sold his property to Josiah Wood. Wood purchased the whole Right of land, about 336 acres, for one pound, one shilling and three pence. A son Josiah Jr. bought the Right just north of it and in 1797 built a house where the Mission Church of Our Saviour now stands. He raised a large family of 10 children, one of whom, Elizabeth, almost a hundred years later founded the mission and built this Church.

The original house burned and in 1817 he built the present Rectory. The adjacent Retreat House was made from the old barn; the wide floor planks were just turned upside down. He died in 1857 and is buried in a family grave marked by a marble obelisk in Hillside Cemetery on a part of the Wood Homestead. There is silent, poignant history recorded on those that mark the deaths of small members of the family. The northern part of the cemetery is for the Wood family and their descendants and a few members of the Episcopal Diocese. The more populous part served the South Sherburne (or West Bridgewater) area and has been full for some years.

Elizabeth Wood, born in 1807, was the only one who grew up and lived in Vermont. She attended Randolph Academy. In 1831 she married Charles Clement of Rutland, president of the Rutland R.R. One of her sons, Percival, was Governor of Vermont 1919-21.

The farm property passed into other hands, but in 1894 when 87 years of age, Elizabeth Wood Clement purchased it and conveyed it to the Vermont Episcopal Diocese. A plaque reads, "Josiah Wood, my father, builded his house in the wilderness, 1797, in which his ten children were born."

Vol. IX of Town Records shows that Josiah & Judith Wood deeded the 250 acre farm (\$2800) to Charles Clement to provide for their old age. They reserved "the use of the east garden, the south room, south chamber, and a privilege in the kitchen during our natural lives."

#### Mission Farm and Church of Our Saviour

The white granite came from neighboring Plymouth. The building seats 130. There is a portrait of the donor. The bell in the square tower is inscribed - "A.D. 1894, Gloria in Excelsis Dec. Dedicated to the Ten Children of Judith and Josiah Wood, by Elizabeth Wood Clement." The Cross was made at the Mission from oak cut on the place.

The resident priests carry on some farming activities as well. Rev. James Carnahan served from 1897-1918; Rev. John White 1919-1926; Rev. Truman Heminway, 1931-1957; Rev. Theron Valle, 1957-1964; and now Rev. Daniel Goldsmith.

Both Reverend and Mrs. Carnahan served as Superintendent of the Schools in Sherburne, and the Rev. Heminway was Moderator of Town Meeting for eleven years. Just back of the church is a little log cabin built about 1940 by the Heminways.

Vol. IV of the Town Records, about 1825, notes that "the Minister Farm is to be let to Albrow Anthony for one year for \$16." In the April 1899 issue of THE VERMONTIER (in the Sherburne Library) is a picture of the church as it was then, without the cone shaped top.

#### A Talk with Mrs. Margaret Clement Rhodes

Many interesting afternoons have been spent with Mrs. Rhodes of Woodstock, Vt., a charming lively lady in her 90s, fifth generation descendant of Josiah Wood, Sr.

One story she thinks should be included concerns the Wood family as they came in from Woodstock way to settle in the Sherburne Valley. After a laborious journey hauling their goods and chattels, shepherding their family, and driving their horses, they camped for the night, but in the morning found that two of the horses had strayed. Their loss would have been a serious blow so the father spoke to the eldest son, aged 11 years, and without a murmur he turned back. After two or three days he returned leading the horses.

Mrs. Rhodes' grandmother, Elizabeth Wood Clement, always loved the Sherburne Valley, calling it the Happy Valley. Later when Percival Clement built a large log cabin lodge (now the Denkwalter home) on the hillside just north of the Mission Church it was called "Happy Valley Lodge." As a girl Margaret always loved the out-of-doors and the woods and it was for her the lodge was built in 1913.

There is an ancient cedar standing head and shoulders above the other trees and can be readily seen while driving down the valley. She called it 'the old warrior' and it is six feet in diameter.

Margaret thought marriage was not in her scheme of things while she was enjoying the cabin so much, but fate intervened in the form of a fascinating young Englishman she met in Boston by the name of William Wilfred Rhodes (1874-1950). All Sherburne was interested in her wedding in 1913 at the little Mission Church, built by her grandmother, and the reception at the lodge afterward. They went to England to live and the next year World War I started. Her husband became a Major in the Kings Royal Rifle Corps. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery. Their son Capt. John Rhodes served with the Gordon Highlanders in World War II.

WOOD-CLEMENT-RHODES FAMILIES

Generation

<div>1st</div> <div> <div> <u>Josiah Wood, Sr.</u> (1740-1824)  of Middleboro, Mass.  Veteran of French &amp; Indian  War and the Revolution.  Came to Killington 1797  to the Eddy farm. </div> <div>married</div> <div> <u>Salome Woods</u>  (1752-1799) </div> <div> They had a large family  including Josiah, Jr.  and Salome (next page) </div> </div>
<div>2nd</div> <div> <div> a son: <u>Josiah, Jr.</u> (1772-1857)  Veteran of War of 1812.  Town Repr. for several years.  Second postmaster of Town  (first p.m. was uncle Cephas Wood) </div> <div>married</div> <div> <u>Judith Woodbury</u>  (1775-1860) </div> <div> They had ten children,  including Elizabeth  and Salome, listed  below. </div> </div>
<div>3rd</div> <div> <div> a dau: <u>Elizabeth</u> (1807-1904)  In 1831 she married <u>Charles</u>  <u>Clement</u> (1807-1893),  pres. of Rutland R.R.  In 1894 she built the  stone church </div> <div></div> <div> (Salome Wood, born  1811, married in  1831 to Thomas  Fish) </div> <div> (their dau. is  listed below). </div> </div>
<div>4th</div> <div> <div> son: <u>Percival Clement</u>  (1846-1927)  Pres. Rutland R.R. in 1880s  Owner of Rutland Herald  from 1870 to 1927.  Gov. of Vermont, 1919-1921 </div> <div></div> <div> (Sarah Salome Fish,  Born 1832, married  1857 to her first  cousin in Illinois.  Was grandmother of  John P. Clement of  Rutland). </div> </div>
<div>5th</div> <div> <div> a dau: <u>Margaret</u>, born 1880  In 1965 she was living  in Woodstock, Vt. </div> <div>married</div> <div> 1913 Maj. Wilfred Rhodes  (1874-1950)  of Kings Royal Rifle  Corps.  Buried in Sherburne. </div> </div>
<div>6th</div> <div> <div> a son: <u>John W. P. Rhodes</u>,  born 1919. Lives on a  banana plantation in  Jamaica. </div> <div>married</div> <div> 1946 Ealasaidh Ogilvie  of Inverness,  Scotland. </div> </div>

ANTHONY FAMILY

Generation

1st

Some of Josiah Wood,  
Jr.'s children moved  
to Illinois in 1835:

John Anthony bought land in  
Killington to persuade his  
3 sea captain sons to give  
up the sea. Only one to do  
so  
was

2nd

a son: Gaius P. Wood, M.D. b. 1799  
a son: Alanson, b. 1800  
a son: Park Wood

(one of the sea captains  
Israel Church Anthony  
was captured by  
West Indies pirates)

but a dau: Salome Wood  
(1782-1855) remained and married

Albro Anthony (1762-1834)  
first town clerk  
of Sherburne

3rd

dau: Sarah W. (1812-1838)

married

Chas. S. N. Anthony (1809- )  
Town Clerk 1836-38

4th

a dau: Sarah (1838-1838)  
died in infancy.

a dau: Jane F. Anthony  
born probably be-  
tween 1832 and 1837

married

Dr. Robert Wilson of  
Washington, Illinois

It was she who erected the monument in the private Anthony cemetery  
across the Ottauquechee near the Hurley house and a small camp,  
but the date of its erection is not known, maybe 1910.

%TJ

5th

PART III  
SCHOOLS

Vermont has long been known for her widespread and good school system which gives basic education without unnecessary frills. In 1886 U.S. Census for Vermont shows that only 2.4% of the native white population over 10 years of age were unable to read, compared to 25% in some western states. One marvels at the number of one-room schools that served the remote and scattered farms of years ago and particularly the teachers who were willing to go to those rural areas and "board around." Happily we notice many marriages resulted, for no doubt Teacher was the prize attraction for many a young farmer.

One-room schoolhouses have a way of surviving for years on end, finally being used for camps or vacation homes, but with almost no outward change in appearance. It is easy to spot them today.

1869 Sherburne School Districts,  
based on Beers Atlas maps

(Look in the Index for a fuller description and history of each school)  
District

- #1 No district thus numbered.
- #2 River Road near Falls Hill. In 1839 it was known as the Colton District, for Hiram Colton, promoter of the school. Now owned by Gordon Wamboldt.
- #3 North Sherburne. School near Coffee House. Now owned by Norbert Chapleau.
- #4 Village School. Built prior to 1890 it housed some fire and town road equipment for a while. Its bell was removed on July 4, 1965 to the new Fire House on West Hill. In 1924 it was the first Sherburne school to be standardized.
- #5 No district thus numbered.
- #6 Dailey Hollow region in Little Sherburne. At a very early date there was a school near the Ezekiel West place, but in later years the pupils were sent to the Dailey Hollow School and the Town paid their tuition to Bridgewater. It closed in 1935 and the building became a camp.
- #7 West Hill. Only a few hundred yards from the new school of 1970 on Schoolhouse Road.
- #8 Turnpike, or Mountain school at junction of U.S. 4 and Thundering Brook Road near Roger Neil's.
- #9 There may have been a school not far from the Burt Holt place in Little Sherburne, but around 1869 the pupils were probably sent to the school in Chateaugay in the Town of Bridgewater.
- #10 West Bridgewater, or South Sherburne, school is now a residence owned by Orris Welch located just south of the old grocery store of Guy and Hazel Welch.

In 1923/4 a newer one was built near Herbert Johnson's, but abandoned in 1947 and moved in 1961 to River Road to become the library.

### Establishment of Early Schools

A thorough study of the Town Records by Mary Jean Cain resulted in her thesis in 1958 "History of Education in Sherburne" which, however, is unpublished.

Earliest reference to the establishment of schools was that sometime before 1800 the Town voted to designate two school districts, one north and one South. In 1806 a special meeting was called to discuss providing a school for three months, furnishing firewood and a teacher, but no action was taken in that direction.

By 1813 a middle school district was added, and in 1814 West Hill had a school. In 1842 there were eight school districts and a school in each one with a total of 178 scholars.

At Town Meeting time each school district was required to file an annual report, giving the number of scholars between 4 and 18 years, and how many weeks school kept. If there was not enough money in the Town Treasury it had to be made up by passing the hat among the individual families with children or else the report was "no school kept last year." Some schools managed 13 to 16 weeks. Another reported two months in summer and two in winter, employing two male and two female teachers in that one year!

1884. The Superintendent's Report carried this sentence, "Perhaps all may not be aware that good behavior is one of the subjects required by law to be taught in the common schools."

1894. "One new school has been built on the Rutland Turnpike." Teacher received \$3.50 to \$5.00 per week. E. Z. Dutton bought the old school house for \$10. Teacher boarded at Merritt Neil's.

1899. Total school expense for the year was \$921.

1901. Mrs. Susie Carnahan was Superintendent and recommended "paying higher salary to get a good teacher rather than changing every few weeks."

1902, 1904, 1906. Superintendent kept recommending "more unification between schools, or centralization of two or three schools rather than maintaining four or five." But nothing much happened.

1909. Eight West Hill pupils finally joined the eight at Turnpike. Teachers got \$7 a week plus their board of \$2.

1912. Formation of the Ottauquechee Valley Union. Linwood Taft, Supt. complained of bad sanitation practice at West Hill and the building in dis repair.

1922. Children from the Pico Mill camp (now Robinwood development) beyond Sherburne Pass were brought to Turnpike school by ox- or horse-team driven by 19 yr. old Lucy Kitchin (later Mrs. Irving Neil). This was noted in the Rutland Herald of Feb. 1, 1922. See Index for "Ox-Team School Bus."



### Annual Cost Per Pupil

1936	\$ 50.	60 pupils in 4 school buildings
1947	143.	47 pupils in the new building on River Road
1959	299.	76 pupils, including 16 high schoolers elsewhere
1964	456.	75 pupils, including 30 high schoolers elsewhere (State average was \$316.)
1966	632.	96 pupils, including high schoolers
1968	783.	133 pupils, including high schoolers (The increase in number came with the advent of the skiing business.)
1970	916.	84 elementary pupils (Grades 1-6) greatly over-crowded the building on River Road so a new school was built for the six grades on West Hill at a cost of \$600,000. And 55 high school pupils are bussed to Woodstock Union High School.

### Superintendents

Each little school had its own board of directors, but there was also a general superintendent. In 1847 it was Oliver Coolidge. Miss Permilla ("Millie") Johnson succeeded Lewis Estabrook who moved to the West in about 1879. From 1900-06 Mrs. Susie Carnahan, wife of the Episcopal minister, was superintendent; 1907 the Rev. Carnahan, and 1908 John E. Davis.

In 1909 Linwood Taft was superintendent, in 1913 Leonora Taft, in 1922 Mr. Fairchild, and the last one was Mrs. Hazel Welch in 1923. Then in 1924 eight towns were grouped to form the Windsor Northwest District. Wallace Martin became superintendent in 1951. The newly formed district is called "Windsor Central Supervisory Union District." First Superintendent of that district was Patrick L. Donahue, and the present one is John F. Kenny, Jr.

### Maxham School Fund

In all Town Reports there is mention of the Benjamin Maxham Fund of \$400 for the benefit of schools. This was established in 1908. \$300. came from the sale of the original Right No. 66 set aside for schools (Town Record, Vol. 3, p. 153), located near the West Bridgewater Cemetery. \$100 was a gift of Mr. Maxham, probably between 1841 and 1864. A description of the land is given in Book 11, p. 739 in a mortgage given by Daniel W. Taylor March 27, 1883. It was on a 180-acre property on Shaw Hill.

## PART IV

### West Bridgewater Area

From the beginning the Ottaquechee, or Queechy as it was known, has troubled the road builders, coming as it does through a valley with very high walls. At times it would jump its banks and carve a new route; at other times, as in 1897 the Town "paid \$70 to Adrian Pinney for turning the river at South Sherburne." It had been running right down present US 4.

Over the years there have been various mills, a tub factory for making butter tubs and boxes, a woodworking mill to make bowls, and chair stretchers. The only remaining sawmill now is the Mason Wardwell Mill. There was also a cheese factory with dance floor near the Triangle Grocery. It operated in the 1890s, was closed, reopened 1917-19 and Herbert Johnson was the last cheesemaker.

Across the driveway, but still on the north side of the road, was a cider mill. The town line ran between the two mills, but Sherburne saw to it that the cider was on their side and left the cheese to Bridgewater.

Mr. Johnson has been a resident of the West Bridgewater area since 1896, living on both sides of the town and county line, first in the house of his grandfather Joseph Spaulding, later in the Guy Welch house, and after that in the Frank Hazelton house, his father-in-law's.

The Guy Welch general store operated from 1930 to 1968. It was the post office for West Bridgewater until the retirement of Mrs. Welch in 1962 after 32 years of service as postmaster.

A small house next door is a conversion from an early South Sherburne school built before the Civil War and used until 1923. Mrs. Welch's grandfather, Joseph Spaulding attended school there. A new school was built adjacent to Herbert Johnson's and served until 1947. When highway construction caused its condemnation Mrs. Welch sparked a campaign to secure the building for a library and it was moved six miles farther north to River Road and called the Sherburne-West Bridgewater Memorial Library.

### Hadley Hill and Foster Hill

Both of these have been taken over by the Sherburne Corporation for its "Killington East" development and a new road built which cuts off direct access to West Bridgewater village.

The Hadley Hill Road does extend for a short distance from US 4 paralleling Falls Brook. (Across the brook one can see the Mason Wardwell Mill but can't reach it from this road.) The road soon splits into a "Y" at a bridge. In an open field to the left was a butter tub factory in 1869, then came the millhouse or boarding house now owned by Clyde Mac Askill. Beyond that house a trail follows the brook on which Hiram Noyes had a mill.

But if we take the right fork of the "Y" we pass the home of Mrs. Philip Benson. Around the turn of the century Guy Welch lived on the

site as a boy. Farther up was I. White in 1869, the Lyman Howe family around 1920, and now the camp of David Ragosta.

### Lombard Hill. Juggernaut Trail

We start once more at US 4 and take the first left road, a sharp turn and climb a steep grade to the Harold Anderson home where there are many open fields, a rarity these days in Sherburne. Johnson lived there 1869, later the Bisbees, Frank Lombard, Bailey Frank, Douglas, then Harry Lennihan.

Beyond his house is a "Y". To the left is the Douglas camp (now Agro) where M. Manning lived in 1869. Beyond that a farm road led down to the Hosea Spaulding's ("Hozey Hill"), but was more regularly reached by coming up from the Plymouth Road near the Cleo Bridge place.

The right fork of the "Y" bears a Green Mt. Hiking Club sign reading:

### JUGGERNAUT TRAIL To Killington Peak 4 1/2 miles

O'Kane's books say "1913 a trail was built from West Bridgewater to Killington Peak with funds raised by persons in Woodstock." However, there were trails to the top from early times. This, incidentally, was the trail used most of the time around 1955 by Preston Smith when he was scouting the best place to start a ski development.

The trail uses the old town road, shown on the 1891 topographic map, which parallels the Falls Brook for about 1 1/2 miles until it reaches the clearing of the Juggernaut Farm.

One of the most intriguing and illusive subjects I have run into is the origin of the name Juggernaut for this region. No one seems to know. The dictionary yields the information that it was the name of a Hindu god whose image was borne on a huge car before which worshippers threw themselves as sacrifices; blind devotion. Later it came to mean the car itself. It is hard to make any connection here, but juggernut it is, according to local pronunciation.

The area has been lumbered off and on for years and there are one or two tar paper lumber shacks still standing. Howard Towne lumbered for the Rices in 1953. The last activity was about 1960.

The author researched the Sherburne Town Reports quite thoroughly and found the following:

#### 1856

Paid Hosea H. Spaulding, selectman for his services:

July 2, one day looking out Juggernaut Road and to see A. C. Foster's road.

Aug. 27, half-day to engage surveyor and notify petitioners when we would survey Juggernaut Road. Trip to Tyson Furnace to see Dr. Scott about right-of-way through his land.

Sept. 3, locating and surveying Juggernaut Road.

1881

Pent road was laid from Bisbees, through Dr. Scotts to G. W. Thomas, 395 rods. Cost \$125, or 3 rods for \$1.00. (Maurice Prior recalls the road was fenced and gated, which is characteristic of a pent road.)

1882

Repairs made to Juggernaut Road.

1890

Again repairs when Geo. Henry Woodard lived at Juggernaut Farm.

The Woodard children came down to school at South Sherburne, but in order to prolong the life of their shoes they walked barefoot until the last 500 foot stretch when they put the shoes on.

Not only were roads built at what we consider a very small cost, but many fine stone walls were built along those roads. One can usually determine what has been an old town road by noting that it had stone walls lining either side. Two men and a yoke of oxen could build one rod of stone wall in one day, at a cost of \$1.

Beyond the Woodard farm today there is a good lumber road as far as the site of the old "high pole bridge" at the hairpin turn mentioned by fur trapper Claude Dewey. From there the Juggernaut hiking trail climbs a steep bank, heading for Killington Peak. The author did it the easy reverse way, riding up the ski lift to the top of Killington and hiking down the trail.

Sherburne residents have shown me old time pictures of a church group that hiked up. One man had on a white shirt and collar, presumably the minister who is expected to be well dressed on all occasions. Jared Standish in the 1880s is supposed to have taken the first horse up on Killington via the Juggernaut. We wonder if he scrambled up those last 300 rocky feet.

#### West Bridgewater to Sherburne Village

Let's shift into low and get down off those steep hills to US 4 again, and head north. On the right is the home of Lloyd Moyer who came in 1952 from Pennsylvania to help found a Mennonite Mission at Bridgewater Corners while carrying on his work as well driller. It was probably built between 1870 and 1880 by Levi Wilson, later owned by Frank Lombard and the LaBrees. It served as the West Bridgewater Post Office from 1962-65 when Mrs. Moyer was postmaster.

On the next side road to the right live Herbert and Hazel Johnson who was Town Clerk from 1934 to 1968.

A road to the left leads to the Mason Wardwell Mill. This was evidently operating in 1869 and no doubt earlier.

The Val Roc Motel was built in 1967 by Renee Trudeau next to the big house owned previously by Fred and Maybell Wardwell, now torn down. That was built some time before 1833, had a second floor dance hall, where in the 1920s the Sherburne Town Meetings were held, when Bert Hill owned it. It was Ellis Madden's Hotel between 1855 and 1900.

Hillside or South Sherburne  
or West Bridgewater Cemetery

Vol. 11 of the Town Records note the formation on July 15, 1871 of the West Bridgewater Cemetery Association, the cemetery being "adjacent to the private burying ground of the Wood family and Charles Clement family, separated by a stone wall." "They are pleased to designate it as the West Bridgewater Cemetery."

The Association was composed of Ellis Madden, Jefferson Potter, Andrew Pinney, Joseph K. Spaulding, Milo Moore, George Spaulding, Josiah Taylor, Ira Taft, Aulon Foster. Lots were subscribed also by M. Madden, E. J. Doyle, L.D. Spaulding, Dean Spaulding, H. H. Spaulding, John Hadley, Roxanna Spaulding.

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Next road to the right was the regular highway until 1961. On it is the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour. The rectory building is probably the oldest in the town, 1817.

On the main highway now is the Gondola Base Station where the ski lift operates all year around to the top of Killington Peak, 3-1/2 miles up. It was the old Lorenzo West farm, later owned by Guy and Hazel Welch, then Lewis Madden.

The one remaining farm in Sherburne is operated by George Walker, next on the left. In 1869 it belonged to A. H. Coolidge whose name appears in the 1890 list of stockholders of the North Sherburne Cheese Factory.

"Sports Hill" house was the home of J. Frank Prior, father of Maurice Prior, built in 1874 from lumber from the Phebe Bates' place across the road where the bridge and lilac bushes are. Phebe's Hole is a deep spot in the Ottaquechee which used to be a good swimmin' hole. It was where the prison road gang refreshed themselves in 1921.

Happy Valley Restaurant and Happy Valley Camp were built by the Maurice Prior family. The camp across the river was for boys and girls who found their fun in taking care of farm animals, the vegetable garden, and having an outdoor barbecue dinner on Saturday nights to which the public was welcome. This was followed by big-boom bon fires. Many people enjoyed the sociability of these gatherings, if they could regain their breath after crossing a primitive bridge!

Just north of Maurice Prior's barn there stood for many years the John Johnson place, later owned by Lucy Bates Currier and shown in a photograph in the Sherburne Bicentennial booklet of 1961 under the title "The Old Homestead."

Christine and Herbert Johnson recall that their grandfather (John) used to "own from the top of East Hill to the top of West Hill." Most farms south of the village were sold that way and of course included the valley of U.S. 4 where most of the houses were built. In the cellar there was a secret room back of one wall which served as a station on the "underground railroad" prior to the Civil War. According to local story one colored man died while at the Johnsons and was buried, naturally without a marker, along the Ottaquechee somewhere opposite "Turn of the River Lodge" of John and Hedwig Biessman.

But to get back to Lucy Currier, she was a person to be remembered! She was the aunt of Oren Bates, an exceptional woman and the only one to be elected a Selectman of the Town (1926-8). The following is from a newspaper article in The Central Cape Press of Cape Cod by Mrs. Ralph Beverly who had an interview with Mrs. Currier in 1956 when she was 90. She died 1958.

(From the column "KIND HEARTS AND GENTLE PEOPLE")

Who is Mrs. Lucy M. Currier, native Vermonter; ex-selectman; personality in a book; omnivorous reader of history and politics; maker of huge, beautifully braided rugs; clear spoken, bright eyed. We may lay claim to her by grace of her daughter and son-in-law with whom she is now living, the Rev. and Mrs. Watson Wordsworth of the Congregational Church in South Dennis, very wonderful people I loved on sight.

About 68, or 70? . . . Not a minute under 90. And she has more "IT" and wit than any one lady is entitled to. Her sense of humor runs right along with her. When she laughs she goes all out for it, shutting up her eyes tight and is just filled with merriment. It's like coming out of the cold and sitting beside a glowing fireside to be with her.

She had no picture to give me to show you but I can tell you she is quite tall and slenderly erect; moved like a flash and seems to almost wheel as she turns. She leans forward to listen to you, not to hear because her hearing is flawless, but because she gets all wrapped up in any subject. She has brown eyes, a mouth that never thoroughly settles down to seriousness, and a fair skin; there wasn't a line or wrinkle to be seen on her . . . .

During the great flood of 1927 Mrs. Currier was selectman. When her daughter drove up to see her she had to take her car right up through actual riverbeds. Great rocks were lodged in the height of the trees where branches and trunks met. Whole great bridges were washed away like dolls' furniture, and food had to be flown in. Mrs. Currier's duties required that she inspect the damage and turn in a report to the State. So she had to trudge many weary miles up great hills and down, climbing over washouts, picking her way over the displaced rocks and fallen trees, and how she got around or through the turbulent swollen streams I don't know. However, she did, and with the aid of Gov. Weeks (a wonderful Governor, she told me) she did her share in securing a reconstruction loan . . . .

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You may have seen the Water Wheel turning, that is when the brook is full enough. In 1880 the Plumley sawmill stood there. In 1946 George R. Taylor bought a Fitz Waterwheel in Conn., 18 ft. in diameter, weighing 3 tons, and had it erected there to call attention to his gasoline and refreshment stand. Present owner is Gary T. Gilbert.

Opposite this a short town road leads across the Ottaquechee. For many years a favorite "swimmin' hole" was under the bridge. To the right is a red house where Frank M. Plumley lived . . . more about him

later. During interior remodeling some tremendously sturdy and old logs and beams were found indicating it was an early house though the outside has changed appearance in ensuing years. Originally this was the site of the home of early resident John Anthony who is buried in a small family graveyard on the road to the left against the woods.

The inscription on the burial monument is as follows:

In loving memory of  
John Anthony, 1732-1814  
Sarah Church, his wife, 1738-1811  
Albro Anthony, 1762-1834  
First Town Clerk of Sherburne  
His Wife  
Salome Wood, 1782-1855. Buried in Illinois  
Sarah W., wife of Charles S. N. Anthony  
1812-1838  
Sarah, their dau. 1838-1838

Erected by Jane F. Wilson of Washington, Illinois  
Dau. of C. S. N. & S. A. Anthony

The date of the erection of this monument is not known, but older residents recall its being there at least as early as 1910. Many of the early pages of Vol. I of the Town Records bear the signature of John Anthony, Justice of the Peace. He had bought land in Killington to persuade his three sea captain sons to give up the sea, but only one, Albro, settled here.

John Anthony was State Representative from Killington 1798-99 when the Legislature was meeting at Vergennes. In those days it met in different towns and not in one fixed location. One of his descendants, William C. Anthony, founder of a large truck body manufactory in Streator, Illinois, paid the author a visit in 1965.

Later owners of this property were Solomon W. Adams in 1869, Constantine W. Adams in 1886, Judge (side judge) Frank M. Plumley 1893 when the house was painted a yellowish color, Frank Stevens, Pearl Towne, Rev. Harry Snook, 1955-60, John Taylor, John Cary to 1971, and now John Hurley.

Where John Biessman has built a commercial structure opposite Goodro Lumber Co., there stood the home of John & Clara Davis, later owned by Herbert & Hazel Johnson, which burned in 1956.

John Davis held about every position the Town offered during his many years residence in Sherburne, in fact in just one year, 1909, he was school director, truant officer, 1st constable, member of the board of civil authority, and overseer of the poor, while his wife was town clerk, a post she held for 42 years, until 1934.

In 1896 their house burned, including Volume VI of the Land Records. Anyone searching titles in previous years is apt to come to a standstill on this account. All the other books were in the safe except this one which was left out for just a few moments while Mrs. Davis walked up to the Post Office for the mail. It covered the years 1836 to 1842.

In 1956 when Hazel Johnson lived in this same house there was another fire, but fortunately all the town records were saved.

### River Baptisms

Opposite the Davis house was a deep spot in the Ottaquechee where river baptisms were held by the Adventists, and Ida Wilson recalled one occasion when there was still some snow on the ground, perhaps in March. May Doubleday was to be baptized and since she was from the North Sherburne area and a long way from home, the John Davises offered her a place to change into and out of the baptismal garb.

Several sleighs or sleds with the witnesses wound along behind the Davis barn (moved in 1963 to Oren Bates garage property) on a narrow road toward the creek. One farm sled had been fixed up temporarily with a plank seat, not nailed down, driven by Henry Taylor with his mother Augusta Bates Taylor accompanying him to the ceremony. As they neared the river for some reason Henry stood up, perhaps to better guide the horse, and in so doing his rather portly mother upset the delicate balance of the plank. Henry's end went up, mother's went down and gently dumped her into a snowbank, much to the amusement of the witnesses.

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Next house north is that of Ann Wallen. Just possibly it could have been the location of the tollhouse or tollgate of the Sherburne Turnpike Company in 1848, bought from Rufus Richardson (Vol. 7 of the Town Records). Others think the tollhouse was above the church. Maurice Prior believes at some time they paid a fee at the house to be hauled up the Dugway by ox or horse.

### Frank Plumley and Plumley's Hall

Bordering the brook is a large old 2-story building also owned by Ann Wallen. In 1869 it was the blacksmith shop of John Dutton, then Charles Rickett, Albert Plumley about 1900, and later Heber Miner. Mr. Miner's hobby was photography and he took many fine views of Sherburne scenes and houses and printed them on mailing postcards. Some are in the illustrated volumes of this History in the Library.

In 1894 Frank Plumley was owner of the building and remodeled the second floor into a "grand ballroom." The dedication of Plumley Hall was an event to be remembered as the Grand Ball lasted until the sun shone in the east windows, according to Ethel Gifford, whose mother was one of the dedicating dancers. Supper was served around midnight and was included in the \$1.50 cost of the dedication festivities.

A gay Dance Card arranged for square dances to alternate with quadrilles and contra dances, with occasional round dances. The redowa was a dance in triple time resembling a waltz, while the galop, pronounced gallo, was a lively dance resembling the present day polka.

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# GRAND BALL

at

PLUMLEY'S HALL  
SHERBURNE, VT.

Friday Eve. June 1, 1894

Floor Managers: Geo. Pearsons, W. Bridgewater  
Chas. Spaulding, W. Woodstock

Committee of Introduction:  
Geo. Vose, Pittsfield  
Carlos Spaulding, W. Bridgewater

Music, Ordway's Orchestra

FULL BILL . . . \$1.50 (including supper)

Grand March at 8:30

Supper (at what hour?)

Quadrille - "Good Evening"

Quadrille - "We've all been out to  
Tea"

Contra - "French Four"

Contra - "Hull's Victory"

Quadrille - "Schottische"

Quadrille - "Fancy Medley"

Contra - "Virginia Reel"

Contra - "Ladies Choice"

Waltz & Polka

Quadrille - "Comrads"

Quadrille - "Honest John"

Quadrille - "Mocking Bird"

Polka & Galop

Contra - "Portland Fancy"

Quadrille - "Lancers"

Quadrille - "Plumley's Hall"

Contra - "Tempest"

Schottische & Redowa

Quadrille - "Wait till the Clouds  
Roll By"

Contra - "Twin Sisters"

Contra - "Patenella"

Quadrille - "Walk Around"

Quadrille - "After the Ball"

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Frank M. Plumley is well remembered by several of the older residents, either by direct acquaintance or from stories handed down. He was reputedly a great bear hunter although once he did get caught in his own trap. He was known in later years as Judge Plumley, having been appointed a "side judge" - one who sits beside the regular judge to advise him on many points and customs peculiar to the particular locality.

According to a biographical history of Vermonters entitled "Men of Vermont," 1894, page 320, "Frank M. Plumley was born in 1840 in Shrewsbury. He followed the calling of a commercial traveler, then settled on a farm in Shrewsbury, and later entered into the lumber business . . . In 1885 he moved to Sherburne and continued in the lumber trade till 1893 when he purchased an estate on the Woodstock road where he now resides. He had a fine library, held many of the town offices, and served in the legislature in 1891. In 1862 he married Eliza Hale and has three sons: Rush, Ralph and Albert." (The estate referred to is now the house of John Hurley across the Ottauquechee from the Water Wheel)

The 1886 history says, "Killington Mill owned by F. Chaffee & Son was built in 1884 by Frank Plumley who operates it." This probably was the one on West Hill later owned by Vermont Marble Company.

Plumley Hall was the second floor of the big building at the brook and was also used for Grange meetings. In 1925 it housed the Merrill Garage until 1949 when they moved to Junction of US 4 and Vt. 100 N.

Mules used to bring in the gasoline from Woodstock and the pump hand-pumped only one gallon at a time. The little concrete bridge bears the date 1925. During the Flood of 1927 when most bridges were washed away this one survived only because Roaring Brook suddenly changed its course a few feet before reaching the bridge and went off down the road.

### Mystery Finally Solved

The Sherburne school children could scarcely wait for the author's spring arrival to show her a mysterious tombstone in the pasture back of the old Merrill Garage in the village. It was a small one, set in among the rocks and poison ivy, and bore only the inscription GEORGE. Rodney Andrews had told the rest of them about it, but admitted he first heard about it from an older sister.

There were no customary dates carved and no further identification but still the children wanted to know who, when, and why. Many inquiries were made among the older residents. The town records revealed there was a George family that lived in Sherburne at one time, but still the riddle remained.

Finally Frank Blanchard dusted off some old memories and came up with the answer. About 1940 Vernon Merrill had a dearly beloved dog named Sport, and when the pet died he buried him in the back pasture. Feeling the pet should be memorialized, he acquired a small tombstone, though now he cannot remember where he got it, but assures us it was not by borrowing it from a cemetery.

It already had the name GEORGE on it and he consulted Frank Blanchard and most seriously asked if he thought Sport would mind this difference in names. Frank assured him the doggie would no doubt be pleased with the stone and the boy's well meaning intention to honor his pet.

We still would be interested to know who it was that had an unused tombstone to spare.



Sherburne Village Looking West  
 Fred Spaulding Mill about 1911. Torn down in 1937  
 House at left is now owned by Charles Nye.



Sherburne Village Looking East  
 Recognize U.S. 4? Lumber piles are opposite Post Office  
 Field in center is now completely forested.



1938 Flood Damage in Sherburne Village  
Roaring Brook left its banks and tore up the street  
opposite the old Merrill Garage  
Post Office is in center rear.



## PART V

### THE VILLAGE

Sherburne Hollow

Sherburne Center

Although the original lay-out of the town as described in the Charter envisioned the main village as located in the geographical center of the Town, which would be on West Hill, this did not materialize. Instead a community grew up at a natural spot in the valley at the junction of Queechy River and Roaring Brook where the first gristmill was built in 1805.

As we approach Sherburne village the Harley Gifford home is on the right, originally located on the opposite side, but moved in 1952. There was a large old barn where stage horses were kept and changed on their route between Woodstock and Rutland. In 1869 the home belonged to Solomon W. Adams; subsequent owners were Ballard, Harvey Colton, Benj. Maxham, Edith Colton, Melline, John Morse stage driver, Ralph Plumley who built the two-story rear addition, then brother Albert (Bert) Plumley. It was sold at auction to Bates who gave his son Warner and bride in 1911 the choice of living there or up on the West Hill farm (now Farmhouse Lodge). They chose the latter. House was sold to Will Gifford, then Earl Gifford, and now Harley & Eva Gifford and his mother Ethel West Gifford live there.

The Clifford Andrews house was built by Bert Plumley about 1905 for a store which he ran but a short time. Ralph & Hazel Cain kept store there from 1935-47.

Mrs. Bert Plumley, a lively lady of 94 living in Rutland was the first telephone operator when the exchange was in her home, and all calls were made by the vigorous cranking of a handle to ring the operator who in turn rang "one long and two shorts" for instance.

The oldest building is that of Ralph Cain which houses the Killington Post Office. Mrs. Cain was postmaster from 1942 to 1971. The house was built in 1832. In the 1850s the store was run as a cooperative venture called the American Protective Union, organized with 24 members paying in \$3.00 each. When they closed out after 11 years each member got \$140 for his investment. One was Daniel W. Taylor, others were Silas Colton, Richard Estabrooks, and John Johnson.

The Cains have a framed collection of photographs of the store showing the alterations that have been made to it by various owners. One set dates from 1872 when probably the post office was first in this building (Francis E. Derby, P.M.); the other set was from Ida Wilson's house which was first above the church.

The present post office building has for a century been the site of a general store, operated in succeeding years by J. S. & Augustus D. Slack (pre 1869 to 1880), Charles Blanchard, Warren R. & Augusta W. Taylor of Plymouth, who sold it in 1883 to Frank W. Spaulding for \$650, but the "vegetables in the garden are reserved to C. B. Carpenter."

In 1893 C. W. Brigham and F. M. Plumley, trustees of Daniel W. Taylor, deeded it to F(red)W. Spaulding. Around 1922 he sold it to Lewis Madden, who with Eddie Willis ran the store until it was sold in 1940 to John McCutcheon, and in 1945 to Ralph & Hazel Cain.

Copy of letter from

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
National Archives and Records Service  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Postal history of Sherburne Center, Rutland County, Vermont

Established as Sherburne on January 29, 1829  
Name changed to Killington on September 1, 1926  
Name changed to Sherburne Center on May 25, 1927  
Name changed to Killington December 1, 1961

<u>Postmasters</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Cephas Wood	January 29, 1829
Josiah Wood (Jr.)	July 27, 1835
Lucius R. Barker	July 16, 1839
Benjamin Maxham	May 10, 1841
Solomon W. Adams	July 29, 1845
Benjamin Maxham	June 9, 1849
Samuel B. Adams	September 28, 1855
Solomon W. Adams	July 17, 1856
George W. Rich	October 6, 1858
Constantine W. Adams	April 21, 1859
Benjamin Maxham	April 13, 1861
Francis E. Derby	November 25, 1872
Benjamin Maxham	December 8, 1874
Jerome Taylor	September 30, 1884
Frank M. Spaulding)to correct	September 26, 1888
Frank W. Spaulding) Middle initial	October 6, 1888
Fred G. Spaulding	November 16, 1896
Lewis Madden	July 21, 1922
Edward C. Willis	May 25, 1925
Mrs. Ida N. Wilson	March 9, 1927
Mrs. Hazel B. Cain	April 1, 1942
Ronald Willis	May 27, 1972

West Bridgewater, Vermont

Joseph K. Spaulding	June 4, 1867
Sarah B. Spaulding	October 2, 1906
Clarence L. Coats	October 30, 1909
Hattie E. Coats	November 15, 1910
Hattie A. Pearsons	February 9, 1912
Hazel Welch	October 1930 to August 1962

### The Village Church

The dominant feature of every New England village is the little, or large, white Church with its steeple, a most familiar landmark for miles around. These churches were plainly but firmly built and have survived the years well.

According to a leaflet issued in 1960 the history of the Sherburne Church is as follows. In 1823 there was a small Congregational Society, but no settled Pastor or church building. In 1829 the first church was formed with nine members one being Elder Noah Johnson as pastor. He was a carpenter also and in 1838 he built a meeting house with lumber donated by the people. The house which he erected is now 134 years old, though the steeple was not added until 1860.

In 1880 the practice of employing student pastors during the summer was started. Since that date 47 student pastors, 2 lay pastors, and 13 ordained ministers have supplied. Originally it was called the First Christian (pronounced Christ-yan) Church and Society.

In 1957 there was extensive remodeling and the church was moved back from the road onto a new foundation. A number of items were purchased from the old Gaysville Church, including four dozen pews, the chandelier, four wall bracket lamps, two collection boxes with long handles, and two dozen Bennington Ware spittoons! There had been one at the end of each pew. These were resold to antique collectors for use as planters, or just conversation pieces.

A lay pastor, Mrs. Elwin F. Leysath occupied the pulpit from 1955 to 1970, and the present pastor is Raymond J. Odieorhe, Jr. The church is now one of the Tri-Valley Parish, the others being Gaysville and Pittsfield, holding meetings alternately. The building also is used by the Roman Catholic parish for mass on Saturdays and Sundays.

Attendance these days is voluntary but in early days they had a "persuader" in the form of a tythingman, duly elected at Town Meetings to see that people attended church. In 1831 Amasa Fuller held the position.

### Religion

As mentioned earlier there was a small Congregational Church Society in 1823 but no organization until 1829 and no church building until 1838. It is the same one that now stands in the village and was sometimes referred to as the Christian Church. The present name is United Church of Christ.

Walton's Register of 1845 listed three clergymen in Sherburne, one for the "christian church," one for the "methodist" and one for the "universalist" though no mention is made of the location of these churches.

All through New England in the 1840s there were many followers of William Miller (1782-1849) who prophesied the coming of the millenium and the end of the world as it is on a definite date in 1843, again in 1844 and also in 1847. It is said many people prepared ascension robes for the occasion and also climbed to their roof tops to insure a shorter

distance to get into heaven. When it was discovered there was a grave miscalculation, Mr. Miller lost his following.

In 1861 the Advent Christian Church was organized and in 1863 the Seventh Day Adventist Church. It was a branch of the former which was established in North Sherburne in 1886 by six Doubledays and three Shepherds. Ida Wilson's father was an Adventist minister and it was she who told of witnessing the river baptisms on River Road and just below the village.

The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour was built in 1894 as told in earlier pages.

There were some spiritualists around 1900.

Not until the winter of 1966-7 did the Catholics conduct services in Sherburne, holding them in the United Church edifice in the village. The next place of worship was in neighboring Pittsfield in the little building which had been a school near Deer Brook Lodge on Vt. 100 North.

### Physicians

At various times there has been a resident doctor in West Bridgewater though none at present. Dr. C. O. Boyden (1849-1907) was practicing and living there in 1896. Dr. Albert Cram lived a few miles away in Bridgewater village and practiced from 1913 to 1957, and Dr. Herbert Martin in 1900. People relied mostly on home remedies and herb doctors, and neighboring women acted as midwives.

In 1863 there was an epidemic of diphtheria and a tombstone in the West Bridgewater Cemetery shows that between December 17th and January 5th five children of Ellis Madden died of the disease, aged 1 to 18. One daughter, Lella, survived to be 75. Mrs. Madden herself began to feel ill and begged her husband to get her some lemons. He brought home a dozen and she sat down and ate every one of them. According to medical reasoning that was the one thing that saved her life.

Sometimes mixed in with home remedies was a bit of superstition, such as tying a "piece of lace leather" (rawhide shoelace) around the neck.

Besides the herb doctoring of Sylvanus Chamberlain who was listed as an "eclectic physician" and an early Warner Bates "phys. bot.", there was a Sylvester Newton on East Hill listed in Walton's Register of 1868 as "phys. thom." In 1858 another phys. thom. lived in Bridgewater. A medical dictionary turned up the information that it was an empiric system of medical practice, chiefly botanic, founded by one Samuel Thomson, a New Hampshire farmer who died in 1843.

According to Ethel Gifford, up in Little Sherburne her grandmother, Mrs. Ezekiel West II was called on frequently both for midwifery and for herb doctoring for she had learned the lore from her grandmother, an Indian squaw. Mrs. West had a local reputation of being "better than half the doctors." Mrs. Nettie Dimick said Mrs. West had 'picked her up from under the apple tree," i.e. received her from the stork.



### The Hotel

In the early days almost anyone who had a little extra room was expected to take in travelers. More formally recognized hostelrys were Josiah Wood's Tavern Stand at the Mission Church, the Coffee House on Elbow Road in North Sherburne, and Rufus Richardson's hotel near the Harley Gifford house. But the most recent and best remembered one was adjacent to the present Grange Hall. The site is now owned by Ralph Plumb who has built a one-room house on its old foundations. He bought the property out of sentiment, because his father had met his mother at the hotel and married her.

It was built in 1840, enlarged for a tavern in 1863, and run by Benj. Maxham for 18 years. His name runs all through the old records as one of the important men of the Town. On the Town Records there is carried the account of the Maxham School Fund, established 1908. It consists of \$100 he gave some time previously which he wished added to the \$300 which had been realized from the sale of School Right #66. Income is for benefit of schools.

In 1889 the hotel was owned by Augusta Bates Taylor (Mrs. Warren Reuben Taylor of Plymouth, Vt.), great aunt of Oren Bates and grandmother of Mrs. Florence Taylor Hall. She leased the hotel to various people. John and Artie Morse of Mendon ran it while he was stage driver between Rutland and Bridgewater.

It was Mr. Morse (1857-1936) who brought Ida Perkins, then aged 17, over from Mendon to work in the hotel, called "TRAVELLERS HOME," the sign painter giving it the reverse S. It was in the spring of 1889 and in Rutland there was no snow, but as the old-fashioned stage coach climbed through Mendon to Sherburne Pass the wheels got bogged down in the snowdrifts. He had to shovel the coach out often.

In 1891 Ida Perkins married Horace Wilson and they lived at and ran the hotel for seven years. There was no running water, so they drew a barrel of water daily from a spring barrel and watering trough 500 ft. away (at the post office). Eventually they ran pipes from the trough, and later had a pump. Horace bargained with Mrs. Taylor that if she would provide the pipe he would dig the ditch, which he did. After it was laid she mentioned to him that it hadn't been covered over. "That's right, Mrs. Taylor, I only said I'd dig the ditch." So she had to stand the expense of covering it, much to her dismay.

The Taylors always reserved a room for themselves in the hotel in case they came to Sherburne on business. They also owned the Michael Smith house next door and occupied it on the 31st of March each year, bringing livestock with them from Plymouth to escape the higher taxes on personal property in effect in that Town. In fact this led to a lawsuit filed by Plymouth vs. Sherburne to recover lost taxes. Testimony of Mrs. Wilson clinched the matter concerning their residence in Sherburne, and Plymouth lost the case.

\* \* \* \* \*

Incidentally, another good place to escape the eyes of the listers was NoTown on Stony Brook. People near Chateaugay or South Hill would move their livestock, equipment, etc. to this small area which seemed to be owned by no particular town. When the listing was over they could safely return.

Then in 1871 the grandfather of Stetson Edmunds of Rutland set up a big lumbering operation there and the Town of Stockbridge coveted it for a good tax source so got the Legislature to approve its annexation. (Laws of 1884, P. 270). All of that area is owned by International Paper Company, and the Appalachian Trail goes within 1/4 mile of the old mill site.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### (Hotel)

There was no hotel operation after the Wilsons left in 1898 and the big house became a dwelling house for several families, and eventually collapsed.

Across the way lived John Dutton (1834-1898) where there now is a small well-house in the weeds. He was a cripple but evidently an energetic worker, even listed in the 1881 Directory for Rutland County as "jack of all trades," which included blacksmithing, cobbling, harness making, brick masonry, carpentry, wagon making and tailoring.

John Dutton is perhaps best remembered for the sewing of a patch-work quilt which the 1886 history says contained 127,000 pieces! (We wonder if the first 1 was not a typographical error.) In any event Ida Wilson said she saw it many times when she took hotel visitors over to call on the old man just to look at the masterpiece. She said the pieces were so small the back of the quilt looked like a bed of seams.

Just south of Dutton's was the Grange Hall, built 1946 and later burned, rebuilt and moved across the road to the present site in 1958.

#### Village School

The building still stands on River Rd. just north of Post Office, and belongs to the Fire Dept. Earlier it was the home of the first Fire fighting equipment for Sherburne. In 1965 its bell was removed to the new Fire House on West Hill.

The date it was built cannot be determined, but it was prior to the 1880s at least. Teachers include Mrs. Florence Taylor Hall, Mrs. Evelyn Power, and in 1929-34 Mrs. Hazel Cain.

In the Library is an album with many photographs of the school and its pupils, an annual event. These range from 1918 to 1945.

Reminiscences of Ida Perkins Wilson

1872 - 1969

The author had many delightful visits with Mrs. Wilson in connection with this history of Sherburne. She lived here some 59 years (1889-1947) and was in the center of everything whether it was running the hotel, organizing the Grange, the public library, a Fourth of July celebration or running the postoffice, which she did for 15 years. She was local correspondent for the Rutland Herald for 35 years and her pay for this was one free subscription to the Herald!

When I showed her a picture postcard of the Horribles Parade of July Fourth, about 1920, she admitted she was one of the promoters. People came from quite a distance. Many changed into their costumes in her house. Archie Baker, wearing a stove pipe hat and playing a cornet, was leader of the parade which wound in and around the grassy triangle of the village.

The hat was passed to receive contributions to buy an American flag for the town to be strung across the highway near the iron bridge (now the lower concrete bridge). Ida proposed to the Selectmen that if they would put up a flagpole at the lumber yard across from her house she would see that a smaller flag bought with excess donations was put up every good day and taken down properly. Selectman Warner Bates made no audible comment, but next day took Oren and his twin brother Harry out into his woods and cut a big pole and set it up at the edge of the mill yard.

Her house was next above the church, later owned by Romaine Willis, and in 1964 torn down during highway construction. In this house she operated a telephone exchange about 1910, a few shelves of books for the first library in 1913, the Sherburne Center Post Office from 1927-42, and after that a little gift shop. She retired as postmaster when she was 70 and Hazel Cain succeeded her, and in 1947 moved to her son's home in Rutland.

During World War II she was agent for War Bond sales, and helped Sherburne exceed its quota in the Vermont War chest campaign, mainly through a food booth maintained at Timberlake Camp, a lawn party at Guy Welch's and a dance at the Grange.

Mrs. Wilson often drove to Rutland, 12 miles, for a day's shopping, driving a Morgan horse and buggy. She got to Rutland by noon; rate was about five miles per hour. In spring she would change from sleigh to a wheeled wagon at Mendon because roads were clear on the west side of the mountain, and then she would change back again on the return.

She kept in constant touch with Sherburne friends by phone after moving away so knew what was going on. She died at the age of 97.

## PART VI

### Mills and Lumbering

Since this was heavily wooded country lumber mills have been established since early times and, as in any pioneer section there had to be grist mills as well.

A 1774 map of Killington, which was used as a cover for Town Reports for a few years, shows a mill somewhere between River Road and Mt. Lebanon (Pico Peak); one in the northwest corner of the Town; another one at the base of Mt. Pisgah (Killington Peak), but these cannot be identified.

### In the Village

The first grist mill was in the village in 1805 north of the school but was washed out in 1812 and not rebuilt. The first saw mill was that of Stephen Dain, 1808-10 back of the old hotel. The Dains (or Deans) were among the early settlers and on Dean Hill Road there is a cellarhole surrounded by lilacs which may have been on their property, now owned by Horace "Red" Glaze. In the Riverside Cemetery are the graves of O. B. Dain (1771-1860) and Lemuel Dain (1756-1852) who lived to the ripe ages of 89 and 96.

The 1869 map lists L. A. and C. C. Willard as millers and manufacturers and dealers in lumber. Their mill was in the grassy triangle between the two bridges, with the old waterwheel remaining into the 1880s. Levi Willard lived in the house across from the church. Mrs. Bert Plumley recalls that he was a very big man and tough physically. There was a rain barrell on the porch and every morning, summer and winter, he would go out there to wash his hands and face even though it meant breaking the ice to do so.

About 1896 Orestes Butterfield ran a Clothespin mill back of Ann Wallen's. But the mill most people nowadays can recall is the Spaulding mill on Roaring Brook just back of the white house now owned by Chas. Nye opposite the church. It belonged to Fred Spaulding in 1911 and Horace Wilson drove ox-team for him. At times when tourists passed the mill and saw the ox-team they asked to be allowed to climb up on the cart and have their pictures taken.

Several pictures have been forthcoming showing logs near the road, the drive-on platform scales, the stretcher sheds, the drying sheds, and the stacks of lumber. Mrs. Wilson used to pick up a little extra money by tying bundles of stretchers (chair spokes) in the sheds. About 1915 the Spaulding mill was sold to her brother, Leroy Perkins, who ran it for about 20 years until his tragic death after a dynamite explosion in highway construction work in 1935. The mill never was operated after that and was torn down in 1937 and sold for junk.

### On Thundering Brook

Near the outlet of Kent Pond in 1869 stood the sawmill of Nathan Chauncey Adams, later owned by Chas. C. Willard.

There was an early mill on the brook below Ohly's pond.

A very early grist mill, probably that of early settler Silas Colton 1820 or 1830, was on the steep side hill section of Archie Baker's property.

However, a mill that is still operating is that of Mr. Baker at the foot of the falls of Thundering Brook. Water comes to the mill through a wooden penstock and generates electricity for his mill and home so he is not concerned when Central Vermont Power Company warns him and his neighbors that power will be cut off for a few hours for repair. "Vermont Life" of Spring 1959 and "Yankee Magazine" of May, 1970 had stories and pictures of this one-man utility. And as it says, he also makes violins!

From childhood Archie Baker (b. 1884) had shown great interest in water wheels and mills and recalls getting many a tanning for playing in the brooks. One of his early mechanical concoctions resulted in a water wheel at the upper Kirby place on Wolf Hill Road where he lived with his grandfather, Ezekiel West, from 1888 to 1930. A small pond was made to produce a good fall and his rig ran the butter churn, cream separator and washing machine. During World war I he ground flour and some of the machinery in his present mill was brought down from the hill.

The present Baker mill was built by him in 1909 on the site of an older dowell or chair stock mill built by Edwin Colton. The house was built about 1930 from the old drying shed.

#### Along River Road

This road connecting Sherburne village with Pittsfield saw quite a few mills come and go over the years. Somewhat across from the Grange Hall was the Great Eastern Lumber Mill operating from 1954 for a few years. Earlier, in 1939, this was the field where the first Sherburne Fair was held which is mentioned elsewhere in this book, now the location of a condominium.

Back of the David Edgar home is the sawdust pile from a mill run by Halcolm Johnson. At present the Appalachian Trail skirts one edge of it. A short distance away was the clapboard mill of "Dud" Rice who bought his maple and other hardwood logs from International Paper Co. up the mountain behind him.

The Willard family were lumber mill owners over a long period of time. Besides the one in the village they had one in 1891 up Shaw Hill Brook up behind the Battles place. It is not far from Charley Prior's camp and is mentioned in the "Diaries of George E. Prior."

#### In North Sherburne

After climbing Falls Hill and joining Rt. 100 one passes Gifford Meadows Camping Area owned and operated by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Barrows. Mr. Barrows' sawmill in the meadow burned in 1948 and he rebuilt back farther nearer Colton Pond and that, too, burned in 1955.

The mill of Ambrose Estabrooks (grandfather of the late Miss Christine Johnson) was built in 1862 on the Tweed, which eventually flows into the White River. It produced shingles, rake teeth, floor

pegs, cider, and maple rollers for the Vermont Marble Company. Half-inch shingles were made from big spruce logs and they were one foot to the weather. The stone dam backed up a nice little pond but it was damaged by the 1885 flood and the whole thing was flooded out in 1927. A picture of the old mill and dam taken in the early 1900s was on the cover of the 1970 Town Report.

Cheese boxes were also made there for use at the little cheese factory, another Estabrook enterprise, built in 1890. Miss Johnson had a list of incorporators of the Sherburne Cheese Factory Association dated Jan. 6, 1890. Thirty-five shareholders subscribed the \$1250 required and seemed to come from all sections of the Town except South Sherburne where there was another cheese factory.

Incorporators names: E. W. Prior, E. Z. Dutton & Son, C. W. Adams, Hollis V. Hodgman, Harvey Colton, F. W. Spaulding, Merrit S. Neil, L. A. Willard, F. L. Bates, John C. Page, John F. Turner, M. L. Ordway, Ambrose D. Estabrook, Melvin Colton, G. W. Frink, W. E. Shaw, Oscar Colton, A.C. Boutwell, S. N. Colton, G. L. Estabrook, E. A. Colton, C. W. Holland, A. T. Estabrook (Lon), E. West, E. A. Estabrook, A. W. Estabrook (Fon), A. F. Estabrook, A. E. Pratt, Daniel P. Hadley, A. H. Collidge, Reuben W. Taylor, Julia P. Tarbell, Edwin P. Tarbell, Phebe Bates.

Continuing north on Rt. 100 just before coming to the Pittsfield Town Line, on the left are the William Martin buildings, in back of which still can be seen part of the stone dam on which there was a Colton mill as early as 1829. The late Harry Colton found it mentioned in an old deed. In 1862 his grandfather Jonathan Colton moved down from Doubleday Hill and bought the saw and planing mill from a Mr. Avery (possibly the Jeremiah Avery who was postmaster of North Sherburne in 1858). Chair stretchers were also made there.

Isaac Morse bought the Colton mill in 1874 and converted it to steam in 1880. It burned when Frank Durkee owned it, 1883-89. It was rebuilt and burned again about 1900 when the Chaffees of Rutland owned it.

Still in the North Sherburne area but west of Rt. 100 were two more mills. One was that of John Spaulding up an old town road from Trailside Lodge, and it made chairspokes 1911-16. It was on the Seth Boutwell property where now can be seen the remains of the stone dam and little mill pond 200 yards upstream from Cohen's pond.

The other was a steam sawmill built 1882 farther up the same road by Levi Willard mentioned earlier as owning a mill in Sherburne Hollow village. In the late 1890s Alton Tupper (father of Mrs. Andrew Towne) was a board sawyer at the mill, but lived in the Pratt house on Coffee House Road now owned by Mrs. Doris Baker. However during lumbering operations Mrs. Pratt ran the boarding house up there. Her nephew Charles Colton of Pittsfield aged 5 spent a few days with her while little brother Harry arrived in this world in 1902.

Merald Spaulding, who lived at what is now Trailside, recalls in about 1907 seeing Levi Willard, a serious, gruff man, or so it seemed to him. However, as he opened the gate for Mr. Willard he was rewarded with a bright new penny . . . an event that would stand out in a boy's memory.

The road up to the mill was often used by the general public, in winter only, as a short cut from North Sherburne to Rutland instead of going through Sherburne Pass. In 1914 Mrs. Hazel Johnson drove over it. The sawmill site is more readily found today by going up Elbow Road to the abandoned George Wood place and walking left about a mile. It was between two brooks and an apple tree is about all that remains. Beyond the mill the road climbed steadily into what is called Willard Gap today on the Long Trail, then down past the Robinwood development to U.S. 4 near the Sherburne-Mendon Line.

#### On U.S. 4

Northwest of the Sherburne Motel was the D.M. White Company sawmill where Luther West worked about 1886. He lived with his family in the boarding house on the north side of the road. His daughter, Mrs. Ethel West Gifford, has a long memory and one incident still stands out to her when she was a wee tot and had been told not to go near the mill, but she disobeyed. Her father then told one of the workers, Charles Burney, to scare her to pieces which he did by grabbing a slab and wielding it around while letting out some bloodcurdling yells and chasing her. It cured her.

A good present day landmark is Taylor's Water Wheel where novelties, refreshments and gasoline are sold, half a mile south of the village. In 1880s Jehiel Webb owned a sawmill there which was run by Frank Plumley who later bought the house back across the Ottaquechee, now owned by John Hurley. It was yellowish then, red now.

Between Biessman's "Turn of River Lodge" and "Sports Hill" was a building where scythe snaths (handles) were shaved.

There are only two sawmills operating in Sherburne today. One is that of Oren Bates on Dean Hill Road on West Hill, and the other is that of Mason Wardwell on the Ottaquechee near junction of Falls Brook in West Bridgewater. The 1869 Beers map shows a mill at this location. It was built by Jenness & Russell Madden, later owned by Briggs, Ed Doyle, and in 1905 bought by Frank Wardwell, father of Mason and Fred Wardwell.

The author is indebted to Herbert I. Johnson for the following information on several old mills in the West Bridgewater area.

On the Hadley Hill Road there is a "Y" at the bridge over Falls Brook. In an open field or level spot at left just before approaching the bridge there was a sawmill owned and operated by Hiram Noyes and Mike Rooney. Bearing left at the "Y" you come to the house now owned by Clyde MacAskill. It was owned by Hi Noyes, and operated as a boarding house by Mike Rooney.

Beyond the MacAskill house, up the brook approximately 500 feet there was a butter tub factory in 1869 on the east side of Falls Brook.

As you turn off U.S. 4 onto the Hadley Hill Road there was a large building owned and operated by Burr and Milo Moore (brothers) as a bowl factory and shingle mill. On the same property on right of highway farther north the same brothers had a sawmill and in the basement a stretcher mill, all water power. This dated from about 1869 to 1914.

Clarence Coates built the large white house on the east side of U.S. 4 in the village in 1897/8, now occupied by the Yale Ski Club. Northeast of the house in the field Mr. Coates built and operated a chair stock mill, directly east of the Hazel Welch home. This was a water power mill until 1925 when purchased by Lee Pearsons. A sawmill was then added at which time steam power was installed to use when water was low. Ten to thirteen men were employed there.

Near the Triangle Grocery there used to be a cheese factory, dance hall and tenement, built probably in the 1890s by Jenness Madden at a cost of \$600 for a group of local residents who were shareholders in the enterprise. Later Clarence Coates bought up all the shares. After a period when it was not used it was reopened 1917-19 and Herbert Johnson was the last cheesemaker.

Across the driveway, but still on the same side of the road, was a cider mill. The town line ran between the two mills, but Sherburne saw to it that the cider was on their side and left the cheese to Bridgewater.



## Lumbering

### Vermont Marble Co. Mill. 1901 - 1918

Besides farming the main industry carried on in Sherburne was lumbering and the old lumber roads persist to this day for delightful walking. They branch out like the fingers on the hand and come to a dead end where the lumberman decided he had gone far enough.

Many are the present residents of Sherburne who worked in the woods and at the mill and have supplied the information given here. Mortimer Proctor researched the company files to further authenticate this history of lumbering activities on Killington and Pico slopes.

In the last decade or two before 1900 some 6000 acres of forest land was owned by one Charles Holden. In 1901 the Vermont Marble Company bought the land, lumbered it and ran the mill near Basin Lodge and Ski Shop until 1918. One can still see the huge sawdust pile and a few trap-pings of the mill beyond the beautiful falls which are about 1000 feet from the Access Road.

From whom Holden got the land I do not know, but Archie Baker's story is that it belonged to the Chaffee Lumber Company of Rutland. They had agreed to sell some extra long spruce logs to the V.M.C. and told Holden if he could get the logs out from their 2160 acre lot on Killington they would give him the whole lot. It is still known as the Holden Lot. The twelve inch square sticks were used for mine props and for derricks in the oil fields. The Levi Willard Mill at North Sherburne also got out sticks for derricks.

## The Snowsheds

Although there is a ski area in the Killington basin named "Snowshed" there are few people who recall the actual snowsheds. Mr. Mortimer Proctor's letter of Jan. 7, 1964 reads as follows:

"They were built and started to be used perhaps about 1910 after the Company commenced cutting on a steep area near what was known as Belgo. The logging road on which the sheds were built was very steep and would normally require chains in the winter. This was rather cumbersome and developed difficulties because of the steepness of the road, and by putting up the snowsheds it kept the road bare and no chains were necessary."

They might be likened to the avalanche sheds over the railroads in the Rockies. These were built of slabs or boards, something like an elongated covered bridge. Theoretically the ground in them would be bare and would act as a natural brake when the heavy sleds came down too fast. However, as it turned out, there were times when ice formed inside the sheds and made it dangerously slippery and they did not fulfill expectations, so were only used about two years. They were about half a mile long and Archie Baker recalls he could see them from his grandfather's home on Wolf Hill.

A small replica can be seen at the Mal Tool & Engineering Company's ski lodge on Butler Road. There is a long covered bridge structure to protect the road and cars coming to their lodge entrance, and they may have the same difficulty described above when it thaws and refreezes.

### Talk with Henry D. Miner

A very pleasant afternoon in 1965 was spent with Henry Miner, National Forest Warden at Lake Dunmore, talking about earlier days in Sherburne where he lived with his father, Heber Miner the blacksmith, in the village. His father (1870-1926) also took many fine photographs of village and town.

From 1912 to 1927 Mr. Miner worked at lumbering operations: one year for the Twitchell Lumber outfit at West Bridgewater where he was on the same log drive with Herbert Johnson on the Plymouth Road brook that joins the Ottauquechee. The short logs went down past Woodstock to the Connecticut River.

But the rest of the time he worked for Vermont Marble Company on West Hill. While working at the Pico Mill he married Amelia Anna Saunders of Alberta, Canada in 1925. In 1927 he bought the 290 acre farm at the top of Falls Hill, now owned by Burnham Martin, and farmed it until 1939, later selling it to Arthur Battles.

Henry began at the age of 15 as tote-wagon driver, bringing up supplies from Rutland and Proctor to Sherburne Pass and on out past Pico Pond to the V.M.C. Mill. Although he was not yet 16 they hired him because he was dependable in contrast to most toters who were rough floaters, drunk most of the time, who would sell the horse team as likely as not while in the city in order to get money for liquor.

Before 1923 there was nothing at Sherburne Pass but a building to store grain in temporarily before feeding the horses. In that year Long Trail Lodge was built for the Green Mountain Club by Mortimer Proctor and his mother, Mrs. Fletcher Proctor.

Henry's half-brother, Clate Willis, also worked with him, and is shown in some photographs in which Henry is driving the first Linn tractor to be used in this section. One picture shows a full length load, fir and spruce logs 40 feet long.

The author has hiked over the old road between the Pass and the mill. It is shown as a town road on the 1891 topographic map but is now on private land of Pico Pond Associates.

Up at the Mill was quite a settlement consisting of a boarding house where most of the 25 workers lived, 3 buildings, and 2 barns to stable 16 horses, 2 yoke of oxen and 2 cows for milk. Besides that there were 2 houses for the Italian families who seemed to stay by themselves. He recalls that most local children had been warned to "beware of pack peddlers, gypsies, etc." and they apparently classed these foreigners in the Beware group, so they never knew much about them.

Houses up there had no cellars as they felt it was a temporary thing, Ethel Gifford helped locate one cellarhole near the junction of Access Road, the Corduroy Road, and the road to the schoolhouse.

Besides the Mill there was a board camp at the side of the Killington Base Lodge and main chair lift, so named because it was made of boards. There was also the "log camp" on the Skye Peak ridge where there was no crew; they only cut lumber there and hauled it to the Mill.

From the Mill there was a logging road up to board camp; it is shown on the 1891 map on the west side of Roaring Brook and is no doubt the road used by Ida Wilson's party in 1906 which went up by ox-team to the base of Killington Peak and then hiked to the top. The Snowsheds were gone when Mr. Miner worked there but the roads were kept thawed out for the teams by having a man build fires at certain steep spots.

A load of logs would be hauled out over the corduroy road and left at Sherburne Pass; the team or tractor would go back for another load, then the two were combined to go downgrade to Rutland and Proctor.

During the lumbering activity the children of the workers attended the little West Hill School. Mrs. Ethel Gifford pointed out the location of the large boarding house inside the tree line back of the open field, 150 feet from Access Road near the junction of Corduroy Road. She also found the site of the Gallant home where she used to visit although she hadn't seen it in 47 years.

#### Pico Mill

By 1918 it was decided to move the mill operations down to U.S. 4 near the Mendon-Sherburne Line. It was called "Pico Mill" and a boarding house was built there in what is now the Robinwood development. A road from there up through Willard Gap (where the Long Trail crosses) and down over the ridge to the Levi Willard sawmill. It was a short cut to North Sherburne but used in winter only. It came out at present "Trailside Lodge."

But to get back to the Pico Mill boarding house, Mrs. Ethel Gifford was cook there for some 27 men. Guy Blanchard was cookkee who washed the dishes, prepared vegetables and cleaned up.

Harry Colton worked in the woods for V.M.C. for one year, 1922, at the age of 20, and he gave me a description of the life of a logger. The men were roused at 4:45 a.m., had breakfast at 5:00, and were out of camp by 5:30 headed for the lumbering operations on the side of Pico Peak, which took them 1 1/2 hours of walking, in good weather or bad. There were 15 inches of snow one day and the men were told they didn't have to work, but it was not on their account but for fear the horses' shoulders would get lame if they did.

They went to work in September chopping trees and when the snow got deep enough they would haul the logs to the mill. In summer the logs were sawed into boards at the mill, which was located on the same side as the boarding house.

Hot dinners were carried to the men at noontime in a box on a travois (two poles dragged by a horse). At breakfast and supper all the food was put on the tables and men reached for what they wanted. Regular breakfast consisted of stewed prunes or canned peaches or pears, hot and cold cereal, fried potatoes, pancakes, beefsteak, cake, cookies, pie and donuts, coffee and tea. The cook started work at 4:00 a.m. as you might well imagine.

"Swampers" cut logs as they prepared the smaller work roads. Harry Colton tended sled, that is cut knots, helped load, did chaining of logs onto the sleds drawn by four horses. Irving Neil was a scaler, measuring the logs.

The Pico Camp children of school age were carried over the Pass to Turnpike school by horse or ox-team driven by Lucy Kitchin (later Mrs. Irving Neil).

After the Pico Mill closed in 1925, operations were carried on at Wheelerville, where Ralph Cain drove tractor in 1929.

#### Pico Peak and Killington Peak

These two peaks, highest in this area, were both owned by the late Mortimer Proctor of the Vermont Marble Company. Pico was given to him as a 21st birthday present May 30, 1910. He sold it to Pico Ski Inc. in 1948.

Killington Peak was bought by Mr. Proctor in 1919 from M. E. Wheeler of Rutland and given to the State of Vermont in 1938; The Vermont Marble Company sold around Killington Peak some 6000 acres of land to the State in 1945 to be included in the Coolidge State Forest. This is the land which the Sherburne Corporation has leased from the State for its ski lifts, lodges, etc.

#### Pico Pond and Clubhouse

There is a private road leading off U.S. 4 about half way between Sherburne Pass and the Sherburne Motel. This goes to Pico Pond and the 2000 acres owned by Pico Pond Associates. This road junctions with an old town road coming in back of the south parking lot of Long Trail Lodge. It is shown on the 1891 topographic map, and was used to bring logs out to Rutland.

Near this junction was a cooper or stave mill near the junction of Pico Brook and Big Brook. And farther upstream just below the outlet of the pond was a sawmill of D. M. White Co. in 1881 which was run by Reuben Ranger. Ethel Gifford's mother worked at the boarding house. Even before that there was a mill, just in back of the present lodge, owned by Chaffee and run by Ralph Plumley.

Somewhere between these two mills lived Marcia Hastings (1842-1929) who later married Gilman Estabrook and moved to North Sherburne. Mr. Proctor said that many years ago Henry Taylor used to point out the roses which grew at the site. Two charcoal flats were found not far away.

The farm which surrounds Pico Pond was a productive one. Its pasture, a triangular open field, can be seen from the top of Killington Ski Lift. During the 1880s the forest land on the east side of Pico Peak and Little Pico was owned by Henry W. Taylor (1855-1931), who was born in Sherburne but spent most of his life in Washington, D.C. as maintenance engineer of the House of Representatives. He and a few other men formed Pico Pond Associates and used the large lodge (built 1892) for entertaining their fishing and hunting friends. One associate was Frank C. Partridge, another was Senator Redfield Proctor of the marble family, and his grandson Mortimer R. Proctor (1889-1968) built the log cabin across the pond. Henry W. Taylor was the son of the Hon. Daniel W. Taylor of River Road, Sherburne.

Various Sherburne families have lived at the Lodge as caretakers: 1895 Ralph Plumleys (Adelia West met her future husband Bert Plumley while working there), the Charles Cadys, the Reuben Reynolds, the Eli Blanchards (1914-16), the Earl Giffords until 1917/18 when the Vermont Marble Company mill was moved down to U.S. 4 near the Mendon Town Line.

PART VI I  
Search for the Wolf Pits of a Century Ago

Much has been written about the Barnard Panther, last of the species killed in Vermont in 1881, but little mention has been made of the wolves that roamed the hills and killed the sheep during the time Vermont was the leading wool producing state prior to the opening of the West.

Our good friend Irving Neil, philosopher, woodsman and house-builder extraordinary, led six of us on an extended hike one day in 1961 into his woodlot just off the Access Road. We tramped through open woods of young maple, birch and beech, following the faint traces of old logging roads leading uphill for about an hour, passing huge boulders where wolves might well have denned up. We crossed brooks now dry during this month of no rain, and saw red splashes of paint on the largest of the trees marking the boundary lines of the property of Mortimer Proctor.

As we neared the probable location of the wolf pits the underbrush became more tangled and Irving circled for quite some time to locate a familiar landmark since he had not been up there in some seven years. He finally concluded recent lumbering crews might have filled the pits with toppings and slash which we could not get through easily.

He explained that they had been some fifteen feet deep, twenty feet across and were baited by a young lamb in the bottom. When the wolves jumped down to get the lamb they were trapped and could not get out and the farmers could then dispatch them with guns.

Although we didn't see the pits themselves we were rewarded in another manner on the return hike by seeing several large beech trees with their smooth gray bark bearing the claw marks of bears, even mamma and the little ones, which had climbed high to get the beechnuts. The bark had healed and left the indelible claw prints showing both their climb and their descent as they came down backwards. Soon we crossed a faint road with fresh signs of a bear running hastily downhill only a short time before. He no doubt had heard our party going up the mountain and he beat a hasty retreat in the opposite direction.

\* \* \* \* \*

1964 addition to the above story.

Not to be thwarted, we decided to explore from the other end. Mr. Proctor kindly told us how to find the pits since he had maintained a clear trail to them from the northeast corner of Pico Pond opposite the big lodge. After about a mile we located two of them, one on either side of the trail. They are somewhat filled in with dirt now, with trees growing in the center.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following excerpts are taken from a promotional booklet of the Rutland Railroad which was loaned by Mr. Sherrill P. Bates of Pittsfield, Mass. entitled

HEART OF THE GREEN MOUNTAINS  
Copyright 1897 by  
H. A. Hodge  
Traffic Manager, Rutland Railroad

FROM RUTLAND TO WOODSTOCK.

Nearly everyone who has occasion to go to Woodstock or Stockbridge from the western side of the mountains takes stage at Rutland, and if he is bound for Woodstock he goes by way of Sherburne "Holler" and the Bridgewaters. Those who go any other way live to regret it. The stage line to scenic loving Vermonters is what the Alps are to the Swiss, particularly in summer, when one can scarcely afford to miss the chance of a ride in a comfortable stage over the top of the range. Sundays excepted, the stage leaves Rutland at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon, and reaches its destination in the evening.

From Rutland to Mendon the road ascends a slight incline, and from there to the summit lies through one of the wildest reaches of forest in Vermont. During the last two miles no houses will be seen, and for that matter few other signs of civilization. At the top (i.e. Sherburne Pass) the stage driver will rest his horses, and will point out to the right a road leading to Lake Pico and U.S. Senator Proctor's shooting-box, and on the left to the Deer's Leap, a cliff rising several hundred feet above the level of the road and crowned with clumps of weather-beaten spruce trees.

The precipice is marvelously constructed by Nature, being honey-combed with dark vaults and subterranean passageways extending to man know how far. The leap is associated with many curious traditions, and while the mountain inhabitants refuse to admit suggestions of superstitions, it nevertheless remains an undisputed fact that the caverns are never visited by them. It is said the stage road was once an Indian trail.

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The road leading south from the Deer's Leap to Senator Proctor's shooting-box lies through a forest so dense that the trees, in many instances, meet over the roadway and form, in summer, a "lovers' lane" two miles in length. The first sign of civilization is the old buildings of an abandoned logging camp which was "struck" many years ago and moved farther back in the mountains.

The lake is seen directly after leaving the old camp. It nestles in an out-of-the-way corner in the woods, 2200 ft. above sea level, and is the most remarkable natural trout lake in the state.

The club-house, a modern structure, is situated on the right of the road as you approach, and commands a fair view of the water front. The lake is nowhere more than five feet deep, but a rock may be sunk in the bed to an unknown depth. It finds its source in hidden springs and in a

small inlet—brook rising on Pico. The trout average from eight to ten inches in length, and rarely exceed three—quarters of a pound in weight.

= = = = =

There is no place in Rutland County where game is more plentiful than in the vicinity of this lake. The deer are seen daily, and grouse and hares can be had for the shooting. The lake is on a runway from Killington to the hills west of Deer's Leap and connects two famous yards. Over this runway deer travel may be said to be heavy.

Beyond the posted land lies a forest broken only by the deserted Plumley Mill, which a few years ago was the scene of considerable lumbering activity. The buildings still stand and afford a good place to put up a horse for a day. From the mill to Sherburne "Holler" runs a trout brook (i.e. Roaring Brook) where fish may be taken in season. The forest in the vicinity is particularly wild, and bear and lynx are often seen. F. M. Plumley, the manager of the mill, has taken fifty bears during the last twenty years.

(Ed. Note: the mill was built by Plumley for F. Chaffee & Son in 1884. . . no doubt the same one bought in 1900 by Vermont Marble Co.)

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From the top of the mountain to Sherburne "Holler" the road descends at a quick grade. At the "Holler" the driver changes horses while you eat a bountiful supper at the tavern named "Traveller's Home" with the S on the signboard painted upside down; and the trip to Bridgewater village is continued in the dusk of the evening down the Ottauquechee through a beautiful valley.

(Ed. Note: prop. of hotel was Mrs. Ida Wilson.)



### Killington Peak and the Hotel

In the early years it was thought Killington (Mt. Pisgah) was the highest in the Green Mountain chain, but it turned out to be the second highest, 4241 ft. (that is until the topographic map of 1964 chopped off six feet). Early histories record the stupendous 360 degree view that can be seen from the bare rock top.

In the era of the mountain-top resort hotels (1860-1910) this peak had one also, the Killington House of Vincent Meyerhoffer in 1880. It was not exactly on the rock top, but at the base of the cliff, 300 ft. below. It was first built as a private lodge, but as more and more friends spread the news around Mr. Meyerhoffer turned it into a hotel. Photographs show it was a frame building.

### Oscar Wilde

During his American tour in 1882 the English poet Oscar Wilde, in company with members of the Proctor family, stayed at the hotel on July 16th and signed the register there with an acrostic poem:

K ind reader, if you ever come  
I n sight of old Mt. Killington,  
L eave business, pleasure, home and friends,  
L eave, if you must, whatever lends  
I n life's dull scenes a pleasant glow  
N ot always found so far below.  
G o up the mountain rough and high  
T here glories shine eternally.  
O n all sides grandeur meets the eye,  
'N eath sunshine or a cloudy sky.

Oscar Wilde

Besides Oscar Wilde those in the party that signed the register were: Miss Kate Hitchcock of Wellesley College, Miss Flora Sears of Boston, Miss Bella Proctor and Miss Fannie Proctor of Rutland, Mr. Albert Hitchcock of Kalamazoo, Mich., Mr. Frank Partridge of East Middlebury, Mr. Fletcher Proctor, and Mr. R. W. Davies of Rutland.

This and a few other Killington House registers are in the possession of Mr. Carleton Wilson of Rutland.

Mr. Wilde may have been the literary lion of the day, but a writer in the Mirror and Farmer of Manchester, N. H. of Jan. 26, 1882 wrote a scathing account of him. A scrap of this newspaper was found by the author under a floor in the old Coffee House at North Sherburne during remodeling in 1964. Some quotations follow: "He was born of poor and silly parents. He has been liberally educated, and is doubtless the best specimen of an educated fool extant. When he graduated at an English university, he appeared in a purple suit and read an ode to the soul in forty-two stanzas. The committee, which was probably composed of gentlemen who wanted to borrow two dollars from his mother, gave him a prize. This confirmed him in the belief that it was his mission to purify the vulgar tastes of the world in art and literature."

### The Old Carriage Road and Hotel

The carriage road was on the west side of Killington Mountain, up from Wheelerville through Brewer's Corners (no buildings today). Ethel Gifford vaguely remembers when she was four years old (1892) she rode with her father to the top from the Mendon side where they lived at the time. He drove a four-horse team full of hotel visitors. Coming down they took off the lead horses for they were of no help in holding back the carriage on the steep pitches.

The following is from "Trails & Summits of the Green Mountains" by Walter Collins O'Kane, 1926.

"In 1879 Genl. Richard Cutts, surveyor of U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey, was working on New England mountains and while doing so worked out a suitable route for a road to the top of Killington. Citizens of Rutland subscribed money to build it that same year. Road emerged near a large spring at west end of an area suitable for hotel, stables, etc. Owner for many years was V. C. Meyerhoffer who later sold it to M. E. Wheeler. After popularity for horse trails and carriage roads waned patronage of the hotel declined and destructive agencies such as storms, picnickers using parts for fuel, hedgehogs, etc. took over. A barn and the ell of the main house blew down. Finally in 1916, fire destroyed what was left. Today (1926) only cellar and foundations survive, deep in weeds and bushes."

In October 1965 the author hiked with the Green Mountain Club the four miles up the old carriage road, found the old spring to the south of the hotel site. The high weeds about 100 feet due west of the stone Cooper Lodge for hikers revealed a few foundation stones, perhaps for the stables.

As the carriage road approaches the hotel site it is joined by the popular Bucklin Trail which follows Brewer's Brook past an open area where the Vermont Marble Company had a logging camp about 1918.

On the steep ascent of 1/5 mile from the hotel site to the rocky top of Killington one passes the site of old "Porky Shelter" which Mr. Bucklin built and the porcupines finished. About 1918 the Green Mountain Club built a round metal shelter to discourage the animals, and one or two strips from it can still be found in the bushes. In 1939 the Forest Service built the present stone Cooper Lodge, a haven for hikers.

However, the mountain was often climbed from the east side, as Mrs. Ida Wilson could testify. She showed the author a newspaper clipping of 1906 telling of an all-day ox-team excursion for 22 people, including herself, some Doubledays, Hales, and the Rev. Allenbach. At the rate oxen travel it must have taken most of the day to go from Sherburne village to the saw mill, then on a lumber road some distance farther before they got off and walked. They climbed to the top and were happily rewarded with the wonderful view, but were very glad to have the oxen waiting to take them back down to the village, even at the one-mile-per-hour rate.

### Fur Trapping Sixty Years Ago

A most enjoyable two hours were spent listening to the reminiscences of Claude Dewey, 82, father of Mrs. Stephen Langill. He had roamed these hills in an 80-mile loop, following his traps set for mink, muskrat, fox, beaver, otter and bear.

In the summer season he was a plumber in Woodstock, but from November to April he followed his trap lines on snowshoe, usually averaging 20 miles a day, and wearing out four pairs of snowshoes. One moonlight night he tramped 28 miles between supper and breakfast.

It took about four days to set and empty his 175 traps, and his overnight hotel accommodations consisted of an abandoned cabin or a brush-up shelter he had made to keep off the snow. He would leave Bridgewater Corners, cross present Vt. Route 100 at the Woodward Reservoir, pass below Shrewsbury Peak, cross Falls Brook up at High Pole Bridge. This was made of long poles at a considerable height above the water. If the bridge had been built farther upstream where it could have been lower in height, the loads of 40-60 ft. logs could not have made the necessary U-turn. Today gravel and rocks almost cover the old log construction.

Mr. Dewey kept below the ridge of the Long Trail and crossed the Rutland-Sherburne road just short of Gifford Woods Park. From there he followed approximately what is now the Appalachian Trail into the Chataugay area, Dailey Hollow, Briggs, Barnard and back to Woodstock. At that time there were no specific territories designated for any one trapper. Traps were set on anyone's land, first come, first served.

When asked about any bear experiences, Mr. Dewey recalled having caught one big fellow in a 29 lb. trap which had a 5 ft. log chain attached and a grapple or many-pronged anchor which was made of half-inch round iron. There had been a ten inch snow and the bear had dragged the trap a full mile before the grapple caught on a ledge and stopped his progress. Coming up with a rifle and a sure eye he made short work of the bear.

At other times Mr. Dewey acted as guide for parties wishing to climb to Killington Peak, usually starting at West Bridgewater and going up the Juggernaut Trail. There is no water on the rocky top so one had to descend the steep 300 ft. ledge to the never-failing spring which still quenches the thirsts of the Long Trail hikers who stop at Cooper Lodge shelter.

His guide trips were before the establishment of the Long Trail and after the Killington Hotel had started to fall into ruin. The porch had fallen away and the back part had deteriorated, so his parties took shelter in one corner room where the roof didn't leak too badly. The spring was about 30 ft. away.

On various occasions he had noted a certain spot up there where his compass behaved erratically, its needle turning west while he was walking due north. Word of this reached some Harvard and M.I.T. scientists who

wished to observe this phenomenon. They came with many scientific instruments, stayed four days and were none the wiser, but they did kill 17 porcupines. The date he recalls was August 11, 1911.

### West Hill (Killington Basin)

#### West Hill Road

Until 1957 there was only one road leading up into the flatland called West Hill where there was the largest concentration of farms in the Town of Sherburne, about 14 large and actively operating farms in the 1880s. West Hill area also was the scene of great lumbering activity from then to about 1918. There was general decrease in both, with gradual abandonment of the farms until the last ones, the Bates family, quit farming in 1952 and moved down into the valley of U.S. 4.

Then came the development of skiing resorts in all of Vermont, and on Killington Peak in particular in 1957 when the Sherburne Corporation was formed with Preston Leete Smith as president, descendant of the original proprietor of the town, Ezra Stiles, as Mr. Smith discovered later.

Buying the old 50-acre Bates farm and leasing 3300 acres from the Coolidge State Forest on which to build their ski lifts, the whole West Hill area has been so transformed that former Sherburnites who have returned in the last few years for visits stand aghast at the changes, trying in vain to orient themselves amid the hundred or so ski lodges that have been built.

One of the main purposes of this little history is to record the names and location of the early farms and give a picture of how it was "in the old days."

To go way back, the original charter of the Town called for 105 acres for the village church, market, parade and other public buildings to be located "in the center of the township of Killington." When surveys were made it was discovered this would be on West Hill and did not prove feasible. Instead, the village community developed down in the valley.

#### The Bates Family

The author has not yet researched the Town Records to discover who were the first families on West Hill, but about 1830 the first of the Bateses moved up from Plymouth, Vt., to go to farming. Warner Oren Bates and brother Norman Bates were actively settling, buying and selling land in 1845. When they came there were settlers on the Ezra Wilson place (now Leary) and a cellarhole could be seen farther along about where the Killington staff building is.

Since the Bates family figured so prominently in Sherburne and on West Hill in particular, a family genealogy is included here, just as the Colton and Estabrook families are delineated in the North Sherburne section. The main line sketched here is the one in which the names were Oren Warner Bates and Warner Oren Bates, in alternate generations, coming down to the Oren who was Town Representative (1951-1966) and who has given the author much help.

The 1897 diary of Fidelia Bennett Bates (1838-1910) contains a day to day brief account of the work done by members of the family and other hired men. There was also a list of the people to whom son Warner sold and peddled meat and other produce. He ran a route as far as Plymouth.

When Warner was 18 in 1880 his maternal grandparents, the S. Bennetts, gave him their farm on South Hill, Stockbridge. They continued to live on it but he went up frequently to do their chores and help with the farming . . .going all the way on foot, probably a matter of eight or nine miles from where he was living with his parents on West Hill.

In present day terms his route was likely past Bigelow's Lodge, to the right of Access Road but paralleling it for a distance, out at Roger Neil's, down Thundering Brook Road, then either up past Erwin Prior's camp on Quimby Hill or past Charley Prior's camp on Shaw Hill, and over the ridge to Fletcher Brook.

For about seven years (1893-1900) the George Priors lived on a farm neighbors to the Bennetts. The cellarholes for both these farms have been found by the author in her explorations.

Bates Genealogy

Generation

1st					*OREN W. BATES 1778-1814)
Came from Sturbridge, Mass. 1800. Located 1 m. so. of Ludlow, Vt. village.					
2nd	Cornelia Lived in Plymouth 1927	Almira	Norman born 1802 Chester, Vt. Wife: Sally Pollard	three others	*WARNER O. 1806-1891 at Bent place
3rd	*OREN W. 1834-1911 Born & lived in Sherburne. Owned mill on West Hill. Wife: Fidelia Bennet (1838-1910) See "Excerpts from diaries of Fidelia Bennett Bates 1897-1902 in Sherburne Library	Norman 1837-1871 Wife: Martha Leslie (1840-1906) Lived on West Hill at Gallagher's. 4th gen. Dau: Nora (Mrs. Mar- tin Leslie) Son: Herbert L. Bates (1865-1940) 5th gen. Dau: Marjorie (1891- (Mrs. Willys Monroe) born W. Rutland. Son: Sherrill P. (1900- born Rutland. Both live in Pitts- field, Mass.	Hiland 1840-1915 Wife: Hannah Forest (1840- 1925.) Had no children. Both buried in her town of Pittsfield, Vt. Gravestone spells it Highland. Bought Norman's house, sold it soon after 1910		
4th	Ruth(Mrs. M. Pollard Born 1860 Lived in Nebr. Dau: Rowena (Mrs. Jacobson of Seattle, Wash.)	*WARNER O. (1862-1937) Ran home farm on West Hill. Married 1911 to Mrs. Frances M. Kent. 2 stepch: Stella Kent (Mrs. Daily, Rutland teacher) & Katherine Kent (Mrs. Mosher, Bridgewater gift shop) 5 children of this marriage:			Levi Born 1865. Died aged 3 months.
5th	Twins Harry, of Athol Mass. & *OREN W. Born 1912 at home farm. Married 1940 to Helen Scruton (1919-	Ruth (Mrs. Earle Houghton of Brg. Cors.	Benjamin of Wallingford, Conn.		
6th	Children: Frances (Mrs. Leary); Elizabeth (Mrs. Stern) Truman, born 1950; Rebecca, born 1955; Phoebe, born 1960.				

Bates Genealogy

married Lois McKinstry (descendant of Geo. Barbour,  
chief artillery officer of  
Colonial government).

married Phoebe Pettigrew in 1831 of Ludlow, Vt.  
1808 - 1891, bur. Sherburne Riverside Cem.

Bainbridge Walker	Augusta Maria	James Andrew, b. 1851
Wife: Eunice Bennett	(1847-1930)	Wife: Emma
Lived: Nebraska	married Warren Taylor	Turner
	(1844-1923)	Lived: River Rd.
<u>5th gen.</u>	Lived: Plymouth, Vt.	Moved to Colorado.
Mrs. Harold Dane of	Owned Sherb. hotel	
Boca Raton, Fla.	<u>4th gen.</u>	
Died 1965	Stella	
	Henry Reuben (wife: Gertrude	
	Hammond) (1877-1952)	
	<u>5th gen.</u>	
	Florence Hall	
	Susan Prior	
	George	
	Warren	
	Gardner	
	James	
	an infant girl 1898	

Lucy (1866-1958)	Nina	Eunice	Blanche
(Mrs. Ed Currier)	(1870-1963)	(1872-1966)	(1878-1889)
Selectman of	(Mrs. Baldwin)	(Mrs. Hosea	
Sherburne	Lived: Rhode	Townsend)	
during Flood	Island	Living South	
of 1927.		Woodstock	
		in 1964	
		with 3	
		children:	

Rachel Augusta	Robert Currier	Warner, runs farm.
(Mrs. Ayres	(1887-1964) of	Born 1889
of Rutland)	Mendon, Vt.	Mrs. Fidelia Crane
	Grace: (Mrs. Watson	Born 1900
	Wordsworth, Mass.)	Miss Lillian Townsend
	Ruth: (Mrs. Drinwater	B. 1902 taught at
	of Providence R.I.	West Hill School 1922-5

### Bates Farm

Norman Bates lived half way up West Hill Road on a farm later owned by George Merrill, now by Don Gallagher, John Southworth and others. Warner Bates lived on what is now called the Access Road, opposite the Thayer cottage. His great grandson, Oren W. Bates, says it was called the 'state place, meaning "estate."

The next generation built their home half a mile further south, a small house just south of "Wobbly Barn." The increasing family needed a larger house and in 1870 built the one that is now painted red and called "The Farmhouse Lodge." It served as the first office of the ski corporation and is now owned by Dwight Eakin.

Mrs. Eunice Bates Townsend of South Woodstock, aged 92, in an interview in 1964 said she was born in the little house and that it was finally torn down about 1912. Her father, Oren, built a sawmill half a mile up Roaring Brook about 1860; the stone wall and a few iron pipes can still be seen in the bushes. Up and down saw could saw logs 60 ft. long.

Five generations of Bateses have lived on the home farm, the last one being Truman Bates, born 1950, son of Oren who owned some 650 acres on West Hill. Their farm was the last one along the road. Beyond that one came into the area of lumbering operations which were carried on intensively from 1880 to 1918 first by the Chaffees, then Holdens, then Vermont Marble Company whose mill and boarding house are remembered by many a Sherburnite.

The farm house was the scene of many neighborhood gatherings. "Kitchen tunks" were often held there. Several families came of an evening (not during the week because the men were very tired) for games and dances, a fiddler calling for the square dances. All would bring food for combined refreshments.

If the family wished to go down to the village the road they took from the big farmhouse would be along present Butler Road, which crossed the Miller Brook Bridge near the Huntoon Camp, passed the schoolhouse, continued past the White House and Jim Bigelow's Lodge, down steep West Hill Road and the Little and Big Dugway to the post office and general store. But during the flood of 1927 the bridge went out and the road was discontinued. They then used their own little farm road that is roughly the same as the present Access Road, past Skol Haus. A foot-path used Dean Hill Rd. and came out at Giffords on U.S. 4; another went from edge of Summit property, through old Rowe clearing and came out between Blanchards and the Church.

### Maple Sugaring

The Bates "sugar bush" was just west of the farmhouse, now bounded by Butler Road and the Access Road. They made their own maple sugar in the spring of the year as did all the other farmers in Vermont in the three- or four-week period after the tenth of March, using Oxen or horses to convey the sap from the trees to the sugarhouse by tub or tank or sleds. There it was evaporated and converted into maple syrup or sugar,



which in the latter part of the 1800's was the main source of sweetening. White sugar was store bought and expensive. Several years ago a hurricane damaged the orchard, but a few huge maples can still be seen there.

In the early 1900s the market for maple was widened by its use in making blended maple syrups and in the curing of cigarette and chewing tobaccos. As that occurred the wholesale price continued to rise from 2¢ or 3¢ a pound to its high in 1921 of nearly 25¢ a pound. In many cases maple sugar was the chief cash crop the farmer had and it could be made during the lull between winter and spring plowing. Every member of the family pitched in to help.

In Sherburne today only two people make maple sugar and scarcely a sugarhouse is left standing. One may be seen on River Road opposite Archle Baker's Mill; but many are just piles of collapsed boards out in the woods. Oren Bates hung 525 buckets, and made 130 gals. of syrup; Charley Prior put in 300 spouts and made 62 gals. in 1972.

In the 1920s way up high on the mountain back of Warren Battles was the farm of Charley Prior's father. After a stiff pull up the hill, afoot, Charley showed us over the sugar bush where his hunting camp is located and talked about the days he helped his father with sugaring. At that time the newest thing in equipment was the gravity system of pipes that were attached to the trees and permitted the flow of sap directly to the sugarhouse, thus saving the arduous work of gathering by hand. The cost was defrayed by a credit from the sugar company in St. Johnsbury which bought the finished product.

After the season was over the pipes must all be collected and cleaned and stored for the next year. In the meantime there have been further advances made in the production of maple syrup, such as plastic tubing instead of the galvanized pipe; making the sap holes by a power drill carried on the shoulders; using oil for the fire under the evaporator instead of wood; and transporting the syrup in huge tank trucks instead of in small barrels or making it into sugar.

But to most of the world Vermont still means Maple and the roadside stands do a fine business in maple syrup at \$12.00 a gallon and maple candy at \$3.00 a pound.

#### West Hill School #7

The Bates children of course were sent to the West Hill School (District No. 7) which was near the new Sherburne Elementary School on Schoolhouse Road.

First reference to School #7 which I could find in the Town Records was in 1832, with 12 pupils. In the late 1860s Oren's father attended school sessions in the log cabin home of the Orcutts. Sometime during that decade the little schoolhouse was built on the east side of the road on land given to the Town by Oren's grandfather Oren. Ethel Gifford's father, Luther West, was a pupil about that time when it was the largest in town, with 40 pupils. He was living with his father, Ezekiel, on the road to Pico Pond, on what later was referred to as the John Page place.

Teachers came and went with great frequency, some teaching a year, some only a term. In 1912, Mildred Blue; later Ruby Hazelton; 1920 Katherine Kent, now Mrs. Mosher. She had attended there as a pupil from 1911-15, built fires for the school in 1913.

In 1923-24 Lillian Townsend taught there when only three families were represented: the Bates, Merriams, and Pfennings. She boarded in the fall with the Reynolds at the Pico Pond Club House, in winter with Warner Bates (her uncle), and in the spring with Frank Pfennings. A snapshot given by Miss Townsend shows five Bateses, four Pfennings and two Merriams perched on the "Rock of Ages" near the Dr. Terry place. The rock can easily be found today as it is too big for anyone to push it aside. The house had disappeared even at the time of the picture.

Finally with the decrease in population on West Hill it came to the point in 1928/9 when there were only Bateses left, and in order to meet the minimum requirement of five pupils to keep a school open the twins, Harry and Oren, attended an extra year for the benefit of their younger brother and sisters. The teacher was their half-sister, Stella Kent, now Mrs. Daily. She had attended there as a pupil from 1911-18; was listed as janitor in 1923; went two years to high school, then took a \$50 correspondence course to secure a teaching certificate that met the requirements of the time, and taught at West Hill 1925-28. Later she took a year at Castleton Normal School and is still a successful teacher in Rutland.

There was no school session after 1929. The building was sold a few years later to the Pico Club of Rutland, a group of hunters who put on a new roof and used it until about 1958 when they built a new camp about 100 yards to the south. The men were employees of the Rutland Railroad who secured the lumber from the old Pittsford, Vt. railroad station, hauled it up to West Hill and built the present structure. It was known quite widely as "the railroad camp." It is the nucleus of the Terry house.

#### Farms shown on the 1869 Beers' Map

If we took an imaginary horse and buggy trip in 1869 up to West Hill we would have left the Rutland-Sherburne road and climbed steadily and steeply past Norman Bates' and L. Maxham's (both owned by George Merrill in 1923) until we reached the tableland. Here was one of John Turner's farms, later the Jim Bigelow camps and lodge.

A little farther south, on the left, was the Simon Sawyer place (his gravestone reads Simeon). The Eli Blanchards lived there 1912-14, Will Cameron in 1923, then the Reuben Reynolds, and the family of Helen Scruton (later Mrs. Oren Bates). Frank Blanchard sold it to Thomas Zabski who tore down the old buildings and built his home on the site and the "Summit" lodge on the top of the hill.

Just below the Zabski (Singer) house is supposed to be the actual Center of the Town and many of the old deeds in the area use "the center line of the town" in their descriptions.

And about here the new Killington Access Road (built 1958) bears left while the original West Hill Road continued on ahead to "The White House." This house belonged to John Turner in 1869, Will Cameron lived there in 1910, the Abe Merriams in 1923, Mrs. Frances Bates after 1928; and in 1953 Grover Wright sold it to Ed Schott who sold to Jack Newkirk in 1964, now Richard Adler's.

Lilac bushes are the greatest help in locating old cellarholes for practically every farm woman had a beautiful bush blooming near her door. Thus it was that the author located the site of the D. Russell place (now K. Pease's camp) and the T. Ide place on the hill on the right.

Not much is known about the Ides, but in 1903 Abe Merriam sold this 40 acre farm to Vermont Marble Co. and in 1911 they sold it to Jacob J. Pfenning. In 1923 Frank Pfenning moved his family of wife and six children there. Virginia Pfenning Landry recalled that moving day very vividly for it fell to her, aged 10, and brother Marshall, aged 9, to lead the family cow all the way from Pittsford over the mountain to the new location in 1923. The family eventually numbered 13, one of whom, Wendall, was killed in World War II and a daughter Charlotte married Romaine Willis. The property was sold in 1925 to Mortimer Proctor, who owns all the property along the west side of the road.

Between the Proctor holdings and The White House is an old stone wall which Oren Bates says was built at a cost of \$1.00 per rod (16-1/2 ft.).

John Osborn Gregory of the Pico Club hunting group gave the author a snapshot of the old schoolhouse and also one of an old log cabin which had been used about 1912 by a group from Springfield, Vt. The photo was taken about 1920 after it had lost its roof and started to fall to ruin. Unable to locate the last crumbling logs she enlisted the help of Mrs. Ethel Gifford who led her to the spot on the bank opposite Avison's. It disappeared when the road was widened 1970.

This had been the home of E(lisha?) Orcutt in 1866. Mrs. Eunice Bates Townsend says when she was a girl, maybe 1880, the log shack was covered with flour sacks for wallpaper, but in 1888 it was fixed up and made livable by Alton and Ida Tupper who set up housekeeping there. They were the parents of Mrs. Andrew Towne. The mortised corners and the stone fireplace chimney could be seen in the rubble.

Opposite "the railroad camp" lilac bushes indicate the location of the H. Rice family of 1869, and later Ed Knapp. In the 1920s the Ed Millers lived there from whom Miller Brook gets its name. This brook crosses the Access Road near the Fire House. Dr. Terry owns the property now.

Opposite the school the road, now a trail, turned abruptly to the right toward Pico Pond. The A. Chase farm was out that road, also one belonging to J. S. & A. D. Slack, general merchants in the village. One belonging to S. Sawyer was in later years known as the John Page farm. Its barn stood longest and was remembered by many. Another large cellarhole or barn foundation can be seen today on the right of the trail beyond a brook.

Archie Baker says it was great grandfather, Ezekiel West, 2nd, who built the house and barn before the Civil War. That was before he moved over to Little Sherburne. He plastered the walls with some very fine plastering sand which came from the pasture. Archie trapped all through here in the early 1900s. He mentioned that the barn was firmly held together with wooden pegs.

In a little log cabin near the Page house there lived Joseph Neddo (actually Nadeau) who lumbered for Vermont Marble Co. The author chanced to be reading cemetery inscriptions one day in 1964 when she met Leon Nadeau, the son, of Roxbury, Vt., who verified some of the information about the West Hill area and the Page place. His father later moved his family to a place uphill from the author's cottage in North Sherburne.

Between the school and the Page place a road branched off to the south, where lived W. Manly in 1869, and Bill Sawyer in later years. The author located the cellarhole easily in lilactime of 1965. At the end of the road was A. Rood, about where the Vermont Marble sawmill and boarding house of 1900-1918 were located, at the boundary of the Coolidge State Forest just south of Basin Lodge & Ski Shop.

Since the sawmill was at the southern end, the road from it to its junction with Access Road was referred to on some deeds as the "saw mill road so-called."

#### Farmers of 1881

Following is a list of farmers and their acreage on West Hill, taken from Childs Gazeteer & Business Directory.

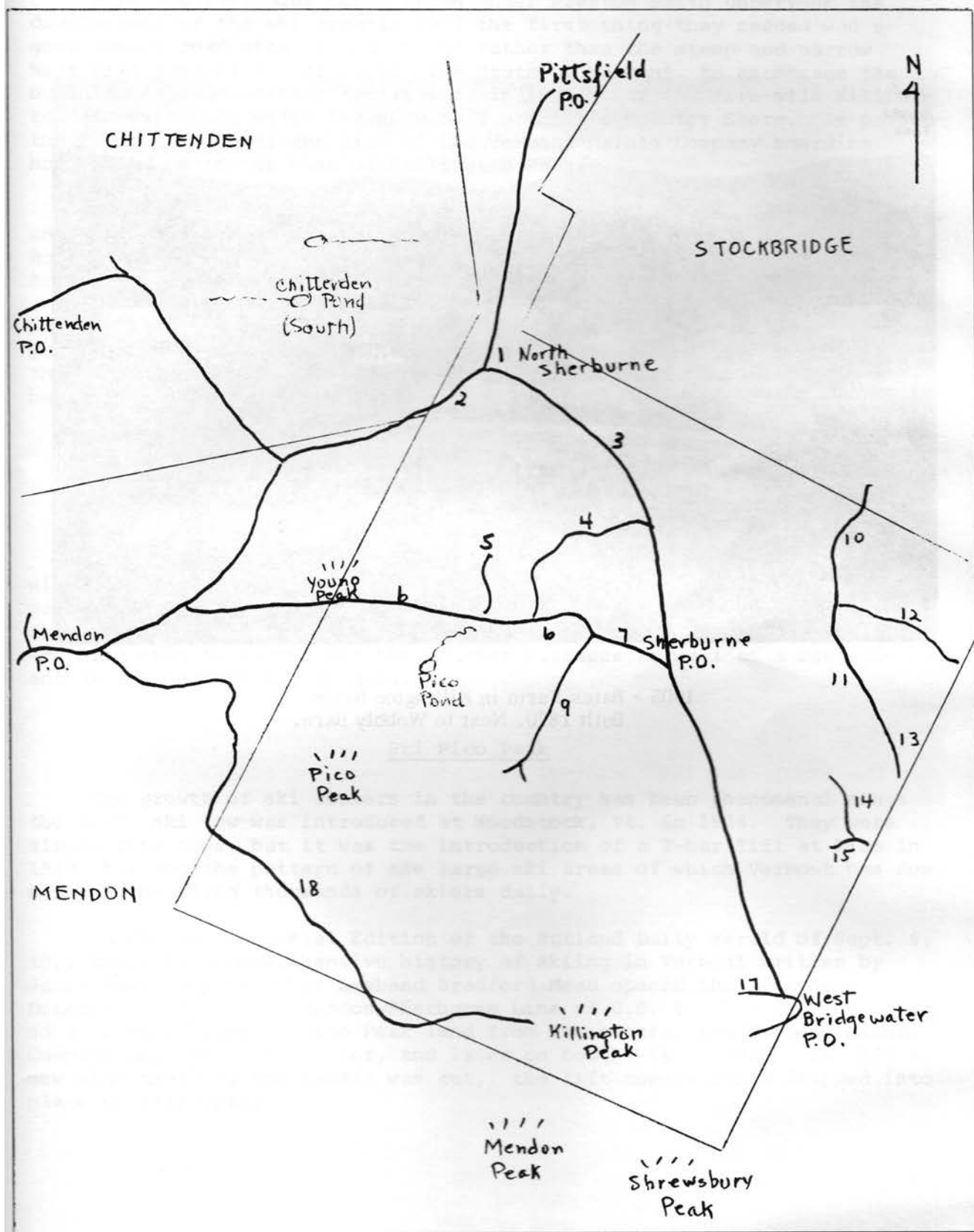
140	- James Bates
80	- Martha Bates
240	- Oren W. Bates (also Saw Mill)
150	- Warner O. Bates
30	- Elisha Orcutt
210	- John Page
40	- Joseph Rice (leased from Miss Margaret Rice)
40	- Miss Margaret Rice
80	- Alfred Rowe
100	- Simon Sawyer (and 100 acres mountain land)
50	- William Sawyer
350	- John Turner
8	- Luther Wilson
30	- Lymon Wilson

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1546 acres - 14 farmers

# 1881 Sherburne Roads known by Number

(Based on Child's Gazetteer & Directory of Rutland County)





1905 - Bates Farm in Killington Basin  
Built 1870. Next to Wobbly Barn.

# PART VIII Killington Basin Development

When the Sherburne Corporation under Preston Smith undertook the development of the ski area in 1957 the first thing they needed was a good access road with graded ascent rather than the steep and narrow West Hill Road of former days. The State of Vermont, to encourage the building of recreational facilities, in 1958 built the five-mile Killington (Access) Road which leaves U.S. 4 at Bill's Country Store. It passed the Bates homestead, the site of the Vermont Marble Company boarding house, and on to the base of Killington Peak.

All along this road there have sprung up ski lodges, large and small, and restaurants. Many side roads have been built, such as Roaring Brook Road with its branches: Dean Hill Road, and Telefon Trail. Roaring Brook East Road serves the residential area called "Killington East."

In 1964 the number of homes and lodges was around 100, and five years later it was 230. Real estate was changing hands almost faster than the deeds could be recorded. The effect of this building boom can be seen in the Grand List figures:

1940	\$2,200	1960	\$5,100
1945	2,400	1965	11,800
1950	2,800	1968	26,100
1955	4,600	1970	40,100

Just look about you to see what expansion there has been since 1957 with its 12 lifts and 50 trails. The Gondola was opened in 1969 and provides a 3-1/2 mile ride to the Peak with connections to add 1-1/4 mile down on the double chairlift to the original Base Lodge. These lifts are also open in summer for the tourist business as well as a restaurant at the head of the Gondola.

## Ski Pico Peak

The growth of ski centers in the country has been phenomenal since the first ski tow was introduced at Woodstock, Vt. in 1934. They were simple rope tows, but it was the introduction of a T-bar lift at Pico in 1940 that set the pattern of the large ski areas of which Vermont has now some 35, handling thousands of skiers daily.

In the Bi-Centennial Edition of the Rutland Daily Herald of Sept. 6, 1961 there is a comprehensive history of skiing in Vermont written by Janet Mead, who with her husband Bradford Mead opened the Pico resort in December 1937, on the Mendon-Sherburne Line of U.S. 4. The Meads obtained a 30-year lease on Pico Peak land from the owners, the Vermont Marble Company and Mortimer Proctor, and later on bought it in 1948. In 1965 a new wide trail to the summit was cut, the lift towers being dropped into place by helicopter.

## Sherburne Pass

### The Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail

One of the best known hiking trails in the East, the Long Trail of Vermont, was laid out and trees marked with white paint blazes, between 1910 and 1928 by the Green Mountain Club. It runs from the Massachusetts border north to the Canadian Line, a distance of 262 miles. It enters the Town of Sherburne near Killington Peak, continues north near the top of Pico Peak, through Sherburne Pass, east around Deer Leap Mountain, crossing old Elbow Road near the beaver swamp, and on to Noyes or South Pond.

For a few years in the late 50s the fire warden on Pico was Miss Caroline Parmentier, a tall and husky former Army nurse. Every few days she hiked down for supplies and could count on the assistance of her Labrador Retriever dog who had his own saddlebags strapped across his back. In 1964 the fire tower was dismantled and a new one erected on Killington.

In Sherburne Pass, elev. 2150, was a lovely rustic building, the Long Trail Lodge, built in 1923 and given to the Green Mountain Club by Mortimer Proctor and his mother, Mrs. Fletcher D. Proctor. It burned Nov. 8, 1968, and now the name has been transferred to its other large building across the road. It was bought from Grover Wright by the VRC Corporation.

The Appalachian Trail, laid out in 1927, extends 2000 miles from Georgia to Maine, using the Long Trail for the 96 miles from Massachusetts to Sherburne Pass. Half a mile beyond the Lodge the two hiking trails separate, the Long Trail continuing over Camels Hump, Mt. Mansfield and Jay Peak to Canada, while the Appalachian Trail turns right (east) and goes through Gifford Woods State Park and on to New Hampshire's White Mountains to Mt. Katahdin, Maine.

The map in the 1881 Gazeteer uses the name Young Peak instead of Deer Leap. This was probably named for "Indian John" Young who is mentioned in the 1886 history as being friendly to the Americans during the war of 1812.

### Ponds, Brooks, River and Park

In the Vermont Gazeteer of 1877 there is an article written by Hon. Daniel W. Taylor in which he says "there are three natural ponds of about 10 acres each."

### Pico Pond - private

One of these is Pico Pond in the middle of 2500 acres owned by the Proctor family and associates. Their lodge dates from 1892. Out of this pond flows Pico Brook, which assumes the name Kent Brook as it passes through the old Kent Farm on Vt. 100 and into Kent Pond. Near the outlet it is joined by a small brook and becomes Thundering Brook, well named



as it plunges over the falls to provide Archie Baker's Mill with power.

#### Colton Pond – public

The second one was called Pine Pond, on which one of Fred Barrows' mills was located. In 1964 the Vermont Fish & Game Commission made this into a fishing pond and named it Colton Pond in honor of Harry Colton who negotiated its purchase. There is a memorial plaque (1902-1963) in the parking lot.

Pine Pond Brook flows out of this pond, is joined by Middle Brook and Coffee House Brook, to form the Tweed River. It passes the old dam of the Estabrook Mill (shown on the cover of the Town Report for 1970), parallels Vt. 100, and passes the home of William Martin and flows on to Pittsfield to join the White River.

There was a third pond near Daniel Taylor's on Quechee River opposite the Riverside Cemetery which was drained when Taylor (Bates) Bridge was built about 1939 near the present Bent home. In 1966 Vermont Fish & Game Department bought the acreage of the Halls and at present it is a bird sanctuary.

#### Kent Pond – public

In line with the State's program of building many fishing ponds as land becomes available, part of the Kent farm was purchased a few years ago for a 110 acre pond adjacent to Gifford Woods State Park. Harry Colton arranged the purchase. Work on this was held up for some time, however, due to litigation concerning water rights and possible damage down Thundering Brook, but in 1964 construction was started; it was stocked for the 1965 summer season.

The Appalachian Trail runs along its southern edge, bordering land of Mountain Meadows Lodge, and along the dam. The lake can be seen readily from U.S. 4 at Merrill's Garage and is a very pretty picture and exceedingly popular with fishermen.

#### Brooks

Roaring Brook rises on the side of Killington Peak, winds its way through the West Hill basin, crosses U.S. 4 near the Post Office and joins the Ottauquechee in back of Ann Wallen's.

Pico Brook – Kent Brook starts at Pico Pond, crosses Vt. 100 through the old Kent Farm and flows into Kent Pond. As it flows out it is joined by . . .

Thundering Brook which is a small stream opposite Mountain Meadows Lodge. From here it gathers strength and beauty, plunges over the falls and develops electric power to run Archie Baker's Mill, and joins the Ottauquechee at River Road.

King Brook on Wolf Hill Road, Shaw Hill Brook at Battles, Quimby Brook near the Town Offices, and Brimstone Brook in back of the Grange Hall all help swell the size of the Ottauquechee.

#### Ottauquechee River

It starts as a small brook in back of Gifford Woods State Park, flows north then east down Falls Hill and south all along River Road. Below the village it parallels U.S. 4 and near West Bridgewater it is joined by Falls Brook which passes the Mason Wardwell Mill.

It goes on through Bridgewater, Woodstock, through Quechee Gorge and joins the Connecticut River below White River Junction. It has been spelled in various ways over the years, from Queechy to Water-Queechy or Wattoquitchey, even Quarterquechy, and been interpreted as "whirling waters," or even "current coming out with cattails near current." Translators can do wonderful things with Indian names!

#### Gifford Woods State Park

A letter in 1962 from the Park Director of the Vermont Department of Forests & Parks gives the history of the Park as follows:

"Gifford Woods State Park was established in 1931 starting with a purchase of 13 acres of land from Lee Pearsons and in 1932 a gift of 13 acres of land from Mr. Walter K. Barrows was added to the park. Through further purchases of land the State acquired 7 acres from the Eagle Square Corporation in 1958 and 15 acres from Mr. Kent during 1939. The balance of the Kent Farm was purchased by the State in 1959. Presently there are 108 acres in the park holdings under the jurisdiction of the Department of Forests & Parks.

"February 1958 the Fish & Game Department bought 24 acres of meadow land from the Kent Farm. This acreage is not included as Park holding.

"In 1933 and 1934 the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) built the picnic area and caretaker's quarters. After the acquisition of the 15 acres of land in 1939 the CCC constructed a camping area on the tract. During 1959-60 a new section to the camping area was built by the Forest & Parks Department on the 1959 purchase of remaining Kent lands. The new camp area was constructed from bond funds voted by State Legislature for expansion of State Park System."

(Note: Walter K. Barrows was born 1874, died 1958. His daughter-in-law Mrs. Fred Barrows was superintendent for 20 years since 1947.)

#### Old Roads

There is nothing more fascinating, to the author at least, than trying to follow the traces of long abandoned roads, and there are hundreds of them in Sherburne. Most of them of course are temporary lumbering roads which grow over rapidly once the logging is done. Yet there are many others which were once town roads duly maintained at public expense even in remote places because some one lived on them. Some are so steep

one wonders how they manage it.

Probably the first one up the valley of U.S. 4, as shown on the 1764 map, was across the Ottauquechee from the present highway, and was called "River Road" all the way from West Bridgewater to North Sherburne, a logical name. The road builders had to contend with "the interference of the Queechy" and no doubt tried to stay on one side as far as possible to avoid the building of bridges.

Maurice Prior has pointed out the traces of it as it went through his "Happy Valley" picnic ground and served the Anthony family and passed the little private Anthony cemetery. It crossed Brimstone Brook back of the Grange Hall, passed in back of Erwin Bent's house and the Riverside Cemetery, probably coming out at Cold Turn to join present River Road, then passed Warren Battles where the Estabrooks family settled about 1792 at the foot of Shaw Hill.

Since 1856 the river road from Sherburne to Pittsfield has come up through Falls Hill, past Dr. Post's, to join Vt. 100. In the Town Report it lists an expenditure of money for "powder for the Falls Hill Road," in 1859. It took 105 days to build that section. In 1952 the road was rearranged at a cost of \$8,000 to eliminate two wooden bridges. The brook was moved across to the south side of the road all the way down.

But, before this cut through, the regular route to Pittsfield called for climbing Wolf Hill Road past the Ezekiel West farm and on over Doubleday Hill. It probably branched at the top, one road leading down to Vt. 100 in a westerly direction, and the other to the north beyond the mowing coming out near the Pittsfield Line.

In 1874 it was officially discontinued (or "thrown up" as the local phrase is). Vol. VIII of the Town Records refers to it as the "stage road from Sherburne to Pittsfield which passes Ezekiel West's, across Thrall Hill to intersection with road to Moses Hackett." Thrall Hill is the upper part of the Henry Z. Steinway property. The Hackett place later became the Doubleday farm, which had originally been cleared by Harry Colton's grandfather Jonathan.

To see the speedway which is U.S. 4 today between Sherburne village and West Bridgewater it is hard to imagine what it looked like in earlier years. One postcard shows it as a narrow winding dirt road in 1921 near Biessman's "Turn of the River Lodge". It looked much the same in 1905 in a photo appearing in a souvenir booklet issued at the time of the 1961 Bi-Centennial.

The major highway improvements to U.S. 4 came in 1957-59 all the way from Mendon through Sherburne Pass to junction of Vt. 100 north; in 1961-63 from Mission Farm Road through West Bridgewater and in 1964-65 from Mission Farm Road westward through Sherburne Village to junction of Vt. 100 north at Bill's Country Store.

The term "dugway" is found occasionally in this area, meaning a road dug out from the side of a bank. Such was "Little Dugway" uphill from the village church. In the memory of Oren Bates, Frank Blanchard and others the road was nearer the brook, but it hung precipitously to the edge of the hill for a few hundred yards. Then a little farther on was "Big Dugway" past the Blanchard house. In 1923 the road was widened

a bit and moved farther away from the brook.

In 1964 when the road was being straightened and widened all the trees were cut away to reveal what a tremendous drop-off we had been blissfully unaware of all these years. Pneumatic drills and dynamite have made the dugway much wider and we trust the heavy guard rails will keep us from dropping off into the ravine.

### Pent Roads

A pent road is a public road through private property which must be maintained by the Town but which may be fenced off by the owner and cattle gates installed. A study of the 1869 map shows a regular public road led north from Ephraim Z(elotus) Dutton's (Bill's Country Store). It served the Kent Farm and the H. Willard farm which later was owned by William Gifford who moved there in April, 1878. The pent road continued from the Gifford farm for two miles past never failing Cold Spring and joined upper end of River Road. It is still locally referred to as Gifford Road and Archie Baker recalls having to open and close four gates about 1890 and told where each one was located. The land was owned by Andrew Estabrooks, Will Gifford and George Hutchins. About 1924 the State furnished the cedar posts and the wire, and Estabrooks did the work of fencing both sides of the road, thus ending the "pent road." It was paved thereafter and is now Vermont Route 100.

Another pent road was laid out in 1881 from "Bisbees, through Dr. Scotts to G. W. Thomas, 395 rods. Cost \$125, or 3 rods for \$1.00." Bisbees is now the home of Harold Anderson on Lombard Hill, and the road was called Juggernaut Road (now the Juggernaut Trail of the Green Mt. Club). The Geo. Henry Woodard family lived at Juggernaut Farm and the children came down to school at South Sherburne, but in order to prolong the life of their shoes they walked barefoot until the last 500-foot stretch when they put the shoes on.

### Other Roads

A completely new road was cut in 1957/8 called Killington Access Road which led from Bill's Country Store to Bigelow's Lodge, past the old Bates Farm, and on to the foot of Killington Peak where the Basin Ski Lodge and the chair lifts are. This was built by the State of Vermont as part of its program to help ski areas get a start and eventually to add to the economic growth of the State.

However, study of the 1869 map shows the most popular road was the West Hill Road which served some 16 farms.

In the 1880s there was lumbering activity by the Holdens and the Chaffees and they laid out a road past Pico Pond to take their logs out to Sherburne Pass. The Vermont Marble Company bought their mill in 1901. The farmers living in the basin of West Hill used that route to get to Rutland.

No matter where one goes there are always traces of very old roads still to be found. Some roads hold their form for a century and have

aroused a spirit of adventure and exploration in the author who has only to hear about such a road from some resident before she simply must track it down, or it seems "up" is a better word.

One such road was the old telephone trail leading from U.S. 4 near the Bates garage building up the face of the mountain to the farms and sawmill on West Hill. An occasional glass insulator or bit of wire was found hanging on a tree. According to Stella Kent Daily, daughter of Mrs. Warner Bates, she used that route to walk down to church even though it was the abode of bears. In 1960 when many new roads were built for ski lodges or old roads reopened signboards were painted for them. This one appeared as "Telefon Trail." The residents, Wise and Findeisen, asked that the misspelled sign remain to lend an air of uniqueness.

Another short cut from West Hill to the village was from near Summit Lodge, down past the Alfred Rowe place, coming out on U.S. 4 between Frank Blanchard's and the church, but the author could not seem to find the old cellarhole. This road was used especially by the men from the Vermont Marble Co. mill (1900-18) as they went to the Fred Spaulding store which kept open Sundays.

In 1881 Gazetteer included a map showing all the roads in Sherburne, each bearing a number, eighteen in all. The address of each resident was given by mentioning the road number. Elbow Road in North Sherburne was No. 2, Road No. 5 is the Gifford Road, now Vt. 100. The present Noyes or South Pond was then called Chittenden Pond, and Deer Leap Mountain in Sherburne Pass was called Young Peak, for "Indian John" Young who lived in the Pass. He is mentioned in the 1886 history.

#### Thundering Brook Road (formerly Combination Road)

From early records it is learned that the brook that parallels this road was called Thundering Brook and that is the road's official name now, but in the 1920s and 30s it was known as Combination Road. Why? Because what is now Merle Schoenfeld's Mountain Meadows Lodge and Kent Pond was on the farm of W. H. Hulett, owner of the Combination Store in Rutland. The 600 acre farm provided cattle and produce and maple sugar abundantly for the store.

The Eli Blanchards lived on the property 1909-11. The Howard Townes lived there and in 1932 recalled the big snowstorm in March which blocked the road for two days so the doctor coming for the birth of their niece had to wade through the drifts all the way from Turnpike School (U.S. 4). Howard and his father Andrew made a good deal of maple sugar at the Combination Farm.

#### Talk with Albert Adams of Rutland

Albert Adams was born on this farm in 1906, the youngest of the seven children of Pearl Chauncey Adams (1869-1937). The 1869 maps show a sawmill at the outlet of Kent Pond with the label C. H. Adams which is an error. It should be Nathan Chauncey Adams, Albert's grandfather, who died in 1886.

Pearl lived in the Ordway house (Southworth's Ski Shop) until he married in 1899, when they moved to what is now Bill's Country Store. During this time he owned a large acreage on the south side of U.S. 4, uphill part way to Pico Pond, and which included the Wolf Pits. He used to cut the winter's supply of ice on Pico Pond. Later he sold the property to the Proctors. On Pico Brook which comes down from the pond he had a small sawmill for his own use, and somewhat later made a hunting camp out of the old tar paper shanty which was there.

Albert recalls the cyclone which visited the area in 1911, blowing over the Turnpike Schoolhouse and the roofs off the barns of Merritt Neil. It wrecked havoc on the hillside back of Sherburne Motel and some two million feet of spruce and hemlock had to be cut in order to salvage anything.

The family removed to Rutland in 1915, but Albert remembers Aunt Betsey Hadley well, as she was the sister of his grandmother, Mrs. Nathan Chauncey Adams. Betsey and husband Daniel Hadley lived on the farm now owned by John Ohly. According to the inscription on Daniel's gravestone he fought in 16 battles of the Civil War and came home safely, but some years later he died when he slipped just as his team of oxen were pulling out a huge stump and he fell into the hole and was covered. His dates 1837-1894.

Betsey continued to live on the farm alone, renting the land to the Huletts, but taking great care of a beloved horse. His coat was so sleek that people thought she may have rubbed it with a bit of kerosene, which some did in those days.

In 1919 at age 80 and in spite of a bad cold she went over on a bitter winter afternoon or evening with a lantern to attend to her horse. The wind was blowing so hard she fell and couldn't get up. She was not found until the storm abated next day frozen to death.

The house was located just across from the red barn of John Ohly, but in 1960 it was moved some 300 yards up the hill in order to provide a more scenic site for the new modernistic Ohly home.

The road farther downhill was called by some "Wheeler Road" because I. Wheeler lived along it where the Robert Sayres do now. The Appalachian Trail utilizes this road all the way from Kent Pond to the River Road.

#### School #8 - Turnpike School

This was at the corner of Thundering Brook Road and the turnpike from Bridgewater to Rutland (present U.S. 4). It was operating in 1869 according to the Beers map, but was sold to E. Z. Dutton for \$10 when the new one was built in 1894. This lasted until 1964 when it was demolished for highway construction.

In 1905 it was called Mountain School, with Maude Whitcomb as teacher. From 1906-7 Ethel West (Mrs. Gifford) taught. Although she had only had an elementary schooling herself many people remember her as one of the very best teachers in the Sherburne schools. Hazel Johnson

(Mrs. Welch) taught in 1911 at the time the cyclone blew the schoolhouse right over onto its front roof. Fortunately all had left an hour before.

Hazel Hazelton (Mrs. Johnson) taught there from 1915-19, and the next year Mabel Richardson (Mrs. Edgar) taught about 20 pupils, a dozen of whom came from the Pico Lumber Camp. In order to become acquainted with the parents of her pupils Miss Richardson walked the three miles over Sherburne Pass to the camp and was given tea and cookies and a nice welcome. She corresponded with them for several years after 1920.

If absent for a short time she would leave the school in charge of her oldest pupil, Clara Davis (Mrs. Williams) who lived at the Ordway house. Her sister Alta Davis (Mrs. Roberts) gave the author a clipping from the Rutland Herald about the ox-team school bus, reproduced in the next few pages.

Many of the Turnpike teachers boarded at the Merritt Neils and Mrs. Edgar recalls that she paid \$4 per week for board, room, she repairing and a few dresses made by Mrs. Neil who also acted not as a chaperone, but as a screen to discourage any suitors she thought undesirable.

In 1936 the teacher was Caroline Lindberg (Mrs. Smith) whom the author met in 1968 at the testimonial dinner for retiring Town Clerk Hazel Johnson. She had boarded with the Johnsons while teaching and came all the way from Barton, Vermont to honor her on this occasion.

Another teacher, 1938, was Mrs. Evelyn Power of Pittsfield, now in her 40th year of teaching, most of them in the Sherburne area. At times she used her car for a school bus, picking up several children in North Sherburne. The school closed for good in June 1939 and the property reverted to the Neil family who originally gave the land for it.

She recalls an occasion just before school closed for Christmas holidays when there was a special program, with many parents present, filling the little school room and George Wood sat near the central stove all through it with his buffalo coat on. (Do you remember how buffalo coats and robes smelled when warmed through?)

About 1938 at the beginning of the free school lunch program the State sent a consignment of dried prunes which Mrs. Power cooked on the big central stove. After stewing all forenoon they were ready at lunch time and one boy (Forrest Wood) found them so good he kept returning his dish for more. After the third helping the teacher gathered up the dishes for washing and noticed there were no prune pits in his dish at all. She asked him where they were and in a very loud voice he drawled, "Oh, I just swallowed 'em." No ill effects resulted for he came to school next day as chipper as always.

Sherburne believes in Safety Rather than Speed  
in Sending Its Youngsters to School

"Sherburne, Feb. 1 (1922).

Discarding the Rolls-Royce, the Packard and the rest as impracticable and too rapid a mode of locomotion, the school authorities of

Sherburne have harked back a few hundreds of years and introduced a mis-mated ox team as a conveyance for children from the Pico camp to the Turnpike school house.

Further, they have hit upon the novel and assuredly safe scheme of having as a chauffeur of this mobile anachronism, a 19-yr old girl who, armed against winter's icy blasts in warm woolen "mittins and tippet," gees and haws at her fiery steeds and forces them to cover the distance to the school house in something under a day.

The beasts are yoked even as they were in ye olden time and the knowledge-hungry youngsters, starving for readin', writin' and 'rithmetic, are hauled to the "Little Red School House" on a sort of pung, a type of vehicle almost as antiquated as the power used to drag it up hill and down dale.

The sight of the slow-moving equipage has come to be one eagerly looked for by the villagers who enjoy the daily vaudeville and derive a great deal of innocent amusement from watching its snail-like progress toward the hall of learning." (Driver was Lucy Kitchin, later Mrs. I. Neil.)

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#### Highway Construction

From a narrow winding dirt wagon road in 1921 the road from Rutland to Woodstock has constantly been widened and straightened to cope with increased and faster travel. It wound in near the door of the post office for many years, but in 1952 the upper bridge was built to by-pass it. In 1957 U.S. 4 was widened from Mendon through Sherburne Pass; in 1961 from West Bridgewater to the Mission Farm Road; and in 1964 from there to Bill's Country Store.

This highway project left the Neil house an orphan on a private little curve of its own. The top ladder on the back roof can still be seen. It was borrowed from the Blanchards about 1920 and never quite returned. In Vermont oftentimes ladders were left permanently up in case of a chimney fire, or maybe there was a tax advantage for an unfinished structure.

The continuing improvement of U.S. 4 has resulted in a thriving new commercial area.

#### The new business section of town

At the junction of U.S. 4 and Vt. 100 North one comes to one of the busiest places in Sherburne. In contrast to the sparse settlement shown on the 1869 map when there were only four farms, there are now nine commercial establishments.

Bill's Country Store was once the barn of E. Z. Dutton (Ephraim Zelotus). Until a few years ago Mariano Fernandez ran a restaurant and "antique" establishment which caused considerable comment. In 1936 Dick's Ski Tow was operated on the north slope behind the barn.



Across the road in the early 1930s Ralph and Hazel Cain ran a gasoline pump and snack bar. In the 1960s Mrs. Fernandez ran a small gift shop and her husband was Curator of the Fernandez Museum, a collection of early and worn Americana distributed rather widely along his road frontage, somewhat to the consternation of the tidy-minded. The pros and cons of this were covered in the Rural Vermonter magazine of mid-summer 1963. Eventually things quieted down when the Ski Shack leased the property.

One of the four farms noted on the 1869 map was that of J. L. Ordway, later owned by Myron and Savinda Ordway who willed it to the boy they reared named Will Davis (Vol. 14, page 250 of Town Records, dated June 24, 1904 reads as follows:

"I, Savinda M. Ordway of the City of Rutland . . . for the consideration of Love and affection received to my full satisfaction of William E. Davis of Sherburne, give the land on Right 26, known as the John L. Ordway farm . . ."

Excerpts from Myron Ordway's diaries of 1877 and 1882, loaned by Charles Prior, show what it meant to scratch a living for a large family but also how one could call on a neighbor for help or in case of death, birth, sickness, harvesting or any emergency. Dutton helped him butcher his pig . . . and the both of them helped "lay out" Mr. Willard when he died.

Mr. Davis' daughters, Mrs. Clara Williams and Mrs. Alta Roberts of Poultney, contributed snapshots taken between 1891 and 1920 when U.S. 4 was a narrow dirt road. Both the house and barn were at a much lower level before the new highway and culvert were built. The barn was torn down in 1964 to make way for the shop that is now "Steaks & Things." The house is where the Southworth Ski Shop is.

The Kent farm was along Vt. 100 and was bought by the State of Vermont to add to the recreation area of Gifford Woods State Park.

The last house north on that road was owned by H. Willard in 1869, later by William Gifford, now by Alwyn Blanchard who built a modern home for himself but retained the lilac-covered, gray weather-beaten house nearby as it was. Across the road is the new Gray Bonnet Motel, Thomas Zabski, Prop.

To get back up to U.S. 4 business section, a busy place is the Merrill Garage. In 1949 Kenneth Merrill and his sons, who were operating the garage down in the village, bought the Davis farm and built the present cinder block building. Without their services in winter many a skier up from the city would be stranded with batteries weakened by the zero weather.

Other commercial establishments built in the last few years are: Bill's Country Store, the Ski Shack, Steak & Things, Southworth Ski Shop, Marseilles' Gazebo Interior Design Shop, Sherburne Gift Shop of Richard Altwater, Martin Associates realtors, Judge's Property Management, and Sherburne Motel.

### Oldest Houses in the Town

Nearly every one is interested in seeing very old houses and wondering when they were built. Some very early dwellings have no doubt served as the nucleus of houses to which there were wings added from time to time, thus altering the exterior appearance. Although there are probably no buildings left in their original state the following is a list of those which haven't changed too much in the last hundred years.

Consult the index for further description of some of them.

Built	1817	The Rectory at the Mission Church
	1820s	Ski lodge opposite Battles, built by Silas Colton, Jr.
	1832	The Ralph Cain home and Killington post office.
	1833	The Coffee House is a restoration.
	1836	William Martin's rental house, formerly Colton's. See below.
	1847	The David Edgar house.
	?	The Doris Baker house. See below.
	?	The John Hurley house (red) opposite Water Wheel See below.
	?	The Alwyn Blanchard unpainted house. See below.

### William Martin's

This was built about 1836 by a Mr. Josiah or Abijah Avery. Since that was before there was a saw mill in the neighborhood the lumber came from a mill in Stockbridge by ox-team over South Hill. It was occupied by three generations of Coltons between 1862 and 1965: Jonathan, Melvin, and Harry. In early years it was a two-family house with upstairs and downstairs apartments.

### Doris Baker's

This is across from Trailside Lodge and is another old house of indeterminate age, the west end being the oldest part. In 1963 when Mrs. Baker was having a door cut through on the back side of the house it was discovered to be a "block house" or "cobb house," with the walls being made of 4" x 6" timbers laid one on top of the other, or two 2" x 6"s nailed together, thus making the walls 6" thick.

In 1869 Elijah Pratt owned it. Meda Baker had just bought it and not yet moved into it when he died in 1888 two weeks after the Blizzard. Oren Pratt then owned it and worked at the Willard Mill. One day in 1902 Charley Colton was sent up to the Mill to stay with his uncle and aunt while the stork was delivering younger brother Harry to the Colton home.

In the 1920s it was owned by Edwin ("Ed") Estabrook (died 1954) author of books on how to trap animals. His books, bait and traps had a wide mail order circulation, and the bait especially had a wide circulation of offensive odor in the neighborhood while it was being cooked. When packaged and taken to the post office it was so potent it was given speedy first class attention to get it out of the way fast. However, Mr. Estabrook's business boosted the post office business greatly.

#### John Hurley's

When the former owner John Cary did some interior remodeling he found evidence of a very early structure, beams, etc. This was where the Anthonys lived. Albro Anthony was first Town Clerk of Sherburne. Mr. Cary found an Adams name in a Bible with the date 1823. Solomon W. Adams was living there in 1869, but how much earlier is not known.

#### Alwyn Blanchard's

This is the long enduring, though unpainted, house on Vt. 100 north of Gifford Woods State Park, generally known locally as the Gifford house, but prior to that it was the home of H. Willard, as shown on the 1869 map. How much older we do not know.

A unique feature was that the chimneys were not built from the ground up, but they began above the second story floor, using a sturdy wood cupboard as the base of each. That way the stove pipe leading up from downstairs would heat the upstairs bedrooms before the heat went into the chimney and out.

Gifford Road is the term still used by some to denote the section of Vt. 100 from the house northward to the junction of River Road. See section on Pent Roads.

#### Old Deeds

Reading the old deed descriptions in the Land Records has been not only informative but quite amusing at times. Many of the leases were to run "as long as water runs and wood grows."

At the Wise place on West Hill one corner was "where the snow drift was." The description had been copied verbatim from an older deed and when questioned the grantor said, "Why, everyone knew where the big snow drift was. It was 12 feet deep there every winter." That, however, was before the State Highway Department used its big plows to keep such drifts from building up.

A point in another deed is "555 feet to an axle in a stone wall in or near the easterly line of River Road."

At the Shedd place on Elbow Road the point of beginning was "at the beach tree which has been cut down and sprouts have grown up by side of stump . . . to corner of Ira P. Shaw, formerly called the Frenchman's lot.

In the early days the large farms were kept in tact and handed down in the family, or else sold as a whole and all the neighbors knew the boundaries well. Often times it was fenced to keep the cattle from straying and today many a boundary can be followed by watching for broken strands of barbed wire grown into the bark of the trees to quite a depth.

#### Rutland and Woodstock Railroad

When the author started delving into the history of Sherburne her first fortunate find was the 1869 Beers' Atlas map, mentioned many times herein, for the map shows the owner of every property in the Town.

Since it also showed the route of a railroad she tramped over the hills and through the woods trying to locate some trace of the old road bed, but without success. For a very good reason, too . . .it never was built. The idea of a railroad connecting Woodstock and Rutland had been entertained for many years and surveys made. A company was organized Nov. 3, 1865 to sell stock for it. Apparently in 1869 it was almost certain to become a reality, hence its inclusion on the map. The only thing lacking was money. The promoters evidently were unable to raise the amount necessary, for the expense of constructing a railroad over the backbone of the Green Mountains would be great.

The route shown on the map is through Mendon village, Chittenden village, crossing the ridge at The Elbow, looping downgrade to follow the southern shoreline of present Kent Pond, and a northern loop to come down near Archie Baker's Mill. In the valley it parallels the Queehee River and River Road, passing the home of Hon. Daniel W. Taylor, prominent citizen and office holder of Sherburne in Civil War time. It would cross U.S. 4 above the village church and again at Maurice Prior's and on down the valley to West Bridgewater.

#### Hon. Daniel W. Taylor

A newspaper account of Mr. Taylor is contained in a scrapbook which Hazel Johnson, Town Clerk, showed the author. He was born 1823 in Plymouth, Vt., came to Sherburne in 1831 with his father, Nathan. He was Vermont senator, representative, and held all important town offices. Was also associate judge, town agent, wool grower, farmed 400 acres, and had timber land of 1600 acres. The 1869 Atlas lists him as "Claim Agent and Cattle Broker." He drove large herds of cattle to the Boston market.

He was selectman during the Civil War period when Sherburne was given a certain quota of men to fill and the Town paid men to go, raising some \$13,500 by taxes for this purpose. In one instance to fill the quota, seven more men were needed and Mr. Taylor personally advanced \$780 above what the town authorized in order to forestall the necessity of drafting men.

Mr. Taylor built the 22 room house which was the show place of the Town on River Road. In 1869 it cost \$900 to build. A sill at the rear was a single beech 60 ft. long. It is now occupied by the Oscar Halls. But his activities may have caused him financial trouble for a certain piece of property in the Town was later sold "by trustees in bankruptcy for Daniel W. Taylor." He died in 1899.

## PART IX

### Town Meetings and Excerpts From Town Reports

The distinctive feature of New England government is its Town Meeting wherein every citizen has a right to stand up and be heard, and he usually exercises that right, sometimes being short and to the point, and more often stirring up a lengthy discussion. But he gets it off his chest by having his say.

The important man is the Moderator who must know his parliamentary law and keep discussions in line with the questions listed in the "Warning" which is the call to Town Meeting. There is a full page of questions that must be voted on and a considerable slate of officers to be elected. Meeting lasts all day, with some little time out for lunch which is often served by the women of a nearby church or grange.

First Moderator of Town Meeting was Col. Sherburn; in 1843 it was Charles Shedd. Recent ones have been Herbert Johnson (1931-32), Charles J. Allen (1933-43, Rev. Truman Heminway (1944-55), Rev. Harry Snook (1956-61), and Horace Glaze (1962- ).

The governing body of any New England town consists of three to five Selectmen, who serve without salary in the smaller towns, being paid only out of pocket expenses or a small meeting fee. On them rests the responsibility of running the Town as smoothly and economically as possible, else they'll hear about it at Town Meeting. They devote an untold amount of time from their regular jobs.

Of late the growth of activity and the building of miles of new roads in Sherburne has been so great it was deemed necessary to hire a full time town manager who would also act as road commissioner. The first town manager selected in 1971 was Forrest Forsythe.

Other officers who donate their time almost gratuitously and must try to please all are the three Listers whose job is to appraise each piece of property, real or personal, for tax purposes.

The early Sherburne Town Records and the printed Town Reports since 1895 have produced some interesting reading. The Library has a good collection of these and the Town Clerk an even fuller collection going back as far as 1856.

The earliest meetings for the Town of Killington were held (1761-1785?) in Newport, R.I., where the proprietors Ezra Stiles and Benjamin Ellery lived.

The Town was first settled in about 1785 but not organized until 1794. In the 1797 Grand List, which is a valuation of all properties, is the first appearance of the name of Richard Estabrooks, one of the first settlers along River Road. He and his brother-in-law Amasa Fuller were selectmen that year.

In 1804 there were 22 names on the Grand List which totaled \$1767.75 probably mostly in land. In 1819 eight houses were listed for a total of \$52.25. Improved land was assessed at \$1.75 (per acre?); there were 20 polls (voters), and a population of 154.

In 1869 there was real estate listed at \$91,716; personal estate at \$11,848; 24,779 acres; 240 polls; 17 dogs; population 525.

#### Sale of the slave Chloe

One item of business that was taken up each year between 1815 and 1832 was the "sale of the slave Chloe and her son John." It seems she was the property of the Tripp family and when both Tripps died in 1815 she was on the town so to speak. So each year the Town sold her to the person who charged the Town the lowest figure for boarding her and her son; they would be expected to work for their keep.

The yearly bidding went from \$40 to as low as \$20 and back up to \$37.75. In 1834 the pauper Eunice Wilson was sold for \$22.00. She may have been white. In 1820 in lieu of a cash transaction Albro Anthony would keep Chloe Tripp for 2 years (extraordinary sickness excepted) in exchange for the use of the land of the Minister's Right, No. 46, for as yet no minister was engaged to serve Sherburne until 1829.

#### 'Warning to Depart said Town'

About that same time "Joseph Harlow and family are warned to depart said Town." No reason was listed, but possibly it was because they might become a town charge and should return to their native town.

#### Sheep Marks

Sheep marks had to be registered with the Town Clerk for identification purposes the same as cattle are branded on western ranches today.

1827 - Asa Woodward's. A swallow tail on right ear and a half penny underside the left ear.

1832 - Joseph Anthony's. A crop on left ear.

1836 - Wm. Ide's. A notch out of upper side of each ear.

N. M. Fuller's. Right ear cut off and a split in left ear in the end.

#### Report of Overseer of the Poor, John E. Davis

(In the days before Welfare became a huge federal operation each Town had its own poor to take care of and the Overseer's account was printed yearly. Even with the brevity of the entries a poignant story can be extracted, such as the misfortunes of the Hathaway family who lived on East Hill.)

1905.	\$ 5.00	Doctor for E. Hathaway
	19.00	Removal of Hathaway to Brattleboro
		Retreat (for insane)
	17.00	American Express, for return of Hathaway
	15.00	Burial outfit for Hathaway
	20.00	Supplies for Hathaway family

1906	\$ 2.88	Abatement of taxes on Hathaway place
	90.00	Firewood, provision and rent, shoes and rubbers for family.
1907	1.25	Moving Mrs. Hathaway to J. J. May home
	12.50	Doctor for Mrs. Hathaway
	6.50	Coffin for Hathaway child
	.25	2 hrs. burying Hathaway child
	71.00	Provisions and rent
last entry	1.75	Making out indenture papers for Dictor Hathaway to Alex Cameron. (He apparently paid the family obligation by working it out.)

All through the Reports are items such as "Repair of tramp house," "Feeding and lodging of tramps." 75¢ would provide supper, lodging, and breakfast, and off they'd go to the next town where they would get similar treatment guaranteed them by Vermont law.

#### Wildlife Bounty Paid

From the Town Treasurer's Reports we learn the fate of various forms of wildlife by the payment of bounties for their extermination.

1897	Paid \$12.00 to Sidney Colton, bounty on 20 foxes.
1901	Paid \$4.00 to Frank Hazelton for damage done his sheep by dogs.
	Paid \$12.00 for 4 bear; 60¢ for 3 foxes; \$5 for 4 lynx.
1908	Paid to Selectmen W. O. Bates and L. L. Madden expenses "to see Doubleday about sheep killed by dogs" in June, July, August and October.
1930	Paid \$10.00 for bobcats.
1932	Paid \$64.00 for 15 sheep killed by dogs. Sheep owners were Frank Hazelton, W. O. Bates, Lester West.
1950	Paid \$47.00 for 94 porcupines @ 50¢ each.

#### Town Agent's Duties

The present day duties consist chiefly of signing legal papers for the Town in case of lawsuits, etc. But in 1856 the Agent apparently was Custodian and Seller of hard liquor. His report showed the following sales:

81 1/2 gal.	Medford Rum	\$58.68
53 1/2 gal.	Alcohol	68.48
42 gal.	Gin	94.08
6 gal.	Brandy	34.52
1 gal.	Wine	2.56
		<u>258.32</u>
	Less cost	<u>-197.58</u>
		60.74
	Deduct Agent's salary	<u>-15.00</u>
		\$45.74

Henry Miner says that during a legally "dry" period people got their liquor from Rutland by asking the stage driver to buy it for them when he went for the mail.

#### Auditors Complaints

- 1907-10    The Auditors complain acidly about "poor bookkeeping and badly snarled accounts." "It is obvious that we are living beyond our means . . .we have \$400 less than what is needed for debt reduction."

#### Other Elected Officers

- 1831        Amasa Fuller is to serve as Tythingman (that is to see that people attend church.)  
             Amasa Fuller, Gideon Colton and Charles Cilley are to serve as Haywards (to see that fences keep animals from hayfields.)
- 1865        Jonathan Colton was a Poundkeeper in North Sherburne and posted a notice of an "estray horse in his enclosure. Owner must prove property, pay charges and take her away."

#### Former Town Clerks

While the earliest meetings were held and records kept in Newport, R. I., Ezra Stiles acted as Clerk. Later they were brought to Sherburne.

Albro Anthony, first town clerk	1795 to 1807
Elisha Easterbrook	1807 to 1812
Nathaniel Fuller	1812 to 1818
Albro Anthony	1818 to 1830
Noah Johnson, the first minister	1830 to 1836
Charles S. N. Anthony	1836 to 1842
John Johnson	1842 to 1844
Rufus Richardson, Jr.	1844 to 1851
Benjamin Maxham	1851 to 1864
Otis Walker	1864 to 1867
John Johnson	1867 to 1874
Daniel W. Taylor	1874 to 1881
Constantine W. Adams	1881 to 1892
Clara N. Davis (Mrs. John)	1892 to 1934
Hazel H. Johnson (Mrs. Herbert)	1934 to 1968
Josephine Blanchard	1968 to present

#### Land Records in Town Clerk's Office

Vol.	I July 8, 1761	to Oct. 20, 1795
	II Oct. 30, 1795	to Sept. 13, 1806
	III Dec. 8, 1806	to Sept. 18, 1822
	IV Nov. 29, 1822	to April 28, 1831
	V April 28, 1831	to Nov. 8, 1836
	VI 1836	- 1842



- (5-1/2 years records were burned in a fire  
Nov. 1896 at home of Town Clerk,  
Clara N. Davis.)
- VII March 23, 1842 to Oct. 1, 1850  
The foregoing six volumes were rebound in 1966  
through the contributions of various clubs and  
individuals.
- VIII These six volumes were rebound as a memorial  
to Maurice C. Fleming.
- XIII
- VIII Contains School Reports from 1843, Freeman's Meetings.  
Presidential Elections - Road Surveys, Marriages, etc.

and on to Vol. 28 (1971). Microfilm for all are filed in Montpelier,  
Vermont.

#### Halls for Holding Town Meetings & Freeman's Meetings

Nowadays Town Meetings for transacting town business are held the  
first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, and Freeman's Meetings  
for the election of State and Federal Officers are held in September.  
Various halls have been used for these purposes. In 1895 the F. M.  
Plumley Hall was rented for \$10 (second floor of Ann Wallen's garage).  
In 1901 Augusta Taylor's hotel for \$5. In 1920s the second floor  
ballroom of the Ellis Madden hotel (next to Val Roc motel), and of late  
at Sherburne Valley Grange Hall.

#### Sherburne in the Wars

##### Revolutionary

A study of "Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Vermont" shows a  
Joseph Adams buried in Sherburne. He responded to the "Alarm at  
Castleton Oct. 21, 1781," serving 10 days. Another soldier was Isaac  
Bisbee, who is listed in the 1800 Census. In State Papers there is a  
petition of Feb. 27, 1782 to the Vermont General Assembly to pay to the  
heirs of Nathaniel Fuller of Killington, deceased, for wages and arti-  
cles lost while imprisoned in Canada, the sum of 14 pounds, 16 shill-  
ings and 6 pence. The brothers Amasa and John Fuller enlisted in  
Massachusetts and came to Vermont around 1798, and perhaps this Nathan-  
iel came earlier.

##### War of 1812

The Roster of 1812 Soldiers is not indexed as to towns, but three  
Sherburne names were found. John Fuller was appointed Major (rifles),  
and Josiah Wood, Jr. and Thomas West Estabrooks volunteered to go to  
Plattsburg, serving 10 days in September 1814.

##### Civil War

Miss Christine Johnson's unpublished History of Sherburne has  
considerable information about Sherburne's part in the war. There is a  
copy in the Library and one at the Town Clerk's.

When quotas were announced from Washington Sherburne managed to meet them without having to submit to a draft. Some enlisted voluntarily, others were paid a bounty to enlist. Page 1123 of Hemenway lists the following though not alphabetized:

Leonard Adams	Edgar Newton
John Barnes	Oscar Newton
Davidson Barr	Myron Ordway
George Breck	George Parker
Warren Clark	Charles Shedd
Darius Demary	John Spofford
Alonzo Evans	Albert Spaulding
Joel Frink	Amasa Stevens
Orville Frink	John Taylor
Daniel Hadley	Henry Willard
Albert Hastings	Oliver Willard
Henry Holt	Charles Wilson
George Hutchins	Hiram Wilson
Alonzo Madden	Lucius Wilson
Azro Maxham	Richard Wilson
Cyrus Mead	Arzell Wyman

#### 9 Month Volunteers

Edward Baird	Alson Goodrich
Oren Bates	John Hadley
Walker Bates	Lauriston Manly
John Brown	Simon Sawyer
Frank Casavan	Horace Stone
John Casavan	Josiah Taylor
Henry Colton - died	William Town
Daniel Conway	John Turner
George Cummings	Lorenzo West
Wm. O. Doubleday,	Enoch White
died of wounds	Moses Whitehill
received at	John Withington
Gettysburg	George York

#### World War I

There were seven men from Sherburne: Erle Wilson; Charles Colton; Lyndall Cady; Raymond Prior; Claude Prior; Napoleon Geno, wounded overseas; William Geno, died overseas. Victor Geno enlisted from Rutland.

#### World War II

The Town Reports of 1944 to 1947 list the following men in the armed services:

Warren Taylor	George Senecal	Milton Merrill
Harold Madden	Frank Blanchard	Richard Edgar
Frank Pfenning	Alden Spaulding	David Edgar, Jr.
Marvin Pfenning	Hazen Spaulding	Roger Neil
Myron Wardwell	Oliver Welch	Clyde Davis
Mason Wardwell	Orris Welch	Joseph Fernandez
Ivan Wardwell	Kenneth Prior	Herman Hall
Harold Merrill	William Prior	

Garth Whittier and Wendall Pfenning died.  
Truman Heminway, Jr. was listed as missing in  
action in the Philippines, but later was  
rescued after an escape in the South Seas.

War Memorial Erected by the  
Town of Sherburne

Denis Wilbur	1948 - 1967
Wendall A. Pfenning	1922 - 1945
Garth A. Whittier	1925 - 1945

(This is a fine granite monument in Riverside Cemetery.)

C L U B S

Sherburne does not lack for willing workers when it comes to supporting civic projects, church, grange, schools, library, fire company, etc. Of course in a small community such as this one sees the same people working in all of these projects. some of them are described below.

The Grange (Patrons of Husbandry)

The first one was Quechee Valley Grange #177, organized 1872. The second, Killington Grange, organized 1905 met on the second floor of the old Merrill Garage in the village. Mrs. Ida Wilson was its first Lecturer. In World War I the Grange disbanded.

The present one, Sherburne Valley Grange #382 was organized 1925. They built a building north of the village school in 1926. In 1937 it burned, was rebuilt, and in 1958 moved across the road to its present location on River Road.

Sherburne Historians

This is a small group of women, mostly newcomers, who are interested in seriously studying the history of their adopted State and Town. Sherburne history study often takes the form of a hike up and down the old roads to visit old cellarholes and learn about the early settlers. They have a modest museum display at the Town Hall and have evening meetings there for the general public.

Tri-Valley Homemakers Extension Club

It originally was called the Home Demonstration Club of Rutland County, sponsored by the Univ. of Vermont Extension Service. They meet in homes for handcrafts, projects to aid charitable institutions, help at blood bank, and sometimes picnic.

### Sherburne Women's Club

Its membership is chiefly found among the ski lodge families who have moved to Sherburne as their permanent residence. It began with a desire to get together for better acquaintance and more social activity, and soon developed into an active organization for supporting school activities, library, fire department, etc. It was organized in 1964 with Mrs. Preston Smith as first president. One of their public services is the publication every two years of the Sherburne Town Directory.

### Sherburne Volunteer Fire Department

Before 1942 there was no fire company at all. A hose and small apparatus was kept in Ralph Cain's cellar. Then he got hold of a pump for them which was transported in an auto or truck. A second pump came from surplus Civilian Defense, then a third pump.

About 1955 a jeep was bought for \$600 raised by the Fire Company's Auxiliary putting on several suppers. Members were alerted by a telephone committee of three. Ralph Cain was Chief at one time. A Fire House was built on Killington Access Road in 1964 with members working under the direction of Chief Horace "Red" Glaze. The equipment consists of two pumpers, an emergency van, and a 2000 gal. tanker. Some apparatus is also kept in the village in the old schoolhouse building.

The members have done some good and hard work, especially on one occasion in 1969 when the woods caught fire on Deer Leap and they made some 200 trips up that steep cliff with Indian pack pumps strapped to their backs, assisted by boys from the Farm & Wilderness Camps who had discovered the fire. Finally the fire was conquered when they stretched a hose way to the top.

### Killington-Pico Rotary Club

The newest community service club was organized on Jan. 21, 1972 by 26 charter members, with John Southworth serving as the first president.

### Sherburne-West Bridgewater Memorial Library

This name has applied since 1956 when the books of the two libraries were combined. The building was originally built in 1924 as the West Bridgewater School but when the highway was widened there the building was condemned. Mrs. Hazel Welch had long urged a separate library building so this was an opportunity. Grover Wright bought the school for \$400 and Mrs. Welch sparked a campaign for soliciting contributions for moving it five miles to a piece of land donated by Florence and Oscar Hall on River Road. The Sherburne Grange undertook the project and it cost about twice the amount paid for the building.

Mrs. Ida Wilson, first librarian and long-time trustee, recalled that the Town Representative returned from Montpelier to report at the 1913 Town Meeting that the State would supply so many books a year to any town appropriating \$15 a year to run a library. Later the law required \$25 per year. The Town of Sherburne now appropriates a goodly

amount yearly, and improvements increase, such as a concrete cellar floor and book stacks and a furnace since the Library is open in winter as well as summer.

This is a far cry from the days when the librarian was one who had perhaps an extra room, even a bedroom, with a few shelves where the books were kept, and received no pay. Eventually the Town voted to pay \$10 a year, and now \$100.

The Rutland Regional Library sends over a large supply of books for the summer. Some books are bought, but most come from personal libraries such as a collection from Mortimer Proctor, Laurens Hoffman, the Wiley Memorial Collection, and most recently some 500 books from the family of Christine Johnson who has served as a trustee for many years.

One section is known as the VERMONT ROOM where all the books pertaining to Vermont are kept and available for circulation.

## PART X

### A Journey Along River Road

#### Northward From The Village.

River Road is not only shown but also given that name on an 1764 map, copy of which the author procured from the Newport, R.I. Historical Society. In later years it was called the Pittsfield Road for obvious reasons since it was the main road to that town.

Since some of the earliest settlers chose homesteads along this road it might be of interest to take an imaginary journey starting at the P.O., explaining points of interest along the way. The events and buildings mentioned of course stretch over many years.

#### Sherburne Valley Fair

A short distance catty-corner from the Grange Hall was the Henry Taylor meadow, where in 1954 the Great Eastern Lumber mill stood, and now there are four condominiums. In 1939 the first fair was held there for the showing of livestock, farm produce, handiwork and entertainment. It rated a good write-up and photograph in the Rutland Herald of Aug.30, 1939 loaned by Mrs. Evelyn Power, whose husband Nicholas Power was the mainspring behind the show. Some of the directors and officers were Miss Christine Johnson, Warren Fellows, Rev. Truman Hemenway, Henry R. Taylor, and Mrs. Margaret Rhodes.

The photograph showed a ferris wheel, grandstand, race track and a large field for horse pulls, ox pulls, and horse-jumping contests. Mr. Mortimer Proctor was the main speaker in 1941 being a Vermont State Senator.

Three thousand persons attended the two-day fair which included a baby parade, a bicycle parade, pony classes, band concerts, a 50-yd. dash for men, a greased pig race, and a sack race won by Richard Edgar. Winners in a horse-drawing contest were Andrew Towne and Francis Palmer. The Bates twins, Oren and Harry, were winners of prizes for poultry, sheep and bulls. Harley Gifford showed a prize heifer. It required quite a number of judges and Maurice Prior and Oren Bates recall they were asked to do some of the judging. They say their motto was, "Give every one a prize."

In 1940 and 1941 the Fair was held near Colton Pond, now covered by a pine plantation, near the junction of Vt. 100 and River Road. In 1941 they incorporated a pageant for the 150th year of Vermont's joining the Union which was written by Hazel Cain, narrated by Mrs. Power. Actors were from Pittsfield, Bridgewater, Plymouth, and Sherburne. The tableaux were presented on the stage and at the proper time during the early settlers' scene Lucy Neil appeared driving an ox-team down the track to the front of the stage.

With the coming of World War II the Fair was discontinued, but it is remembered with pleasure by many Sherburnites of today. The Fair had bought a steam merry-go-round but with the passing of the fair it

lay in the meadow for years and Rob McDonnell finally sold it for junk.

### Riverside Cemetery

But to get back to our proposed journey we soon come to the cemetery used for the people in the northern part of the Town at first, and now for all the Town since the one near West Bridgewater is full. The historian can spend many hours here checking dates and genealogies. Of interest is one stone dated 1803 of "Hannah Fuller, aged 19 yrs., 30 days after marriage." Also one of 1842 of "R. Estabrooks, Esq." and 1856 "Hannah, consort of Richard Estabrooks" for he was one of the early settlers who came to Killington in 1772. And who knows who was "Philia Zwill, dau. of Alexander Zwill"?

From the Town Records, Vol. X, it appears that the cemetery association was formed in 1859 when Warner Bates (who lived at the Bent place) deeded some land, probably adjacent to the early graves, to 43 residents who "must keep it well fenced and in good repair." It gets its name from the river opposite.

### Haying with Bog Shoes

The Ottaquechee has contributed to the formation of much swampland, and in 1877 there even was a good sized pond which was later drained when the Taylor (Bates) Bridge was built about 1939 near the Bent home. Beavers are busy building dams in the swamp now and there may yet be a pond there; and also because the State of Vermont bought the area a few years ago with that in mind.

Part of that property produced a good hay crop for Henry Taylor, but it was too wet for ordinary haying machinery. One way was to cut it by hand scythe, or the other was to bind "bog shoes" on his horses' feet so they would not sink into the mire. These were round wooden discs the size of a dinner plate on which was bolted an iron rod harness with a strap, similar to a snowshoe harness. The principle was the same, that is spreading the weight over a large area to prevent sinking. The author saw such a pair at a Lumberjack Roundup display at Killington in 1970, but Charley Colton says he never heard of them being used at any other place than this particular marshland on River Road.

This farm now owned by Oscar and Florence Taylor Hall is described elsewhere under the title "Hon. Daniel W. Taylor" not an immediate relative, however.

### Quimby Hill

If one follows the Appalachian Trail (and we mean on foot) as it leaves the old schoolhouse on River Road and steadily climbs the mountain to the east it crosses under a power line. This line was built 1967/8 to bring power in from the north to run the Gondola and other ski installations.

By leaving the Trail and taking a left fork road you eventually reach Erwin Prior's camp on land of International Paper Company which owns a vast amount in the Stony Brook area. About a quarter mile beyond

is the cellarhole of Quimby. Archie Baker's grandfather, Zeke West, used to pasture his cattle, and Archie hayed that lot the last time it was hayed, about 1901.

Learning that the three grand-daughters of Annis Quimby were now living in Pittsfield, I spent a pleasant hour in 1966 quizzing Miss Madge Quimby, 74, and Mrs. Clara Quimby Tozier, 77, about Quimby Hill or "Paradise" as the family always referred to it. Hazel Quimby Johnson is the other granddaughter.

Their father, Alfred, was born 1853 in Paradise as were his three sisters. They left the farm when young children, maybe in Civil War time, the family moving in 1886 to a farm in Stockbridge near the head of Fletcher Brook and calling their new farm Quimby Hill. At that time there were some 50 families living on South Hill and Madge and Clara went to a school near the cemetery. About 1897 they moved to Gaysville and later to Pittsfield.

These ladies did not know the Paradise farm personally and although their grandfather may have thought it was paradise their father apparently did not agree, at least he never cared to farm there, perhaps due to its remoteness. The house had a larger cellarhole than is usually seen in these hills, with a massive stone island in the center to support short cross beams. There is a dead maple tree in the hole even now, measuring about 18 inches in diameter.

The farm was within the Sherburne boundaries and the 1869 map shows a road to it from River Road though probably a very poor one. It was officially discontinued in 1872, but re-established in 1879. In the 1940's the International Paper Co. built the present logging road from the Edgar's gravel pit, along the Appalachian Trail for half a mile, crosses the brook and continues for 1-1/2 miles more.

Since the early road was a poor one the Quimby Hill farmers probably went "out to civilization" northward via South Hill. There are several cellarholes, clearings and apple trees along that road.

But the most interesting thing up there is a tiny graveyard with two stones in it, and many an hour has been searching the Town Records to learn more about the Woodards buried there.

#### Asa and Mary Woodard

Presumably these people were the prior owners of the Quimby Farm. The cemetery is a short distance beyond (south) of the cellarhole and has a substantial stone wall around it. The stones read as follows:

Mary Woodard  
died  
Feb. 16, 1845  
Age 72 yrs.

Asa Woodard  
died  
July 11, 1845  
Age 74 yrs.

A tree some 8 inches in diameter grows in the middle and its roots have pushed one stone on a slant. There are two small footstones, also.



No one could enlighten the author about this family, even the Quimby granddaughters. Vol. IV of the Town Records, 1827 record "Asa Woodward's sheep mark is a swallow tail on right ear and 1/2 penny underside the left ear."

Another: Asa Woodward died 1847, aged 46 yrs. and is buried in Ranney Hill Cemetery in Stockbridge just off Vt. 107. Could he be a son?

#### Shaw Hill & the Bald Spot or Sheep Meadow

There is a high hill (mountain to the timid) to the east of River Road and nearly back on the Windsor County line. In the early days the settlers seemed to prefer to get as far back and as high up as they could when they picked farm sites.

The Estabrook Homestead acres in 1792 occupied Shaw Hill, the one with the bald spot which can be seen from the junction of U.S. 4 and Vt. 100 N. It was an open field for many years where cattle, horses and sheep grazed. Ezekiel West pastured 180 head there at one time. As the years have passed with no grazing small forest growth is gradually shrinking the size of the spot. About a quarter of a mile down from it is the hunting camp of Charley Prior, formerly the old sugarhouse where he and his father made maple sugar in the 1920s. It was built on an old cellarhole which probably was that of the first Estabrook home.

The road leading one mile down to River Road at the Warren Battles place follows a beautiful brook but is as "steep as all get-out." It was built by father, George Prior, who used a sturdy pair of oxen which were kept in the lower part of the sugarhouse. One night when father and son Erwin were sleeping above they heard a noise below and father took his gun and shot a skunk. The oxen didn't turn a hair but the skunk did, and fired. Worst of all though was that the bullet also smashed father's cider jug and Erwin had to tramp all the way down home and back for more cider. There were 160 acres on the hill farm.

#### Old Houses on River Road

After passing the Taylor place (Oscar Hall) and the Library one comes to the home of David Edgar which was built in 1847 by Gideon Colton on the site of his father Silas' home, the first Colton to come to Sherburne in 1818. Within the memory of present residents, however, it was long referred to as the Prior place, and both Charley and Erwin Prior were born there.

The house looks just as it did in the 1890s when Elbridge Prior lived there except for the addition of a chimney on the north wall. The house went to his son George in 1902 and was bought by Mr. Edgar in 1931.

Several diaries of Mr. and Mrs. George Prior in the 1890s and early 1900s make fascinating reading. Even though the entries were one line sentences one can follow the doings of a Vermont farm family with 14 children and conjure up a picture of life at that time. Charley Prior graciously allowed the author to make excerpts.

Next comes the Town Office Building, formerly the Sherburne Valley School, built 1947 at a cost of \$30,000, accommodating 47 pupils at first and 80 at last before the new school was built on West Hill in 1970, at a cost of \$600,000.

On the right are some old piles of lime rock but the kilns were abandoned many years before anyone now living could remember anything of their history. On the opposite side is the old house built by Silas Colton, Jr. probably in the 1820s, although the date 1815 appears over the front door because a newspaper was found in the walls during a remodeling which bore that date.

The red house of Warren Battles which has gone through considerable remodeling since Geo. Estabrook lived there in 1869 occupies the site of the original home of Thomas West Estabrook who was born the year after the first Estabrooks came to Killington in 1792.

The Frank Thorne house (formerly Frank Pfenning) was also an early Estabrook home, as was the Burnham Martin house at the top of Falls Hill. In fact the 1869 map shows five Colton homes and eight Estabrook homes in 2-1/2 miles along River Road and in North Sherburne.

For instance:	George Estabrooks	— now	Warren Battles
	Richard		Thorne
	Alfonso ("Fon")		Kirby
	Danford		Dr. Post
	Andrew		Martin
	Alonzo ("Lon")		Beebe development
	Ambrose		Christine Johnson Estate
	Eli Dudley		Johnstone (Coffee House)

#### School #2 at Falls Hill

A school was established for this District No. 2 in the first decade of 1800 but the location is unknown. However Vol. VIII of Town Records authorized the present building in 1871 now owned by Gordon Wamboldt who has painted it yellow, and retained the inscription over the door "No. 2."

The oldest living pupil is probably Archie Baker whose mother taught there after the death of her husband in 1888. It was open and closed every few years: Open in 1894, also 1898-1900, 1903-1906, then for the year 1924 only. The building was finally sold for \$50 in 1932 to Miss Helen Perry, and to the Wamboldts in 1967.

While altering and redecorating it they found written in pencil on the back of an inside door:

1905.	Teacher Ethel B. West (now Gifford)
	Hazel Heselton (now Johnson)
	Ruby Heselton (now Trudo)
	George Burr (lived at Martin place)
	Christie Doubleday (lived at Steinway place)

Archie Baker's name was found high up on one wall and also that of Charles Prior . . . wall scribbling in those days, too, eh?

Ethel West had attended school there herself in 1894 at the age of six and returned in 1905 to teach at age 16, boarding at the Will Doubleday's. Charles Bridge attended while living with his uncle Frank Heselton, and there were many Holmes children at the present Battles place.

Archie's first teacher was Lena Rounds, and in 1894 Millie Johnson taught. Later on were Bertha Davis, Mary Doubleday (Mrs. Gay), May Parmenter, Abby Burdit, John Davis, Frank Davis who boarded at Ezekiel West's; also, Alice Duesler who later married George Estabrook (at the Thorne place).

#### Hutchins Hill

Around the half circle bend and up Falls Hill is a huge pine tree marking the cellar hole of the Danford Estabrook house. The white house across the brook was built 1947 by Ed Carpenter and is now owned by Dr. Fred Post. A very steep road in back leads to the George Hutchins farm of 1869. Butterfield owned it 1900-1923, and later Dave Cameron lumbered up there and slid the logs down the steep swath to River Road now used as a power line route. A winter road leads from the house site off to the west to join Vt. 100 north of Cold Spring. Back of the present cottage is the grave of Herbert E. Nock (1892-1951). His daughters Enid Hunt and Delma Booth sold the property to John Ohly in 1964.

#### Estabrook Farms

Until 1971 the Andrew Estabrook place, now Burnham Martin, was easily located by simply mentioning "those huge barns with the typically Vermont rusty roofs" which incidentally attracted the artistic eye of an octogenarian painter, Dr. Emilie Perkins of Rutland, who exhibited her painting at the Chaffee Art Gallery. But the winter snows of 1968-70 did them in and they are no more. They held 100 head of cattle according to Henry Miner who lived there in the 1950s.

Between the old school No. 2 and the Martin place is a horseshoe bend accompanied by the brook which is really getting near the upper reaches of the Ottauquechee River. That area is known as Falls Hill and was unpenetrable until 1856 when a road was finally cut through. The Town Report of that year lists an expenditure of money "for powder for the Falls Hill Road." This was before the days of dynamite. It took 105 days to build that section.

Previously the stage road from Sherburne to Pittsfield climbed the steep Wolf Hill Road past the upper Kirby house, came out at the Doubleday farm where it branched. The main road went beyond the mowing and came out a little past the Wm. Martin place on Vt. 100 just over the Pittsfield line.

The other branch dropped down steep and straight, joining Vt. 100 at the development of Allison Beebe who has officially labeled it Doubleday Hill Road. In order to make the history of Sherburne a little more vivid the author led a party of hiking history buffs over the above described loop in June 1971.

Coltons and Estabrooks - Early Settlers

The names Colton and Estabrook are found all through the history of the Town of Killington or Sherburne for they were among the early settlers. Estabrook is the correct spelling according to Miss Christine Johnson, fifth generation descendant, but variations show up in land deeds, on cemetery monuments, in history accounts, etc., such as Estabrooks, Easterbrooks, and Esterbrooks.

The genealogy of the Estabrook family has been worked out by Mrs. Ronald Hance of Rutland, Vermont, and Capt. Lyle Estabrook of South Colby, Washington, from family records, books in the Vermont Room of the Rutland Public Library, and microfilms at the Mormon Genealogical Society in Utah. The author is greatly indebted to both and for many copies now at the Sherburne Library. Mrs. Hance is related to the Hastings, Barrs, Fullers, Estabrooks, Coltons and Bennetts.

Robert (born 1732) and son Richard (born 1768) came to Killington in 1792. The tombstones of Richard and Hannah Fuller are found in the Sherburne Riverside Cemetery and read as follows:

R. Estabrooks, Esq.

Died April 27, 1842  
Aged 74 yrs.

Hannah, consort of  
Richard Estabrooks

Died Aug. 9, 1856  
Aged 92 yrs, 5 mo. & 5 days.

The Estabrooks came from Middleboro, Mass., or Freetown, Mass. some 15 miles away. All the families in those days had a great number of children. The 5th generation Richard married Dorcas Colton in 1823 and they had 12 children. This gave rise to the saying that "If you met a man in Rutland and didn't know who he was you called him Colton, and if he didn't answer you knew he was an Estabrook." A visit to the Sherburne Cemetery tends to prove the point.

The original Colton homestead was on the site of the present David Edgar house on River Road, while the Estabrook Homestead was on Shaw Hill, the area now owned by Battles, Prior, Thorne and Kirby.

The family of Silas Colton came from Springfield, Mass. or nearby East Longmeadow, but in 1818 Silas and Mary Hines Colton were living in Rowe, Mass. Franklin County, where she died in April, age 43. In the fall Silas and 12 children came to Sherburne.

Silas was a member of the Vermont Legislature in 1838.

Although the following is by no means complete as to the descendants of these prolific families, a few of the relationships are indicated in the next pages.



1900-1910 - Ezekiel West's pastures on Wolf Hill  
Photo by Heber Miner



1965 - Same view showing takeover by hardwoods.  
Thorne house and two Kirby houses.

ESTABROOK GENEALOGY

Genera-  
tion

1st	Thomas Esterbrooks	(1629-1713)	
2nd	John Esterbrook	(1669-1728)	
3rd	Robert Estabrook	(1705- )	(did he have a Richard J.P.1857)
4th	Robert Estabrook	(1732-c.1803)	came to Killington 1792
	<u>They had 7 children</u>		
5th	Elisha, Benjamin,	four others,	and
5th	Richard	(1768-1842)	Came to Killington 1792
	<u>They had 7 sons, 3 daughters</u>		
	<u>One son</u> of Richard (1768-1842) was:		for another son see opposite page
6th	Thomas West Estabrook	married	Nancy Colton
	(1793-1880)		(1797-1890)
	They had <u>6</u> children:		
7th	Andrew F.	married	Augusta Barr
	(1822-1895)		(1834-1896)
	Their <u>5</u> children:		
8th	Mason Fuller, teacher 1881, Son Clyde of Randolph, b.1900		
8th	Sidney, went to S. Dakota in 1880s with		
8th	Lewis Andrew, teacher. Shipped lumber out from Sherb.		
	for houses.		
9th	Son:	Irving Lewis of S. Colby, Wash.	
10th	Grandson:	Air Force Capt. Lyle Estabrook	
8th	Luella, married Geo. Frink of North Sherburne		
8th	John W., teacher at Pittsfield, later M.D. in Brandon		
	married Louise Seeley		
7th	Alfonso W. ("Fon")	married	Cornelia Williams
	(1825-1907)		son: George
		married	Caroline Dibble
7th	Alonzo T. (Lon")	married	1st, Rebecca Holland (1831-1858)
	(1827-1903)		2nd, Jeannette Hastings (1839-1888)
			3rd, Nancy Davis Dunn
7th	Ambrose D.	married	Lydia Wheeler
	(1829-1913)		Sons: Henry, Clarence, Morton
		Dau:	Marcia married W. Johnson
			(1844-1936)
			Dau: Christine (1883-1970)
7th	Meribah N.	married	George Kent
	(1833-1913)		Twins: Clara & Clarence and 5 others
7th	Gilman L.	married	Marcia Hastings, dau. of Nathan
	(1837-1928)		Children: Jennie (1863-1890
			Md. Rosto Colton)
			Loren (1865- )
			Alice (1867- )
			Md. Frank Johnson)
			Belle (1873- )

Clara (1846-1879) married Somers

COLTON GENEALOGY

Gener-  
ation

- 1st George Colton, b. 1644 Springfield, Mass. Wf: Deborah Gardner
- 2nd Ephraim, 1648-1713. Wife, Mary Drake 1649-1681
- 3rd Lieut. Ephriam, 1672-1753. Wife, Mary Noble.
- 4th Ephraim. Wife, Sarah Burt.
- 5th Eli, 1737-1800 Wife, Mariba Warner, 1742-1809.
- 6th Silas, 1768-1826. Wife, Mary Hines, 1775-1818. Died Rowe, Mass.  
Fall of 1818 Silas and children came to Sherburne  
(They had 12 children):
- 7th Nancy, 1797-1890. Married Thomas West Estabrook, 1793-1880.  
Silas, Jr., 1799-1882. Married Olive 1810-1869  
Member of Vt. Legislature 1838. Built house opp. Battles.  
Hiram, 1800-1871.  
Gideon, 1802-1879. Married Mary Dean (1809- )  
Dorcas, 1804-1893. Married Richard Estabrook Jr. in 1823.  
Aaron, 1806-  
Polly, 1808-  
Eli, 1810  
David, 1812-1886. Lived near top of Elbow Road.  
Elisha, 1813-1883. Great bear hunter. Lived Steinway place.  
Married 1839 to Martha Hastings, a twin daughter of  
Nathaniel and Zilpha Hodgman Hastings.  
(They had 10 children):
- 8th Angeline, 1840-1844  
Hazen, 1842  
George, 1843-  
Susan, 1845- Married James "Daly" Parmenter.  
9th They had daughter Maude (Mrs. Stoddard)  
9th and May Parmenter, unmarried, who taught  
school at N. Sherburne in 1900, and was  
Town Clerk of Pittsfield many years.
- 8th Edgar, 1847-  
Nancie, 1849-  
Eva, 1850-1861  
Sidney, 1853  
Frank, 1856-1861  
Rosto, 1860- Married Jennie Estabrook,  
1863-1890, daughter of  
Gilman & Marcia (Hastings) Estabrook.  
He made quite a fortune in Colorado gold  
stocks but held on too long, and lost it.
- 7th Jonathan, 1815-1888. See next page.  
7th Mary, 1818-



COLTON GENEALOGY

Gener-  
ation

6th Silas, Senior, had worked hard to provide for his 12 children and acquired farm land and buildings. Cash was a scarce quantity but in his will he divided it equally, each child getting \$19.12. Vol. 4, p. 143 of Town Records.

Jonathan Colton.

7th Jonathan Colton, 1815-1888. Married Amanda Pratt (1827- )  
Cleared farm on Doubleday Hill. Moved to Colton mill site in 1862.

(They had 6 children):

8th Marcella, 1848-1890.  
Oscar, 1850-1905. Lived opposite Colton Mill.  
Addie  
Rufus  
Sherman  
Melvin, 1862-1947. Married Ruth Pollard in 1887.  
(They had 3 children):

9th Ray, 1890-1937. Drove the stage over The Elbow.  
A son is Robert of Pittsfield.

9th Charles, 1896- Married Lena Fisk in 1923.  
They live in Pittsfield.

10th A son is Melvin (married Barbara Quillia)

11th A daughter, Lynn.

11th Two sons, Charles and David.

9th Harry, 1902-1963. Married Leona Buxton Colton in 1947.

Procured much land for Vermont Fish  
& Game Dept.  
Colton Pond is named for him.

### Wolf Hill

Two white houses part way up the mountain stand out plainly for miles around and attract attention especially from the Merrill Garage area on U.S. 4. They belong to William Kirby, a native of Rutland, now of New York City.

The older residents recall that the upper one was the home of Ezekiel West III (1844-1926), and the lower one the home of his son-in-law, Frank Heselton (1868-1959). The author is indebted for most of this information to Archie Baker who lived with his grandfather West from the age of four, and to Hazel H. Johnson, daughter of Mr. Heselton and granddaughter of Mr. West, as both lived on the hill for many years.

Family records show a John West who came from Ireland, his son Ezekiel, Sr.; Ezekiel, Jr. (1816-1887), who married Mary Stafford; and Ezekiel III (1844-1926), who married Mary Jane Bridges in December 1865 and moved their belongings to the upper house in January by wagon, since there was no snow.

At the time of the Civil War "Zeke" West III sold his war services to someone who had been drafted and didn't want to go. When he returned he used the \$500 to buy the upper farm of 180 acres, later 300 more. It was very steep and rocky, but suitable for raising sheep. The deed says the deal "includes 2 sap pans and 245 buckets" for maple sugaring. (In the 1920s he put out 900 buckets, but also bought 32,000 feet of the newly developed direct piping from the Cary Maple Sugar Company who then bought his syrup.)

Henry Miner recalls that about 1912 Frank Heselton had a sugar house near his home and another sugar bush farther up on Wolf Hill. To haul the buckets up there he conceived the idea of hitching up the bull and harnessing him by turning a horse collar upside down so it would fit the broad shoulders. But the bull was not trained for this, the snow was deep, the hill very steep, and the bull just went on a strike. The buckets still had to be carried up by hand.

Mr. West's daughter Una was born 1866 and married Meda Baker in 1883 and lived just off Elbow Road on land now owned by the author. Meda died of pneumonia about two weeks after the famous blizzard of 1888, and the young horse carrying the body to the West Bridgewater Cemetery had to be exchanged at the Maurice Prior place for an older horse less nervous about deep snow. The team was driven by Melvin Colton's grandfather.

Thus at 21 Una was a widow and off and on she taught school and tutored. She married Frank Heselton in 1893 and in 1904 they built the lower Kirby house after tearing down the old "Fon" Estabrook house. There were three daughters by this marriage, Mrs. Hazel Johnson, Mrs. Ruby Trudo, and an infant daughter Iva Pearl who died in 1905 and is buried in the center of four beautiful maples across from the house.

## PART XI

### NORTH SHERBURNE

#### North Sherburne Gore

In studying various maps of Sherburne the author had often puzzled over that trapezoidal chunk of land at the northwest corner and wondered how it came to be. A field worker from the U. S. Geological Survey told me he found it in the records at Montpelier and was resurveying it. Chapter 32 of the Laws of 1829 records "An Act annexing part of Chittenden to the Town of Sherburne."

Starting about 1/4 mile northeast of Harry Colton's, the line passed through Grub Corner to Bear Corner for 1-1/2 miles, then turned south for about the same distance to a point near The Elbow, then northeast paralleling Elbow Road to a point near Christine Johnson's. The 1869 Beers map is quite inaccurate in this section as is also the USGS map of 1893. However, the USGS map of 1891 is correct. It was called the "Chittenden Gore" on a map of 1898 which J. Frank Prior used when he was a lister.

It may have resulted from petitions to the Legislature on the part of the many residents who were technically in the Town of Chittenden but so very far removed from its political center they could not get to Town Meetings without tremendous difficulty due to the high ridge of the Green Mountain Range.

= = = = =

Rather loosely speaking North Sherburne might be considered to begin near the junction of River Road and Vt. 100, taking in everything on the side roads and main road until one crosses into the Town of Pittsfield just beyond William Martin's.

One good landmark for giving travel directions is Gifford Meadows Camping Ground owned and operated by Fred and Grace Barrows. It is adjacent to Colton Pond, formerly called Pine Pond. Opposite this is Killington-Pico View development that begins with Doubleday Hill Road.

#### Doubleday Hill

From almost any of the side hill farms of North Sherburne one can identify Doubleday Hill by its twin knobs where the late Fred Hazen Doubleday was born in 1883. A very pleasant visit with Mr. and Mrs. Doubleday in 1962 brought forth many interesting bits of information about life on the hill in the 1890s.

Except for the river farms and West Hill the Doubledays had probably the largest area of level farm land anywhere around. Originally it had 600 acres but 300 were sold to Zeke West. Melvin Colton's great grandfather Jonathan cleared what was needed for farm operations and built the house which is shown on the 1869 map as belonging to Moses Hackett. In 1862 he sold and moved down to the Colton mill site on Vt. 100.

When Charles Edwin Doubleday (1849-1936) bought the farm he built a new house in 1880 where Fred was born. Today there remains only the cellarhole, daffodils and lilies of the Valley and a small gravestone below the stone terrace with the inscription "Little Pearl, aged 3 yr. 8 mo., son of C. E. and C. A. Doubleday, 1881." The parents' names were Charles and Cornelia and the other children were Fred, Mary and Kate, and Amy.

One incident Mr. Doubleday recalled was that when one of his sisters got married the couple spent the first night on top of Killington, probably at the Killington House, or possibly they were camping out. Anyway Father Doubleday built a huge bonfire on a large rock below his house which the newlyweds could see from their peak some eight air miles away.

The crops raised were grain, hay, corn, maple sugar and potatoes. It was the Doubleday aim to have green peas and new potatoes by the 4th of July, and considering the frequent June frosts in Vermont that was quite a goal. The haying was done by ox-team and the hayfield so extensive (a mile from the house) that the slow moving team kept going steadily around the field with never a pause yet keeping three men busy forking and loading.

Those who lived on these high hill farms did not go for the mail every day as we do now, but about once a week Fred would go on horseback down the steep road, past Delbert Spauldings ("Trailside" now) and on to the Coffee House where the Dudley Estabrooks kept the post office.

The Doubleday children attended the little school near the Coffee House making the 3-mile round trip on foot each day. One of the teachers was Mrs. Una West Heselton.

The family belonged to the Adventist Church which his father and grandfather built prior to 1880 near the junction of Vt. 100 and the Coffee House Road. It was a small chapel with wooden benches instead of pews. There was no regular minister but elders from other communities came to preach on Sunday afternoons. Archie Baker remembers attending a service there. One Doubleday had returned from Tennessee where he was impressed with the hymn singing style of the negroes, and he belted out a hymn in like manner at this service.

Grandfather William O. Doubleday died in 1863 from wounds received at the Battle of Gettysburg, aged 41. His son, William E., lived at "Doubleday Meadows" now the Henry Steinway place. William O's grandson, Dr. Arthur Doubleday, told the author he remembered "the yellow day" in 1886 when he saw Grandma Doubleday reading the Bible all day long expecting the End of the World. The yellow color was later thought to be caused by big forest fires in Maine, enough to dim out the sun here.

The little church building was torn down in 1910 and the lumber used by Fred to build the house now owned by Romaine Willis on Stage Road below the school. Father Charles was then living on the next place which later was owned by daughter Amy and husband Charles Allen, now Bartenstein's. The Allens built the small cottages of Camp Tewasi a few of which still stand. When the house burned in 1964 it was discovered the solid walls consisted of planks 2" x 8" piled one on top of the other.

### Mica Mine

At the lower end of the Doubleday Hill Road is the cellarhole of the Alonzo ("Lon") Estabrook house, and some 500 ft. north of it is a smallish depression now filled with water and tree stumps. Mica was taken from it around 1900 but never in commercial quantities. Archie Baker saw a big piece taken out when first opened which was two feet square, six inches thick, pure, no stone in it, but it was smoky. Such pieces were used in the front of wood-burning stoves and being semi-transparent it showed whether or not the fire was burning within. If one can finally find the location nowadays a few flakes may be kicked up if the rocks are overturned.

### Along Vermont Highway 100

Gifford Meadows Camping Ground of Fred and Grace Barrows is on the site of two Barrows sawmills, mentioned under Mills.

Soon the highway makes a right turn and the first building on the right is the unpainted home of the Sherburne Cheese Factory Association of 1890, described under Mills.

In later years the cheese factory was used as a house, and also a community hall. On the second floor is a little raised stage used for home theatricals; suppers were cooked on the stove downstairs and served upstairs. In 1961 the author found a piano there and a poster advertising:

"Three plays, benefit Ladies Auxiliary, 25¢ admission,  
Johnson Hall, North Sherburne, September 1, 1931"

Among the actors were Christine Johnson, Romaine Willis, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miner who lived on the Burnham Martin place.

Next house north was that of Miss Christine Johnson (1883-1970) whom everybody knew and loved. It was built in 1862 and bought shortly thereafter by her grandfather, Ambrose Estabrooks, who owned the mill opposite. After a full life of teaching in Vermont she retired to this home and was devoted to the Congregational Church where she was organist for many years.

See Chapter on Mills for a description of the Estabrooks mill and the Colton mill farther on down Vt. 100 just before the Pittsfield Town line. The Colton house is described under Oldest Houses in the Town.

### Coffee House Road - Stage Road Loop

Immediately north of Gifford Meadows Camping Ground the Coffee House Road drops down to Mike Cohen's Trailside Lodge, a ski lodge in winter and home base in summer for teen travel groups and an ecology college. Around 1798 it was the site of the log tavern of Ichabod Johnson, later Orcutt's tavern about 1855. Thomas Chamberlain's blacksmith shop was there in 1869, later George Frink lived there in 1886 and Merald Spaulding 1926-43.

Next across the road is Doris Baker's described under Oldest Houses in the Town.

At the Coffee House Elbow Road goes left uphill, and Stage Road goes right downhill, passing the 1849 North Sherburne schoolhouse, then the Bartenstein house which replaces the Edgar Colton house of 1885.

The Romaine Willis house was built in 1910 by Fred Doubleday who used lumber from the Adventist Chapel.

### The Old Coffee House

Between 1850 and 1920 North Sherburne was a thriving agricultural community of at least a dozen large farms, the focal point of which was the old Coffee House which Robert Johnstone has so well restored as to its general outside appearance. At that time it was on the main road to Pittsfield which now carries two names, Coffee House Road and Stage Road, at the junction of the mountain road which went over The Elbow and on to Chittenden and Rutland.

The Coffee House is a well-known landmark and was built in 1833. In 1849 it was known as Giddings Tavern, and between 1865 and 1883 Eli Dudley Estabrook ran it as the last tavern proprietor. Between 1872 and 1919 it was also the North Sherburne post office and the original pigeonhole boxes and frame were still in place in 1961 when Mr. Johnstone started remodeling. He generously arranged to have them taken out and preserved and they are now in the historical museum in the Town Office building.

During the remodeling the author found scraps of old newspapers under the floor boards. One was an adventist publication "The World Crisis" addressed to Celia Estabrook, and the other a paper with an uncomplimentary write-up about Oscar Wilde, the poet, who was touring the U. S. at the time and Killington Peak in particular in company with the Proctor family.

Mrs. Ruth Pollard Colton (mother of Harry and Charley) who came to this section in 1885 to teach school nearby told many stories concerning the old tavern. When the dry stone foundation was built whiskey for the workmen was brought out in a big bucket with a ladle. It presumably quenched their thirst, but she didn't recall any particular drunkenness . . . they no doubt were well conditioned to it. One of the corner rooms was the bar room.

No one seems to know why it was called the Coffee House, but perhaps they did serve coffee occasionally as well as hard likker. It was one of the places the stage drivers stopped for refreshments and to pick up and deliver the mail and to change horses.

They also took in overnight guests and one story concerned three girls rooming there who had been accustomed to using the mirror in an adjoining vacant room in the morning before going down for breakfast. Without the girls knowing it a man was assigned to that room one night. In the morning the first girl up burst into his room just as he was getting out of bed. He popped back in, and she went downstairs without telling the other girls the situation. The same thing happened with

girl number two, and then with girl number three. The man had a hard time getting out of bed and dressed that day!

Former owners were: R. R. Thrall, Giddings, George Dimick, Dudley Estabrook, Mrs. Celia Estabrook, Will Wilson, Frank Morgan, Kingsley Smith, William S. Hults, Jr., Joseph Bassett, and now Robert Johnstone, IV.

Sections of the 144 foot long structure were probably built at different times, the westerly end which comprises the living and bedrooms and bar being the first. The central section, where folks come to get their mail when it was the post office, had an all-purpose dining-kitchen and sheds on the ground floor and a large dance hall above which was probably used prior to 1885. Marjorie Morgan (Mrs. Hazen Doubleday) says her father, Frank Morgan danced there about 1888-90, but probably not after Dudley Estabrook's third marriage to Celia Stockwell for she would not have approved of dancing.

In 1963 a detached barn was burned down at the request of the owner, Mr. Robert Johnstone, giving the Sherburne Volunteer Fire Department a helpful lesson in fire fighting. A large number of helpers and spectators watched the hoses being played on the horse barn which was the last unit attached to the tavern structure in the familiar New England style of "continuous architecture."

Mr. Kingsley Smith of Springfield, Vermont, who owned the Coffee House from 1939-1946 had running water and inside plumbing put in for Mr. Morgan who stayed on after selling it to act as caretaker. He recalls the privvy that was in the wing next to the barn. "a multi-holer if there ever was one. Frank Morgan's family was a large one and he made provisions for all sizes." Subsequent caretakers were Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Prior, and Mr. & Mrs. Thad Maxham who later built the Frederick house.

The Coffee House served as a tavern for about 50 years until 1883, the last tavern-keeper being Dudley Estabrook. Christine Johnson recalls acting as substitute postmistress for one day when "Aunt Celia" Estabrook was absent.

= = = = =

At an earlier date (1828) it is probable that Elbow Road was the route of the Rutland and Stockbridge Turnpike built by Rufus Richardson. An unknown donor provided the Sherburne Historians with an original account book of that turnpike company dated 1828-1838. Wages were \$1.00 a day, or \$1.50 with ox-team.

The same donor left the original Rate Bill of December 3, 1804 giving the Grand List of 22 landholders and their assessments to pay for building a bridge over the (Ottauquechee) River near Amasa Fuller's house (now Hurley's). Cost was \$106.06.

Postal History of North Sherburne Area, Vermont

Established on July 10, 1849  
Discontinued on January 21, 1859  
Reestablished on October 16, 1872  
Discontinued on March 15, 1919

<u>Postmasters</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Francis W. Giddings	July 10, 1849
Elisha S. Orcutt	Dec. 16, 1849
Charles D. Shedd	June 23, 1853
John Hoyt	June 7, 1854
Charles F. Lincoln	Nov. 10, 1854
Jeremiah Avery	Apr. 3, 1858
Eli D. Estabrooks	Oct. 16, 1872
Richard D. Estabrooks	Nov. 4, 1874
Eli D. Estabrooks	Sept. 12, 1878
Isaac A. Morse*	Aug. 27, 1879
Almon C. Boutwell	June 11, 1885
Dudley E. Estabrooks**	June 6, 1889
Mrs. Celia E. Estabrooks	Mar. 30, 1900
	to
	Mar. 15, 1919

Editor's notes:

\* Even with the Democratic administration of Grover Cleveland, Mr. Morse managed to keep the Post Office job in the family, for Almon Boutwell was his son-in-law. So for a time the P.O. was across from the Harry Colton place in the big mill boarding house.

\*\* Dudley E. Estabrooks is the same as Eli D. Estabrooks above.



### School #3 in North Sherburne

Just a few hundred feet down Stage Road is the old North Sherburne schoolhouse, now the home of Norbert Chapleau. In Book VII of the Town Records one can find the deed of September 1849 whereby Reuben R. Thrall, builder of the Coffee House, conveyed to School District #3 a piece of property 40 ft. sq. conditioned on their building a fence at least 5 ft. high on three sides to keep his cattle away.

Teachers changed every year, sometimes twice or three times a year. In the late 1890s Hazel Johnson's mother taught there and Hazel attended. Hazel Welch tells that she had advance warning that one boy had a reputation for extremely rebellious deportment and had received daily whippings from previous teachers. In fact, sympathetic Will Wilson at the Coffee House would hide the boy frequently when a teacher was looking for him to punish. So when she came to teach she meted out a very mild punishment . . . only to stand in the corner with his back to the class. That nearly undid the boy, and when she turned him around he was crying. Thereafter he became her devoted pupil and often stayed after school voluntarily to be near her as long as possible. This was Jimmy Allen.

A number of children came here from over the Mendon Line. The Wood children lived up Elbow Road on this side of the mountain and three families lived on the other side, working at the Noyes Mill below the present Beaver pond. Mendon paid their tuition to Sherburne.

Since there was no well at the schoolhouse the job of filling the buckets at the Coffee House was given to the boys. One day in winter Roy Towne and John Colton, nine or ten years old, had filled the pails and come out to the road when they saw the mail stage team standing there while the driver was inside. They were trained so that as soon as he hopped in and clucked they would take off at a brisk pace for the pull up over the mountain to Chittenden seven miles away.

That particular driver was one the boys did not like and they figured to get even with him. This was their opportunity. As they came out they clucked to the horses which immediately started off while the driver was still in the house. It was learned later that he didn't catch up with the team until they put in at their customary stop at Chittenden. The boys realized that unpleasant consequences might result if their part in it was known so they agreed with each other that the parents of both would be happier if they never were told.

### Elbow Road

For well over a hundred years one of the best known roads from Pittsfield to Chittenden and Rutland passed by the Old Coffee House. It was a two mile climb up the long hill and over The Elbow, that crooked pitch at the top of the ridge where now the Long Trail crosses the gap. This route cut off four or five miles from the Sherburne Pass route and was regularly used until the Flood of 1927, the hurricane of 1938, and finally ambitious beavers stopped the traffic.

There were three or four good sized farms along Elbow Road. One was the Morse farm, later owned by Shedd, Estabrook, Currier, Seward family, Pike, Smith, Mersch, Johnstone. Since this is also the author's

acres she was glad to talk with Robert Currier, for whom Currier Road is named, and get a few stories of when he lived here 1914-1923.

Folks recall that he was once summoned for jury duty in Rutland and thinking it would be too slow to take horse and buggy, he simply walked into town and back for the day's job, 27 miles round trip. He had attended Middlebury College for a time, but farming and especially fishing were of greater interest to him.

Next farm up is now owned by the Lindholm Brothers, but was generally known as the Julius Boutwell place. Rob Currier married one of the Boutwell daughters on a cold day in February 1912, driving the team over The Elbow into Rutland and off on a honeymoon trip by railroad to Brattleboro.

In Vol. XII of Town Records, Sept. 1890, is the deed of Ira Shaw and wife to daughter Gertrude Shaw Boutwell. In exchange for the deed of the farm she was to see them through their final days, and a decent Christian burial in Sherburne Hollow Cemetery and a stone. They are to occupy a suit of rooms, be provided with clothing, bedding and food, drink and medicine necessary for the support and comfort in sickness and health. And a suitable horse and carriage.

Beyond was the Walt Wood place which is now a hunting camp belonging to Eagle Square Co. which owns much of the woodland to the south of Elbow Road, while the A. Johnson Co. of Bristol owns to the north. This area is locally known as Three-Way, with a road to the left going to Willard Saw Mill site, a road to the right to the Pete Peryer place of 1912, and straight ahead the farm of David Colton, later owned by Ai Boutwell, the last farm before the gap and The Elbow.

There are remnants of an apple orchard at the top of the ridge where a Rood family had a farm. According to Mrs. Ruth Colton one day poor Mr. Rood died and his wife had the sad task of loading his body on a wagon and taking him down over the hill to Mendon for burial which she attended to promptly and then started home. But then she must have thought how lonely it would be up on the top of the mountain. She probably figured her husband was as dead as he'd ever be and why should she lose time in getting another companion. So she just married another man on the way home.

### Stage Drivers

The people who knew old Elbow Road the best were the men who drove the mail stage over the ridge in all kinds of weather and in all kinds of vehicles. I doubt if the big stagecoaches shown in the movies were ever used here, but any vehicle that carried mail, passengers and even market produce was referred to as "the stage." There were two-seated sleighs, two-seated wagons with cover, and motorcycles with sidecar.

The daily mail stage was inaugurated July 1, 1864 according to John P. Clement in his "100 years Ago This Week" column in the Rutland Herald. The author was able to track down some of the early stage drivers now along in years, but then probably in their 20s. It took a hardy young one to stand the daily 11 hour round trip.

- 1900-05 Harry Davis.  
1903-05 Otis Hunt, father of Harvey Hunt, owned the mail route.  
1906-13 Frank Bishop was proprietor and owned seven horses.  
Mr. John Whitcomb bought the route from Bishop and hired various men to drive for him, among them:  
1914 Ray Colton, brother of Harry and Charley.  
1915 Mike Wardwell's sons Sumner and Jim.  
1915-16 Clyde Sumner, with a motorcycle sidecar.  
1917 Alstine (Stub) Rorison often had to break out the unplowed road with his team, which was hard work.  
1919-21 Charles Seward, interviewed in 1961, was third from the youngest of the large Seward family which formed The Elbow Club on the Mersch place. They were the ones who planted the 15,000 Scotch Pine seedlings.

The driver would leave Pittsfield at 7 a.m. and not return until 6 p.m. He drove a single team over the mountain, changing to a double team for the run from Chittenden to Rutland. He finally used a motorcycle with sidecar, even in winter. It had one ski-runner and two wheels. On one occasion he couldn't get up over the steepest part. He happened to have a dressed pig he was taking to market for R. Ellis of Pittsfield, so he sat the pig up like a passenger in the sidecar throwing the weight toward the rear and made the grade.

Archie Baker was trapping one day above the Boutwell place when Seward came along and asked him to ride, with all his gear, to give necessary added weight. Archie says it was the only time he had ever been in a motorcycle, before or since.

- 1923 Frank Morgan of the Coffee House.  
1923-27 Earl Davis of Pittsfield, retired superintendent of Eagle Square's Stockbridge Mill, was the last stage driver over The Elbow, under contract to Whitcomb. In winter he once had to send a mule on ahead of his horse and sleigh to break out the road.

There are some people in Rutland who remember his driving a Model T Ford snowmobile for the sight nearly caused a traffic jam. It had a coupe cab, a pickup body on back with auxiliary transmission that occasionally slipped out of gear.

Price of the trip to Rutland was 75¢ one way, or \$1.25 round trip. Passengers had to make reservations ahead as he could take only one.

It was Mr. Davis who recommended discontinuing the Stage due to the small number of RFD patrons and the fact that the road was plowed so little. Then came the Flood of Nov. 3, 1927 which washed out the bridges along Vt. 100 making it impossible to resume travel for quite some time. After the route over the Elbow was abandoned one took the Rochester Stanley Steamer stage, seating nine, which went through Sherburne Pass. The "Peavine" Railroad owned three of these Steamers.

PART XII  
LITTLE SHERBURNE

(Also called East Sherburne and East Hill)

When looking at the 1891 topographic map or the 1947 State Highway maps for Rutland and Windsor Counties one notes the ragged ends of several roads just within the eastern border of Sherburne Town but which originate in the Town of Bridgewater. The 1869 map shows that the roads at that time continued on to NoTown and eventually to Barnard or Stockbridge. A 1912 State Highway Map indicates it was even recommended for automobiles. Today it would be advisable to use a jeep.

Although the residents of East Hill paid taxes to Sherburne and attended town meeting in Sherburne Village their contacts were probably closer with Bridgewater. The approach roads were either up over steep Bridgewater Hill past the cemetery where most of them are buried, or through Bridgewater Center (called Briggs, also The Branch), and Daily Hollow, or via Chateaugay, which was called North Bridgewater in 1912.

Gold Mining

The author's first knowledge of the gold mining history of Bridgewater came in 1965 through talking with Claude Dewey who ran a fur-trap-line through there 60 years ago. Then in 1966 several articles appeared in the Rutland Herald and interest has revived, at least temporarily. The 1869 map of Bridgewater shows the location of nearly a dozen gold properties, mines or crushers.

Among those who worked for the gold industry was Samuel LaCoe who, when he was 21 yrs. old and single, walked all the way from Crown Point, N. Y. to get work here in the mines. His daughter, Mrs. Earl Cram, showed the author a gold nugget her father carried as a pocket piece for some 60 years.

Mrs. Ethel Gifford said when she and her husband worked at the Lakota Club in Barnard in 1912-13 there was a decanter there decorated with Bridgewater gold saying "LAKOTA" and the glasses had a gold "L" on each.

Henry Miner recalls that his father, Heber Miner, a blacksmith by trade, found employment in the gold mills. He lived in Sherburne village and would come home Saturdays (free weekends were not in vogue then) using the route down Brimstone Brook which borders Harley Gifford's woodlot and enters the Ottauquechee back of the old Merrill Garage. It was a hike of some four miles which was easy on Saturday but meant a right stiff climb back up on Sunday night to be ready for work early Monday morning.

Gold mining was first begun in the Bridgewater area in 1853 at the Taggart (Fagneau) mine in Dailey Hollow. There was a Mt. Hope Mining Company operating near Briggs around 1896 and it may have been here that Archie Baker's grandfather worked for one day. Must be he didn't really want to get rich too quick!

Archie also recalls that about 1903 one of the fast promoters was named Major Hoare, "a pompous cuss" who set up a gold-crushing operation costing \$80,000, with settling tanks, roasting house for the ore, etc. For the benefit of would-be investors they had quite a display of activity, producing glittering particles which quite likely had been salted there, because after two or three weeks the crusher and everything closed down for good. Archie recalls having arranged with the Major to buy four pieces of equipment or tools for \$10 each; and when he returned a few days later with money in hand he found the Major had sold to another man and frozen him out.

Archie himself didn't pursue the pot of gold in Bridgewater but once did try panning at Five Corners in Plymouth. He thought his fortune might lie there. Says he got about two quarts of sparkling sand and lots of fresh air.

There was a crusher at Chateaugay near the junction of the two brooks, but there is no trace today. Another one was one mile east of Dailey Hollow School, and another one down on U.S. 4 one mile west of Bridgewater Corners where George Lombard was manager between 1903-09. He boarded with Christine Johnson's parents who ran a tinsmith business at the Corners. \$40,000 was taken from that crushing operation, but there is no record of how many times that amount was put into it.

#### Bridgewater Hill to Dailey Hollow School

Ida Wilson recalls driving one day about 1906 from Sherburne Village to go blueberrying on East Hill, a mere matter of nine miles each way. She found it better to get out and walk than to lean back at such an unnatural angle on the very steep Bridgewater Hill. She passed the house where Ferris Bridge now lives, then the cemetery and Mansell Hezelton's. Turning right she passed Van Ness Dimick's and George Towne's where the blueberries were. In 1869 the farm belonged to Dudley Towne, then George Towne (father of Andrew and grandfather of Howard).

If one continued on down the hill to the junction of two creeks and four roads one would find the Dailey Hollow School, now a summer camp called "Back of the Moon." A few feet away the wonderful spring belonging to the neighboring Daileys flowed clear and cool through a wooden log into a barrel, and it still does.

#### Dailey Hollow School

According to the Town Reports of 1917-1934 the school children of East Sherburne went to this Bridgewater school since there were no roads leading down direct to Sherburne village and the distance to South Sherburne was too great. The Town paid tuition to the Town of Bridgewater for eight elementary pupils and to Woodstock for seven advanced pupils. Sherburne itself ran the school in 1935 for six pupils, then it was closed for good. Herbert Johnson was on the School Board that year.

### Farmers of 1881

In Child's Gazeteer of Rutland County, 1881, there is a list of the Sherburne farmers who lived on East Hill and the number of each road, since they were not named.

Ezekiel West - road 14 - 400 acres - 150 sheep - 64 cattle  
Jehiel Webb - road 13 - 138 acres - 110 sheep  
Otis Webb - 100 acres - 150 sheep  
Leases 160 acres from Wells Webb on road 12  
Wells Webb - road 12 - 160 acres  
John West, son of Ezekiel - road 14  
Samuel Weymouth - road 14 - 150 acres  
Newell Stevens - road 14 - 50 acres  
Nathan Severance - road 14 - Cooper - Farms 300 acres  
leased from Ezekiel West  
John M. W. Severance, son of Nathan  
John O. Russ - road 11 - 100 acres  
Zeba Horton - road 14 - 225 acres  
George Hackett - road 15 - 300 acres  
Grandy, Myron H., son of Wm. H. Grandy - road 12 - 120 acres -  
54 sheep  
Grandy, Benjamin, son of Wm. H.

### Mills

In 1869 there were four sawmills in the Chateaugay area and two in Dailey Hollow. At that time probably a lot of their lumber was used in connection with the gold mines.

A mile west of the school was the stretcher mill owned in 1905 by Eugene Heselton, across the road from the Stone farm.

There was also a cheese factory near the school.

### Farms along Roads 14 and 15 from Dailey Hollow School

First on the right, T. F. Clark in 1869, later called the Stone place and later the Eugene Heselton place, now only a cellarhole surrounded by beautiful white lilacs. Opposite was the stretcher mill.

On road 15 to the left was J. E. Chapman, later Weymouth. At the end was Sylvester Newton who was an herb doctor as well as farmer. Harold Pratt lived there later, but today it is generally referred to as the Hackett place.

Continuing up road 14, on the right was the P. L. Hammond place, later owned by John LaCoe.

On the left was the P. E. Lewis place of 1869, later owned by Elroy Heselton.

Next came old School No. 6, then the N. H. Brown farm. He married Emily, daughter of Ezekiel, II, while Dan Severance married another daughter, Elsie.

### Ezekiel West (II) Place

The most westerly of the several roads that branch out from the Dailey Hollow School led to the farm of Ezekiel West, grandfather of Mrs. Ethel Gifford.

In 1869 this was the next to the last house on the road. This is a farm of over 400 acres, no doubt the full original 336 acre Right No. 62, plus some more. Later owners were Hanscomb Barrows, Charles Heselton, Pearl Biathrow, Samuel LaCoe (1905-20), Hanson Lumber Company, Mrs. Luther West. Her son Nelson West lived there from 1926 to 1932 when the house burned. In 1965 the property was sold to Beatrice and Cai Von Rumohr of South Woodstock.

Considerably over an hour was spent by the author roaming over the farm picking blueberries at a lunch spot where the view to the south was tremendous. The property has not been farmed since 1920, but around 1948 great-grandson Harley Gifford raised a fine crop of potatoes in the open field near which the old house stood. The barn was on the upper north side of the farm road and the house on the south. A big boulder on the north side is well remembered by all who knew the farm, and photographs were taken there.

According to Mrs. Gifford, the West womenfolk lugged water from the spring on the town road (near the present red camp), which was no easy chore. So when son Luther leased the farm from his father he improved matters by arranging to have water run into a tub near the house. However, when father Ezekiel again had the say of the place he promptly tipped the tub over, saying the arrangement was very unsanitary. So the womenfolk once more had the job of lugging water from the spring which came through an old pump log.

The author spent a very pleasant afternoon talking with John LaCoe of South Pomfret. His father Samuel LaCoe bought the West farm in 1905 when John was a boy of eight years and lived there until 1920. The LaCoes owned seven or eight cows and forty sheep.

Right No. 60 was reserved in the original charter of the Town in 1761 "for the benefit of the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," administered by the Church of England. After the unpleasantness with King George in 1776 the income of 4¢ per acre went for the benefit of schools. Mr. LaCoe remembers that his family hayed these lease lands of a Mrs. Stevens by paying \$12.00 a year rental.

Like most of the farmers at that time who had to devise ways to add to the farm income, his father found a market for stovewood in Woodstock. At night after the chores were done he would pile a load of logs cut stove length onto the sled and would do the splitting of it all the time the horses were finding their own way for those dozen miles.

In 1916 John recalls driving a pair of steers via NoTown (roads 11 and 10) to Stockbridge to trade for a Model T Ford.

WEST FAMILY GENEALOGY

Since the West family were well known in one or another part of Sherburne for over one hundred years an abbreviated genealogy might help the reader place a few names and events.

1st John West, a bridge builder, came from Ireland  
gen. (Hist. of Windsor Co. 1891, p. 619-620)

2nd Ezekiel, senior, a one-legged man. Born in Vermont  
gen. Moved to Lockport, N.Y. where  
Ezekiel II was born.

3rd Ezekiel II (1816-1887)  
gen. In 1839 married Mary Stafford, who died 1889.  
Built the Page place on West Hill.  
Owned the farm on East Hill in 1869

4th Had 9 children:  
gen.

1. Lorenzo (born 1841) married Nancy Gates.
2. Ezekiel III (1844-1926). After returning from the Civil War he married Mary Jane Bridge and moved to Wolf Hill in 1866. One daughter was Hattie (Mrs. Eugene Haselton). Another daughter was Una (Mrs. Meda Baker and later Mrs. Frank Heselton, mother of Archie Baker)
3. Luther (1853-1921) married Cora Ranger of Mendon, 1885. Lived on U.S. 4 on the Phil Biathrow place, opposite the road that leads up to the Bridgewater Hill cemetery.

Had 2 daughters:  
Ethel West Gifford, Belle W. Read and 7 sons.

4. John (1856-1943) married Hannah Severance (died 1907)  
One daughter was Adelia (b. 1878) who married  
Albert Plumley and had Beulah(Martin) b. 1898  
Mabel(Upton), b. 1900  
Floyd b. 1901  
John moved in 1890 to South Hill in Stockbridge  
near the Bennett place, grandparents of  
Warner Bates.

5. James
6. Emily (Brown)
7. Mary
8. Elsie (Severance)
9. Edna.



### The Hollis Merrill Place

When John LaCoe lived on the West farm there were only two other farms operating in East Sherburne, that of Burt Holt on road 12, and the one of Hollis Merrill next to LaCoe.

Another informant was Mrs. Verne Dimick of Rutland who was born Nettie Merrill in 1885. In 1869 the farm was owned by her grandfather, Calvin, later farmed by his sons Calvin and Hollis (1849-1926).

Nettie stayed at home on the farm until 1910 when she married Verne, son of Van Ness Dimick. They first rented the Elroy Heselton place a mile down the road, and later came down to U.S. 4 back of Maurice Prior's Happy Valley Camp. She recalls that once, and only once, did she walk up and back from U.S. 4 to visit her parents on the home farm, going via the trail in back of the red Taylor house. There was one place where the hill was so steep her husband put a rope around her to steady her from falling.

Mrs. Dimick told of the time a neighbor, Forrest Hadley, was repeatedly asked by Mr. Merrill to go out with him to mend the fence between their farms as was the required custom of those days. He kept putting it off until finally Mr. Merrill went out to do the job alone and the result was something less than topnotch. It wasn't long before the Merrill cows found some weak spots and went through into Hadley's greener pastures, which annoyed the latter so much that he left a pile of paris green at a place sure to be seen and tasted by the young cows. Two of them were casualties as was also the friendship of the neighbors.

She also said her family was anxious to take part in Sherburne Town Meeting each March and so they hiked down over the steep drop of East Hill and into the village. Don't forget that after a full day of voting and expressing individual opinions it was still three miles back home, nearly all of which was up at a steep angle. Besides doing their civic duty it gave them a chance to visit with folks they might not see for another whole year.

The Merrills sold the farm to the Hanson Lumber Company who logged the property and the buildings finally fell down. While the lumbermen were there John LaCoe built a small store and stocked tobacco, gloves and mittens, candy, etc. and cut hair for them. The store later became a hunting camp of Claude West. The Sailer boys of Plymouth logged it in the 1950s.

### Road No. 13

Let's return to Dailey Hollow School and start all over again, this time going northwest from the school past the A. F. Dimick farm (later Ed Heselton) and the farm of S. Maxham. The old Stockbridge Road branches to the left along which was the B. Webb place of 1869 (Jehiel Webb's in 1881, and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Ross in 1967). Beyond that was the J. O. Russ place. At this point Road 14 comes in from the Zeke West place and it gets the number 11, and 10 on to NoTown.

If we had taken the right fork we would pass W. Stephens, R. Tracy and Stearns in Bridgewater before crossing back into Sherburne (Parker's Gore) and coming to the three corners where the Little Sherburne Creek flows down into Chateaugay.

#### Road No. 12

Another road leading out from Dailey Hollow School went due north for two miles before making an abrupt right turn for 1-1/2 miles to Chateaugay. At the turn Road No. 12 went left to reach two farms. The first one belonged to Otis Webb in 1881 and was later sold to Isadore Backon, a tailor in Rutland.

Mr. Backon was nipped by the mink fever of the 1930s and started a mink farm which he gave up in 1939. In winter the Backons, returning from a trip to Rutland, had to leave their auto at Chateaugay and walk up to their home with their provisions on their backs and a small terrier dog under the arm. During the flood of 1938 the road home from Briggs via Chateaugay had 13 bridges washed out, so they used the lumber road down Brimstone Brook, driving horse and wagon, to get their weekly supplies at the Cain store.

At Town Meeting time, however, it was better to walk, so in order to exercise their civic duty of voting they followed the road westward to the Ziba ("Zibey") Russ place and then a foot trail down over the mountain, with tiny dog in their arms. They were much irked to find their residence had not been long enough or certain regulations had not been met to enable them to vote after all. Their house stands erect and sturdy today.

Farther along the road was the farm of Burt Holt, a well known citizen of the Town. In fact whenever the author asked where this or that old road led to the answer always seemed to be "the Burt Holt Place," like all roads leading to Rome. Finally Mrs. Susan Prior volunteered to lead the Flemings and Ann Wallen on a trail up from the Edgar place on River Road and over the ridge, which she remembered from 40 years before, for she had often heard the Burt Holt cowbells while she was berrying up back of her home. She had forgotten how quickly old roads grow up and how confusing a maze of lumber trails can be, but she succeeded in coming out at the corner of the Holt pasture. The road ends now at the Holt place but in earlier years it led on to where all good roads go . . . to NoTown!

## I N D E X

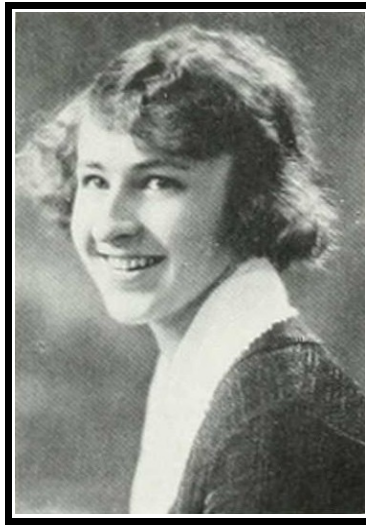
If a really complete index were written it would probably take as many pages as the main text. The names chosen are generally not those of present day residents but rather the old timers who have long since gone from the scene, with some exceptions of course. Only one family name is listed; the reader will have to sort out the individuals.

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Madeline "Sue" Jessie Cary was born in St. Johnsbury, Vermont in 1901 to Annie and George Cary. Sue attended the St. Johnsbury Academy and was a graduate of Smith College, class of 1923. She worked for the First National Bank in Seattle and New York City and then for the family maple sugar business in Vermont and New York City. She married Maurice "Moose" Cleve Fleming of Ontario, Canada in 1931 and they settled in York, Pennsylvania.

When her husband retired in 1960, the couple built a summer cottage in North Sherburne, Vermont, near the Appalachian and Long Trails, as hiking was a favorite hobby. She was a member of the Appalachian Trail Conference and the Green Mountain Club. Sue was also a member of the Sherburne Historians and she published the 1st edition of this book in 1965 and the revised edition in 1972. Maurice died in 1969 and Sue died in 1989. Both are buried in St. Johnsbury, Vermont.



"1965 Author at work"