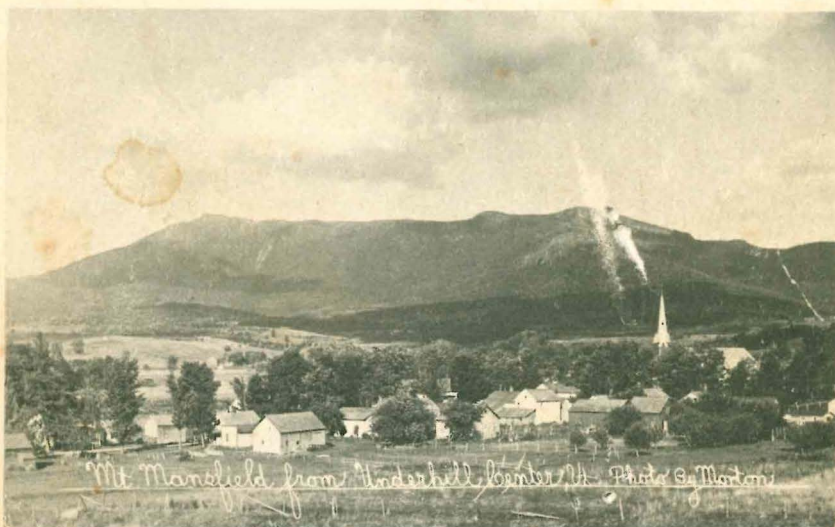


# The History of Underhill, Vermont



*The Town  
Under The Mountain*



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Written by Loraine S. Dwyer

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Historical Society

### *CREDIT*

I wish to thank the Chittenden County Historical Society for the loan of the pictures appearing on pages 47 and 75, first used in the Chittenden County Look-Around or Heritage Series; also my grateful thanks to all those who so kindly loaned their treasured scrapbooks, account books and pictures and especially all those who generously gave of their time to talk to me about their memories of Underhill. The list is too numerous to mention each by name.

This book is dedicated to all those who love Underhill.

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*From Maple Ridge, view of Underhill Flats with railroad in center of picture.*

## *IN THE BEGINNING*

Underhill, in the northeast corner of Chittenden County, is a town "well set about with mountains" in the words of an early poet. One of the largest towns in the state, its original 23,040 acres were increased greatly when the State Legislature in 1739 decreed to Underhill, about 12 square miles or approximately one-third of the town of Mansfield which lay easterly, astride Mount Mansfield.

Underhill thus gained the western slopes of Mansfield and all of Dewey, Clark and Mayo Mountains. Mansfield's chin, the highest elevation in the state (4,393 ft.) lies approximately in the northeast corner of the town and Mt. Mayo forms the southeast corner. Mansfield's "nose" was allotted to Stowe which town acquired the remaining portion of the town of Mansfield in November 1848.

Browns River with its tributaries is the most important river draining the southern half of Mt. Mansfield, flowing west and north to the Lamoille River. The northern part of the town is watered by numerous small streams which flow northerly to join the Lamoille River in Cambridge.

In its earliest days of settlement, Vermont was known as the New Hampshire Grants, and indeed, New Hampshire under Gov. Benning Wentworth claimed a large part of the state. The Governor divided the "Grants" into many townships, selling them to persons or groups of persons who avowed their intent to settle in the wilderness, build a home and clear the land and make it productive.

Most of Chittenden County towns were chartered in June of 1763, Underhill's date being June 8th of that year.

Governor Wentworth granted the town of 23,040 acres to Joseph Sackett, Jr. and 64 associates or "original proprietors," one of them named Benjamin Underhill, giving rise to the idea that Underhill was named for Benjamin. Two other Underhills had roles in the forming of the town. The first meeting of the proprietors was held Sept. 12, 1785 in Dorset, Vt. at the home of Abraham Underhill. The second meeting took place in Manchester at the home of Thaddeus Munson, with Augustine Underhill elected moderator. Augustine and Abraham were brothers of Westchester County, N.Y. who moved to Dorset.

Augustine appears again when a three-man committee was formed to select a surveyor whose work was to result in the first division of town lots.

None of these Underhills ever settled in the town, and only Benjamin was an original proprietor, although Abraham and Augustine bought lots at

tax sales later.

The question remains: was the town named for these three Underhills who figured prominently in the formation of the town, or was it named for its location under the hill or mountain?

It is of interest that Jericho had four men named Underhill among the original proprietors. Westford, chartered the same day as Underhill, had among its proprietors, 35 of the same men who were proprietors of Underhill. The inference is obvious: these early landowners were land speculators who had no intent of settling on their land.

The true early settlers were those men who came here, found land to their liking, and made their "pitch" eventually making their peace with the legal land owners, "Quieting their claims" it was called. Some of the early comers had bought their Underhill lands at a vendue or sale, conducted by Abraham Ives, sheriff of Rutland County. Ives was somewhat of a rascal and his sales were not always legal. However these questionable titles appear to have been settled amicably.

It should be mentioned that at one time, New York claimed large tracts of land lying along the western boundaries of the state. One such tract was granted early in 1776 to Frederick Rhineland of New York City, despite the fact that the Wentworth Grant had been made 13 years earlier. "Rhineland" as the tract was to have been called, included land in Milton and Westford as well as Underhill.

In 1791, the Legislature of the State of Vermont authorized the payment of \$30,000 to the State of New York and declared null and void all grants, charters and patents of lands lying within the State of Vermont made by the late Colony of New York.

The first lots to be surveyed and distributed by lot to the original proprietors lay in the area now known as Underhill Flats, north on Poker Hill Road, easterly along Browns River and into the area now Underhill Center, and north a short distance on the Irish Settlement Road. This was deemed to be the best land in the town.

At the second meeting of proprietors, held in Manchester, the second survey of 100-acre lots was voted on what was believed to be the best of the undivided land; this area roughly covered land in the English and Irish Settlements and through the Pleasant Valley.

Later a third division of 100-acre lots was made and still later, a fourth division of 22 acre lots which lay along the western flank of Mt. Mansfield and these lots were mainly used as woodlots.

Each of the original proprietors was entitled to a lot in each of the four divisions. Each of the Wentworth-granted towns also specified that four equal shares were to be set aside as follows: one to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, one for a perpetual glebe to the established Church of England, one for the first settled minister of the gospel in town and one for the support of a school.



The Governor also reserved to himself five hundred acres at a corner of each township; Mansfield's Governor's Right, falling to the town of Underhill, our town may be unique in having two such Governor's Rights of 500 acres each.

The Church of England shares passed to the Episcopal Diocese, which also collects the Society rents. Originally the owners of these Glebe and Society lots paid a minimal rental to the Church. In recent years however, while the rentals are still paid, the town is allowed to tax the landowner for the difference, thus equalizing the taxes.

In some towns the taxes raised from "minister's lots" have helped support ministers or churches. In Underhill this does not seem to be the case.

The school lots, formerly taxed a minimal amount, now are taxed equally with other property.

The Governor's Rights came into the hands of his widow Martha, and she sold them. The name Governor's Right persists to this day in the Rawson farm area at the corner where four towns come together: Underhill, Jericho, Essex and Westford.

### *Early Days*

By 1791, there were 65 persons living in the town of Underhill. By 1800, the town had 212 inhabitants. Population increased steadily until it reached 1655 in 1870. Then followed a decline.

The first town meeting held within the town was on March 9, 1795 at the home of George Olds on the Hill Road, now called Poker Hill Road. The warning was signed by Jonathan Castle, justice of the peace of Jericho.

William Barney was elected first town clerk and he held the office until 1809. He also served as representative of the town to the State Legislature from 1824 to 1830.

Among the first persons to make a permanent home within the borders of Underhill was Elijah Benedict in 1786. He owned much of the land now known as Underhill Flats and he kept a tavern for the hungry and thirsty wayfarer. Benedict was a Tory and during the Revolution had to seek refuge in Canada.

The same year, Abner Eaton arrived and one year later, Caleb Sheldon, both settling on the Hill Road, this road being the regular trail to Cambridge at that time.

Among early settlers also on the Hill Road were Col. Udney Hay who bought land on what is called the Jackson farm (now Francis Russin place); George Olds, Bernard Ward, David Birge (now Brewer's, formerly Seth Taylor's); Col. Luther Dixon, Archibald Dixon, Cyrus Stevens, Adam Hurlburt and Chauncey Graves.

The first school, built of logs, was erected on this road in 1787, a little over a mile south of the Cambridge line. The first church was also built on this road, in 1804, on the height of land, near the Poker Hill Cemetery. Evidence indicates that the church stood near the road at the front of the cemetery.

Near the church was reported to be the old parade ground where the militia marched one day each year from about 1814 to 1856. The parade ground was 12 rods wide and 50 rods long, having at the south end, a whipping post, found in many New England villages and towns. Such posts were abolished in Vermont in 1807.

The first permanent burial ground was set off from his property by Bernard Ward on the Poker Hill Road. Another piece of land given for a cemetery by Udney Hay earlier, seems to have been given up in favor of the Ward lot.

The first recorded birth was that of Nancy Sheldon, daughter of Caleb Sheldon, on September 20, 1787; the first death was that of Ira Bullen, son of Benjamin Bullen, in 1789 at the age of only a few days.

Not far from the parade ground was said to have been a store operated by a Mr. Campbell who sold his business to William Birge. The Birge house, built in 1802, housed the town's first post office and for many years town meetings were held here. This structure was a stage stop where travelers were fed and horses changed before continuing on.

### *Early Business and Industry*

A little north of the Flats at the foot of Poker Hill Road, Jonas Humphrey settled in 1802 and his son Daniel ran a tannery. Just above the tannery on Roaring Brook were a saw mill and starch factory in the 1840's, owned and operated by Leonard Dixon.

One of the first industries in the Flats area was the starch factory approximately on the Jericho-Underhill line, owned by J.H. Tower and Henry Oakes. A ditch from the Creek brought water to the mill which was powered by a ten horsepower steam engine. A surplus of potatoes could be turned into starch, an important early industry. At least three other starch mills were known to have operated in Underhill, all in the vicinity of Underhill Center.

Tower and Oakes also operated a store, the first in Underhill Flats, located near their starch factory. They also had a store on the other side of the Park on the site of the former Simpson store (now Walter Blanchard's block). The first Tower store burned and another was erected.

Jonas Humphrey arrived in Underhill before 1810, coming from Genesee County, N.Y. and settling at the foot of Poker Hill Road. His son Daniel Clark Humphrey established a tannery and shoe making business, utilizing



the water power of Roaring Brook conveniently nearby. The Humphrey Homestead still stands; the present owners are John and Helen Pelletier.

Meanwhile, settlers from Connecticut and New Hampshire and central Vermont towns found suitable land along the Browns River and settled on the River Road. Among these were Abial Rogers and Martin Mead who came to this town in 1807.

Asa Church from Vershire settled on what is now called the Range Road, known to old timers as the Poor Farm Road, for here it was that the town maintained a farm where the indigent were cared for and who undoubtedly worked hard for their keep (1880's to about 1900).

Isaac J. Bourn of Jericho, at an early date at a tax sale, paid \$3.00 for a 100-acre lot that covered most of what is now Underhill Center.

Capt. N.M. Hanaford, born at Enfield, N.H., moved to Underhill in the early 1820's, settling eventually at the corner of Main St. and Beartown Rd. Probably he built the brick house now standing thereon. Captain Hanaford served as a fifer in the War of 1812, and it is for him that Underhill's Bicentennial Fife and Drum Corps is named.

Martin Hapgood, born in Jericho, came to Underhill in 1837 and located on the Beartown Rd. or Maple St., as it is called on old maps. Hapgood held various town offices and represented the town in the State Legislature in 1876.

Joshua Martin came from Goffstown, N.H. and also settled on the Beartown Rd.

It wasn't long before settlement started on the northerly roads out of the Center. As early as the 1820's two Irishmen named Doon arrived in Underhill and commenced the settlement we now call the Irish Settlement. When they came, they found Timothy Burdick already here and in possession of a large farm. Then, in a surge of immigration came Brewins, Carrolls, Dorans, Flynns, Marlows, Cales, Shanleys, Riordans, Walls, Connors, McCanns, McGuinneys, Greens, Murphys, Hogans and many, many more.

Meanwhile, on the uplands that form the central core of the town, a group of English persons arrived in the 1830's and 1840's to clear the forests and build homes. They were Kirbys, Jacksons, Metcalfs, Thorpes, Burnetts, Tupperes, Storrs, and Osgoods. The name "English Settlement" given to this area persists to this day.

To the Pleasant Valley area came David Lewis, the Ellsworths, Dickinsons, Saffords, Butlers, Waughs, Haskins, Corbetts, Shanleys, Flynns and Larabees.

## *LUMBERING, VARIOUS SETTLEMENTS AND THEIR INDUSTRIES*

Almost from its earliest days, Underhill men have been concerned with logging. The central and western parts of the town were covered with hardwoods while the mountain slopes grew thickly with spruce, hemlock and fir.

Early saw mills existed on mountain sides or wherever men could find enough water to turn a mill wheel and provide a steady flow.

Mill Brook, which runs through Underhill Center at the foot of Beartown Road, was called Sawmill Brook in deeds of the 1820's.

Some mills could operate only in times of high water. One such mill was that of Isaac Smith, just north of the North Underhill Station Road. Joseph Metcalf said of this mill: "When the river was flowing hard, they sawed day and night. When the water slowed to a trickle, the mill shut down."

Before the railroad came to Underhill in 1877, lumber not used locally must have been taken by oxen or horse power to Burlington or to Jericho and floated down the Winooski River to Winooski.

Early sawmill operators included Anson Fields, Rapha Woodworth, Nathan and Peter Gile, Lysander Bourn and George Picknell.

A large lumber operation was that of Luther M. Stevens and his partner, Henry P. Hickok of Burlington who owned mills in Winooski and Burlington. During the 1840's and 1850's, theirs was an important industry. They bought from Wheeler and Read in 1841, for \$8,000, 3,500 acres in the town of Mansfield with mills and buildings thereon.

Near Nebraska Notch, the Stevensville community boasted of two saw mills, a shingle mill, a peck measure factory and a school. The 1860 census shows approximately 30 families living here with a total of about 100 persons. We still call this area Stevensville.

When the U.S. Government established the Underhill Artillery Range in the mid-1920's, the project swallowed up the area known as Hutchville, another big lumbering area that was cut off somewhat later than the Stevensville area.

James Harvey Hutchinson of Jericho was the biggest lumberman of them all. It was said that 100 teams of horses were needed to draw out his logs and that the pile of logs cut and awaiting transportation to the railroad station in the Flats was as high as St. Thomas Church.

After the trees were pretty well cut off, it was possible for a person in the Center to look up to the slopes of Clark and Mayo Mountains into the area once referred to as the "South Basin," and see the cottages in which the



lumbermen and their families lived.

The Hutchville community had a big complex of buildings, including a boarding house for single men, many individual homes, and a blacksmith shop. A woman was hired to hold a school for little children; older scholars walked over to West Bolton for their education.

During the winter months, men worked six days a week, from sunup to sundown, cutting the great trees with only an axe for a tool. Summers they went to Burlington and worked for Jim Cashman building city streets.

Included in the Hutchville area was the 500 acre tract of land in the corner of the old town of Mansfield, reserved by Governor Wentworth for his own use.

In the 1880's, Hutchinson sold out to Shepard and Morse of Burlington; later E.J. Booth of Burlington ran this operation together with the Underhill Steam Mill in the Flats.

In 1960, Richard Villeneuve moved his saw mill from Underhill Center's West Bolton Road to Underhill Flats to almost the same site as occupied by the Riverside Steam Mill for many years.

Built in 1877, by Buel Day and E.S. Whitcomb, the mill handled hundreds of thousands of board feet of lumber, mostly cut off the mountain sides in Underhill.

In 1889, Darius Knight took over operation, employed by E.J. Booth who owned a big lumber business in Burlington. The plant manufactured plain lumber and all kinds of turned handles. They cut annually two million feet of lumber. Later, "Harm" Howard was in charge of this mill.

Effie Reynolds wrote a column of Underhill news for the Burlington Free Press. Excerpts from her columns from January 1897 to February 1901 follow:

The first snow (Dec. 23) gladdens the hearts of lumbermen and logs will begin to hustle and continue as long as sleighing lasts. Fred Stinson and Dayton Clark of North Underhill are boarding in the Flats and drawing logs from mountain to steam mill.

Late January 1897. Now there is enough snow for sleighing and logs are beginning to rush in to the steam mill yard. Terrill and Knight have over 800,000 feet of logs cut ready to be drawn into the mill yard. Quite a number of heavy teams from Burlington and Winooski here hauling logs as the sleighing held off so late.

Feb. 1897. Good sleighing and about 50,000 ft. of logs being drawn into the steam mill yard daily.

Mar. 1897. The steam mill started today to saw out the season's logs of about one million board feet.

Nov. 1897. Some 1,500 trees to be cut on H.H. Howe farm. Owner Thomas Moore, Charles A. and A.P. Russin to cut. Logs will be drawn to Terrill and Knight's mill who have contracted with Burlington for 600,000 ft. hard wood lumber.

Jan. 1899. At least four teams here from Burlington drawing logs.

Feb. 1899. Steam mill yard fast filling with logs. Being drawn now on average of 50,000 ft. per day and up. Nearly one million ft. of logs in yard now.

Mar. 1899. New fall of snow — eight inches and cold weather. Teamsters again hauling logs to mill yard. Underhill Steam Mill will begin operating for the season this week. Over one million ft. of lumber in yard. Will take four months to saw.

Nov. 1899. A good many sugar orchards being cut this season. E.G. Irish to have 250 cords of body maple cut; J.T. Fitzsimmonds, the balance of his to be cut; W.A. Pollard and H.J. Mead each having part of theirs; also J.H. Russell and L.A. Irish.

Dec. 1899. Sugar orchard on Robert Jackson farm to be cut this winter.

The lumber industry had its own particular kind of tragedy. In January 1901, Louis Lavigne, while working in the woods, had his skull crushed. A wife and 10 children survived.

While several hundred men were engaged in lumbering, an equal or greater number were operating dairy farms. The big lumbering operations closed down when the mountains had been cut off but farming continued to be the main occupation in Underhill until the 1930's and 1940's.

Sheep raising was an important industry in Vermont during the first part of the last century and Underhill land was well suited for this. A Grand List of 1840 lists 3,433 sheep. Flocks pastured on the mountain sides were herded down to the Flats and loaded onto the railroad cars.

### *Communities Within the Town*

As the town became settled, there was a tendency for people to group together in various areas around schools. Each settled area had its own name and carried on its own affairs by means of the school district system.

We have already mentioned the earliest settlers on Poker Hill Road, the first church and cemetery and school. School District No. One comprised the area at the north end of this road.

District No. Two School was located just north of the Birge Tavern. This District encompassed the little settlement known as North Underhill. When the railroad was in operation (1877-1937) the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad maintained a flag stop on the Station Road. The depot building, still in existence and completely remodeled, is owned by the McCarthy family.

North of the road by the little brook which runs into Beaver Brook, stood Isaac Smith's water powered saw mill. At the corner of the Station Road and Poker Hill Road stood a creamery or milk pickup station, operated by the Borden Company.



At the foot of the Station Road where it intersects with the Creek Road (Route 15), stood an old building, once a tavern, owned by Joseph Robinson. The North Underhill post office which functioned from 1864 to 1907 was in this building with Fillmore Robinson as postmaster.

Underhill Flats was always the main business area for the town and remains so. The name "Flats" or "Flatt" as it appears in early records, came about when early town meetings were held either in the Meeting House, Birge Tavern or "on the Flatt" in the Barney Tavern, and the name Flat still persists.

The fact that the village is divided by the Jericho-Underhill town line has always been a source of confusion and frustration. The town line runs about parallel with, and a little west of Park Street, passing through the front part of every building on the west side of the street. The line crosses through the Park and bisects the Underhill Garage.

In the Flats, children attend an Incorporated District School (known as the I.D. School). An Act of the Legislature in 1892 enabled the district to be formed, comprised of both Underhill and Jericho residents. It may take another act of the Legislature to dissolve the district.

The first permanent store in the town was that of Tower and Oakes, located on the east side of the Park where the Blanchard apartments now are. Last of a long line of storekeepers here was Frank Simpson who carried on his business until 1952. In 1964, Walter Blanchard converted the old building to apartments.

Several other businesses and noteworthy buildings line the little park which dates back at least as early as 1831.

The brick store built about 1856 has been a landmark in town for well over 100 years. Built by George Simonds, this store did a large business over the years. George Terrill, shopkeeper here for 20 years, shipped large quantities of maple syrup and sugar from the nearby railroad station. In 1897, he filled orders for 300 barrels of syrup.

During a three week period in May of 1899, he marketed over 30 tons of maple sugar according to a newsstory of the time. The Kirby brothers, Clifton and Archie, carried on the business for 22 years. More recently, Parker Rice and later, Mrs. Claude Potvin ran the grocery. The building, still in the Kirby family, now contains apartments.

Next to the brick store is Gifford's Funeral Service, housed in the former Grange and Knights of Pythias Hall. Built about 1913, the building is now owned by George Gifford.

The neat, white clapboard Congregational Church dominates the Green. Built in the mid-1840's, the church continues to serve the community. (See section on churches.)

Across the park on the northwest side is the Underhill Garage which has been in existence since 1918. First to operate a garage on this site were Max Bogue and Edwin Irish. Albert Williams owned the business from 1925 to



1927. In July 1927 Elwood Clark became part owner. Since Mr. Clark's death in 1974, his son Randall has managed the business.

North and east of the garage there stood until fairly recently an old residence occupied by Effie Terrill Reynolds, who maintained a restaurant, store and bus stop. Effie's husband Charles was a tailor with a shop at the rear of the building. After the death of Mrs. Reynolds in 1954, the building was torn down.

The Green Mountain Foam Company, located in the old I.D. School was established in the 1960's by Thomas Morse, the present owner.

The building just north of the Foam Company was once the Barney Tavern, now owned by the Bagshaws and before them, the Heatheringtons. Built in the early 1800's, it was operated as a tavern until 1856 when it became the home of Dr. Hiram Benedict. It was here that Town Meetings were held (1832-1843).

Continuing north to the site of the Flats Post Office, it was about on this spot that the Custer House stood. A popular hotel, it was destroyed by fire in 1915 and never rebuilt. Thaddeus Whipple and George Ira Lincoln are names connected with this hotel.

Across the road is Allen Bolio's Garage, established by Fred Seymour in 1949 and until recently owned by Paul Ward.

On the road leading to the Center we find Jacob's IGA Store, built about 1886 by Homer Thomson. C.N. Stygles, Clayton Rice and his son Parker, were owners at various times. The present owners, Wesley and Genevieve Jacobs, purchased the store in 1950 and remodeled it.

Next to the store was the tin smithing and hardware business of Edwin Gallup and son David.

East of the store and separated from it by a warehouse and the railroad track was the Underhill Grist Mill, built about 1887 and torn down in 1952. Although it was constructed on the Jericho side of the line, a customer entered it by means of steps in Underhill. L.H. Pendleton, Jasper Foster and the E.W. Bailey Feed Co. were owners at different times.

On the other side of the road in the building now the Chamberlain apartment house, have been a great variety of enterprises. E.G. Nealy, the first owner, had a jewelry business. The structure contained at one time a barber shop and cobbler shop. The town fire engine was housed in the middle section. Later a variety store located there and finally the Danforths had an antique business; the structure by this time had acquired a second story.

Underhill Flats had a drug store operated by Dr. W. Scott Nay, on the Jericho side, but it served the whole community as did the Sinclair Hotel operated by Edmund and Ruth Sinclair, also in Jericho.

Occupying another corner of the park, but on the Jericho side are the Methodist Church and parish house, now used for community meetings. (See section on churches.)

Wheelwrights in the Flats have been Jonathan Dewing and Harmon Sherman; blacksmiths: Hazen Colegrove, Pearly King, Morris Mead, William Gaines; shoe maker, Daniel Humphrey; harness maker, Richard Washburn.

School District No. Four was the area at the intersection of the lower end of the English Settlement Road and the River Road. The school house at the intersection now forms part of the house of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Shelton.

## *The Center*

District No. Five was the Center, the second settlement of importance in the town, both in early days and now. Once known as Union Village, this area gained importance because of its proximity to the logging operations on the mountain sides. With two stores and a church, a school and an academy, it served as a shopping and community center for the loggers and their families.

Although the loggers no longer come down off the mountain to do their Saturday night trading, the Center retains its importance as the seat of town government; the Town Hall and Town Clerk's office being situated here as well as the town garage.

The Town Hall is the former Freewill Baptist and Methodist Church built in 1850, and bought by the town in 1950 for a town hall. Extensive renovations were carried out by the Underhill Historical Society starting in 1967.

The beautiful brick St. Thomas Church dominates the village from its site overlooking the tiny park. (See section on churches.) It is probable that the park was at one time much larger than it is today, but horses and wagons and now automobiles, have encroached on its borders.

Across the road is an old store directly on the corner, now the K and T Market. Before that it was owned by Roger LaCroix, and before that by Robert and Zilda Bolio who operated it for many years. Even earlier it was owned by Edwin W. Henry, who was town clerk and treasurer for many years.

In the era 1880 to 1900, Delevan Terrill operated this store with a brother Gaylord. Another store across the road carried about the same line of goods and catered to the same people. Clifford "Clip" Terrill, son of Gaylord, took over management of the smaller store.

Clip was held in great affection by the many people he served and is still well remembered here. He died a few years ago in Burlington at the age of 91. He is best remembered for providing services to his many customers, driving many miles daily in his Ford coupe to carry groceries or even just a spool of thread. He took orders one trip and delivered them on the next



trip.

The smaller of the two stores is now a residence but the larger building continues as a store.

The Green Mountain Service Station and store at the foot of the Range Road is owned and operated by Martha Romphrey Dain. Her father, Fred Slater, in the early part of this century owned the cider mill and grist mill across Browns River from the Service Station, and operated the saw mill that stood in the meadow across from the Town Hall.

The western end of the village near the bridge over Browns River, during the 1800's was the scene of diversified industry. A dam was built in the 1820's a short distance upriver from the bridge and a flume passed under the bridge, carrying water to the factories below.

One of the earliest industries was that of Noah Day who had a carding mill. A starch mill was built across the road by Alfred Bicknell. A carriage manufactory, a wheelwright shop, a creamery and a cider mill were located at various times nearby.

Leander Tillison was for many years the operator of the grist mill; later, H.A. Bixby. Clifford Terrill remembered as a boy bringing oats and corn to the mill to be ground up for horse and cattle feed.

Wheelwrights at the site were Capt. E.R. Kenney and Harold Woodworth. Ed Cole, a cooper, carpenter and pump maker, was located on the meadow east of Green Mountain Academy.

Several blacksmiths had their businesses in the Center, including Martin Flannery, Jesse Dorr and C.M. Howe, the latter was located opposite the present Town Hall.

Delevan Terrill ran a large lumber business in the 1880's; one of his mills was located on the Mountain Road near William Durbrow's; the other was a steam mill on the meadow across from the Town Hall. The abutments may still be seen on the edge of Mill Brook.

The famous Mountain House or Mansfield Mountain House, the old hotel near the main corner, was in operation for nearly 100 years. This was a favorite stopping-off place for persons who planned to climb the mountain. The last persons to operate the hotel were Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Henry, under the name of Mansfield Inn. (Board and room cost \$3 per day.) While Mr. Henry was town clerk, his office was located in a small addition to the hotel building. Mrs. Henry was postmistress and this activity was also carried out in the hotel building.

Records indicate that court cases were heard in this venerable old hotel and popular country dances were held in the second floor dance hall.

Luke Proctor had a saw and grist mill on Crane Brook about 500 feet north of Central School (1855-1880).

Progressing up or southeast on the Beartown Road which follows the course of Mill Brook (referred to as "Sawmill Brook" in early deeds), south of the Steinhour house, one can still see old walls once part of a sawmill and

starch mill business operated by John Choat (1850's).

Farther up the brook was a mill operated by George Picknell. This road continued on to Hutchville and Beartown in what was the old town of Mansfield.

### *Creek School and Rawson District*

In the southwestern part of town, on Route 15, was the Creek School District, No. Six. The old school building was demolished a number of years ago and a trailer now is located on the site.

The Cilley Hill area was known as District No. Seven. This was the Governor's Right section of 500 acres, set aside for Governor Benning Wentworth when the town was laid out.

This area had its own school which was attended by a few children from Westford and Essex as it was located close to the point where four towns join.

### *Hutchville and Stevensville*

District No. Eight was Hutchville, located in the southeasternmost corner of Underhill, now included in the Range. It comprised the area which was occupied by the large lumber operation of James Hutchinson in the 1880-1900 era.

District No. Nine, Stevensville, was another logging community on the side of the mountain, named for Luther Stevens who, with his partner Henry Hickok, were in business from about 1840 to 1865.

"Shannon's" now owned by the Roland Ellis family, was a well-known summer boarding house. Under the ownership of John and Edna Shannon, it catered mostly to the summer trade in the 1920's and 1930's. In the 1940's, skiing was introduced to the area. Groups from New York and Boston would vie with each other to reserve Shannon's for the holiday season, and there was usually snow for skiing at year's end.

### *Pleasant Valley*

School District No. Ten was on the Pleasant Valley Road, about 2½ miles north from the Center. The University of Vermont's Proctor Maple Research Farm is located in this district. The farms that once dotted the land are gone and the area is now returning to woodland. The old school house has been converted to a year-round residence.

District No. Eleven is farther out along the Pleasant Valley Road, and extends to the Cambridge Line. At one time, a fractional school was

maintained with children from Cambridge attending also. A little school building, which still stands close to the road, was once used as a community center, a place for neighborhood doings.

Hiram Story's steam mill, later Parker and Paine, did a big business on the Valley Road in the 1870's.

### *Irish and English Settlements*

District No. Twelve school was in the Irish Settlement and was one of the oldest schools in continuous use, lasting until the new Central School was built in 1953.

In this District lived William and Edward Breen, carpenters, who built most of the houses in the Irish Settlement and built them all on the same plan. The Breens came from Ireland about 1847, bringing their wives with them.

District No. Thirteen was the English Settlement area and its school was in service until about 1945.

There was yet another School District on the Irish Settlement Road, No. Fourteen. The school house stood on the east side of the road not far from the Lawrence Burgess home. This school was in existence from 1858 to about 1920.

### *Mountain School*

For a brief time there was one more District, No. Fifteen, on the Mountain Road near the Green Camp. This was a log building and classes were taught by 14-year-old Mary Breen. This was in the 1860's, approximately.



## *SCHOOLS IN GENERAL*

The importance of the District Schools cannot be over-emphasized. A good education was usually obtained from the teacher who had to cope with children in eight grades, all sharing one room.

Some of these teachers used a heavy hand in meting out punishment but discipline was maintained or the teacher would not be re-hired for the next term.

Each school district ruled itself, erecting the building, hiring the teacher, who boarded around, determining how much the salary would be, and voting on whether school terms would number two or three.

They made their own repairs to the school as needed and provided firewood for the stove which heated the little one-room building. The family with several children in school had to provide more wood than the family with but one child.

In reading old town reports about District Schools, it is astonishing to see how much these district schools did for themselves.

In years past, to "go to the town" to ask for necessary equipment or money for repairs, was unheard of and probably illegal. Hardworking farmers found money somehow or gave their own labor and students put on entertainments to earn money for classroom needs.

The Center School (District No. 5) built up its own library, volume by volume, money coming from school entertainments and by contributions.

In the Irish Settlement, teacher and pupils raised money to buy a flag.

In 1924, four schools raised money from selling candy and giving entertainments to provide better school equipment.

In 1928, No. 1 School District earned enough money to buy a new oak desk, six kindergarten chairs, first aid kit and six records.

In Rawson District School in 1929, scholars purchased a reading table, world map, Vermont map, globe, door mat and a small book cupboard. Two other schools purchased Victrolas.

Parents and friends earned money for plumbing and heating at the Center School in 1933, and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Holmes in 1936 gave money to have electricity brought into the school.

Emily Flynn, a former teacher and long-time resident of the Irish Settlement, wrote about early schools:

"The first log schoolhouse was succeeded by a bark-covered one. Poor buildings, equipment, lighting, and heating facilities were to be found in the school houses. The old box stove furnished heat for one side while the other

side waited to be baked.

"A chair, a teacher's desk and a broom were considered indispensable to the school room, but as late as 1870, you would search in vain for a map, globe or dictionary in any of the schools."

"Female teachers seemed to be in demand for the summer term but men teachers held forth during the winter."

Ella Covey, another teacher in the Irish Settlement wrote of the old bark-covered school up on the hill:

"Each boy of that school was required to bring a hand sled load of wood several times during the winter to keep the school warm. The sleds were handmade, large and heavy and built to carry a big load.

"You should see them coming down through the snow from the woodlots up on the mountain side, west of the Irish Settlement. Sometimes the boys would sit on their sleds and coast with the wood."

### *Academies*

In addition to the 15 District Schools, it should be mentioned also that Underhill had two excellent academies, one in the Flats, known as the Bell Institute or Underhill Academy, the other in the Center, the Green Mountain Academy.

The former functioned from 1852 to the late 1800's. The Incorporated District was formed in November of 1892, and the following March, District residents voted to take over the Underhill Academy building.

For about 25 years, in the 1920's, 1930's and early 1940's, this building housed a high school as well as elementary grades. The structure is now occupied by the Green Mt. Foam Company.

The Green Mountain Academy in the Center existed from 1850 to 1878, and excellent was the education obtained here by boarding students who came a great distance to obtain a finishing school education. J.S. Cilley was a noted teacher and taught here from 1852 to 1858, the period of its maximum enrollment (over 120).

Roy and Lorraine Kennedy now own this building and use it as a combined home and studio. This building served as the Town Hall from 1900 to 1949.

### *Central School*

One by one the district schools were closed until only four were operating by 1950. It took a fire in the Center School to bring about the big change in Underhill's educational facilities. Rather than rebuilding the two-story school (District No. 5) that served pupils in the Center, it was decided to close all district schools and to build a Central School in the Center, to which must be bused youngsters from all over town, except for those living in the Flats, where they maintained their own elementary school.

### *Mt. Mansfield Union No. 17*

In 1947, after the I.D. gave up its high school, students went to Cambridge, Jericho, Essex Junction or Burlington with all or part of the tuition paid by the town.

Over the years various committees studied the feasibility of forming a union with other nearby towns to build a union high school. Finally in 1967, such a union school became a reality.

The towns of Underhill, Jericho, Bolton and Richmond and the Incorporated District voted to go ahead with plans for a union high school to be built near Jericho Center, the geographical center of the union. Construction started in 1967.

The town of Huntington which at first voted not to join, changed its mind and, with approval of other participating towns, was enabled to join the union.

Mt. Mansfield Union High School opened in September 1967 and comprised the 7th through the 12th grades. The first year of operation had an enrollment on opening day of 617 students. After two years, the school's capacity was reached and an addition to the building was completed in 1970.

This union high school continues to operate near its capacity.

### *Middle School*

After a favorable vote in each of the member towns in the Union District, two intermediate schools were constructed (1972) to take pupils from grades five to and including grade eight, thus relieving crowding at the various elementary schools and at the same time providing more room for the burgeoning high school.

These two new schools, built as part of the Union District were built, one in Jericho near the Underhill line, to serve students in those two towns; the other in Richmond, to serve students in the remaining towns of the district.

Adjacent to the new Middle School which opened in 1972 in the Flats, was constructed a new Incorporated District School in the same year.

### *Incorporated District ("I.D.")*

The Incorporated District was formed in 1893 by the Act of the Legislature, comprising District 2 of Jericho and 3 of Underhill and the first school house for this incorporated district was the Academy Building in the Flats. The school opened with 50 families in each district sending their children.

For a period of about 1920 to 1947, high school courses were offered, sometimes a two-year course, sometimes four.

The old Academy building is no longer used for school purposes. It was sold by the town to Thomas Morse for his business, the Green Mountain Foam Company.

A new I.D. School was built in 1972 in the Riverside area near the Underhill-Jericho town line.



## *CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES*

It is obviously impossible in a book of this size to give detailed information on the various churches. I hope I have given the important facts.

The first church was built in 1804 in Underhill on Poker Hill Road which was the first road of consequence in town. The first minister was the Rev. James Parker.

Specifications for the church were: "the cost is to be \$2,000; the building to be 46 by 36 ft.; timber frame, to be covered, glazed and in every way enclosed in a workmanlike manner" and to be completed Dec. 6, 1804.

Early churches in Vermont were generally supported by the entire town, whatever the denomination.

In 1810, a number of residents signed a statement stating that they were not in agreement with the religious opinions expressed by the majority of inhabitants and this paper was filed in the records. Presumably, this prevented the necessity of supporting the church.

This first church, or meeting house, was severely damaged by high winds in 1837 and the remains were removed two miles north to a location just north of the former Joseph Metcalf home (now Edwin McLaughlin's). This building was damaged by fire in 1845. Instead of replacing it where it stood, a new church edifice was erected in the Flats (1847). This became known as the First Congregational Church of Underhill.

Meanwhile, a group of persons living on the River Road and in the Center commenced erecting another Congregational Church in the vicinity of the lower end of Sand Hill Road, near Browns River; the location not exactly known. This group voted to join the congregation at the Flats, and this Flats building became and remains, the center of Congregationalist activities for the town.

In 1850 and 1851, a group of persons joined to erect a combined Methodist and Freewill Baptist Church in Underhill Center; this building is now the Town Hall. The group (organized in 1836) continued to hold services until 1949 when the town purchased the building to be used for a Town Hall and for town offices.

Extensive renovations were made to the building in 1969 by the Underhill Historical Society, members of which gave generously of their time and talents.

## *St. Thomas Church*

In November 1853, the Rt. Rev. Louis DeGoesbriand of the Burlington Diocese came to Underhill to celebrate the first mass in the area. This was his first official visit since arriving in the Diocese.

Excerpts from his diary follow:

"I visited the (Underhill) Settlement on the 15th and 16th of November, 1853; found there are 63 families living close together near Union Village (the Center). They speak of building a church and need one. I heard many confessions there, gave communion to 70 or 80 persons. Heretofore they had been visited three or four times in the year by Rev. Father O'Callaghan.

"March 19, 1854. Said Mass at Union Village in the Academy, then spent three days in the Irish Settlement where there are 60 families — appointed a committee to select a lot at or about the village.

"July 2, 1854. On this and the two days following the Catholics of that neighborhood subscribed \$1,250 towards the erection of a church to be built about that place.

"August 3, 1854. Went to Underhill Center and there bought a lot from M. Flannary for the purpose of building a church.

"June 4, 1855. The church at Union Village is raised today. It is a good frame building 50 by 32, 16 ft. between floors with gallery."

In 1867, an addition of 25 feet greatly increased the size of the original building. Another addition was made in 1882 of 30 ft. by 25 ft. In December 1890, a fire destroyed the church. Work was commenced the following year to build a new church, the present one.

In recent years the church basement has been entirely remodelled and a new heating system installed. Fr. Donald Bruneau is the priest.

## *Other Churches*

Two other churches which have served the Underhill residents while actually located in Jericho are the Underhill United Methodist Church and Calvary Episcopal Church.

The former, first built in the mid-1850's, was destroyed by the fire which threatened to engulf the entire village, Aug. 11, 1906. The church was rebuilt the following year.

In August 1973, the United Methodist Church and the First Congregational Church of Underhill united to form the United Church of Underhill and thus combined the resources of both bodies.

The churches are united by Articles of Agreement drawn up by a joint committee and ratified by both congregations. The United Church is administered by a single set of officers drawn from both denominations. Richard Crocker is the present minister.



Calvary Episcopal Church was built in 1857 but was not in continuous use until 1928. Major redecoration was completed in 1960. David Walters is the minister.

### *Cemeteries*

Underhill has seven cemeteries. The earliest, on Poker Hill Road, is called the North Underhill Cemetery. Land was given by Bernard Ward.

Probably the next in order of age is the one in the Center on the corner of Sand Hill Road and River Road. This one has not been used for many years. Burials date back to 1810. One half acre of land was deeded to the town by David Goodhue in 1821 for use as a burying ground.

The large cemetery in the Flats on the corner of Park Street, was established in 1837. It was part of the J.H. Tower farm and continues in use.

On the Pleasant Valley Road, residents hoping to have the Catholic Church built in their area established a cemetery on one acre of land donated by Patrick Doran.

Another group of Catholics on the Irish Settlement Road also established a cemetery about two years later.

It was, however, decided to locate the cemetery on the Range Road in the village of Underhill Center and land was purchased in 1873.

One additional cemetery is the one on Deane Road in the northeast part of the town. This one has been in use since 1813 and buried in it are persons of both Underhill and Cambridge.

## *ROADS, BRIDGES, RAILROAD*

The Jericho History, Vol. I. relates how Joseph Brown in 1780, first permanent settler in Jericho, came to this area by following an Indian trail along the Winooski River to Williston, thence by line of marked trees, and proceeded towards Nebraska Notch. But before he reached the Notch, he found land to his liking on what is now called Browns River in the Riverside area of Jericho. Two cows yoked together pulled the family's long, light sled. This, then, was transportation in those early days.

It is likely that travelers passing through Underhill also found crudely marked trails and used similar means of transportation.

Early roads must have been very poor or non-existent prior to 1796. In September of that year, a number of Underhill landowners representing nearly one third part of the township, petitioned the State Legislature for permission to lay or levy a tax per acre for the purpose of making and repairing roads and bridges. They were granted a tax of .01 per acre.

The petitioners pointed out that "the town is naturally very stoney, rugged and uneven, though capable of furnishing very good roads though at higher expense than most towns — "

Through the history of Underhill, records show that when one or more persons felt that a road from A to B would be desirable, he would petition the selectmen to lay out and survey such a road. Sometimes the selectmen granted the request, and sometimes they didn't.

Occasionally they would specify a "pent road" or bridle path. Anybody traveling on horseback over a pent road must dismount and open gates, being careful to replace the bars once he had passed through. This was to keep livestock restrained.

Selectmen were empowered to draft all able-bodied men, 16-60, ministers excepted, to work on the roads four days.

The Poker Hill Road or Hill Road or County Road (it was known by all these names) was an important thoroughfare as it formed a part of the road traversing the county, south to north, passing through Hinesburg, Richmond, Jericho and Underhill, extending to the Cambridge line, just north of the Marjorie Cook farm.

During the depression years of 1929 and 1930, men were glad to work on the roads and judging by the large number of men employed, the work was spread around to help as many families as possible.

A man worked for the incredible wage of nine hours for \$3.00 or \$.33 per hour. If he used his team, he was paid a little more, four and a half hours for

\$3.00 or \$.60 per hour. Lawrence Casey received an extra \$.75 for sharpening picks.

It seems strange that today there is only one road crossing the town from west to east and that is the road through Browns River Valley. And no road connecting this town with Westford except for the northerly end of Route 15 which slices through the northeast corner of Westford.

Old maps indicate at least two other roads joined the two towns at one time, but since have been abandoned or "thrown up" as they say.

Older residents speak of crude roads or perhaps trails that once crossed Underhill's rocky ridges from west to east. One such road extended from the Flynn Farm on the Settlement Road to Pleasant Valley Road, coming out near Charles Cavanaugh's (now Hopkinsons). Another road crossed from near the Irish Settlement schoolhouse to Poker Hill Road, emerging near the George Mullins farm (now Katherine and Kiland Clark).

Another old road went from the Stinson farm on what is now called Down's Road, north to Cady Hill in Cambridge.

Three roads in the Center are now dead-ended at the Artillery Range gates: the Range Road, Krug Road or West Bolton Road and Beartown Road.

A road once went through the Nebraska Notch to Stowe. This is now just a foot path connecting with the Green Mt. Club Trail.

Sometime prior to 1827, a man named Burroughs drove the first stage from Essex through Underhill and Cambridge to Johnson. In December of 1829, Roswell Butler of Essex was driving "nice yellow Concord coaches" drawn by four horses to Underhill. Butler's stage ran between Burlington and Stanstead, Quebec. In the winter, covered sleighs replaced the wheeled coaches.

In 1863 stages were running regularly from Essex to Mt. Mansfield, twice a day each way with stops at the Dixon House in Riverside for meals.

In July 1864, there were two lines daily to connect the Vermont Central Railroad in Essex Junction and Underhill, and the "new" Halfway House on the west side of Mansfield Mountain. At the Halfway House, good saddle horses and guides could be hired by those who wished to climb the mountain.

The coming of the Railroad to Underhill in 1877 put an end to this mode of travel.



## *Bridges*

Underhill has never had a covered bridge as far as can be determined by research, although there was one at Riverside (Jericho) where Vermont Route 15 crosses Browns River. This bridge was in use until 1933.

Just north of Underhill in Pleasant Valley (Cambridge), a covered bridge crossed the Seymour River and remained in use until the late 1950's or early 1960's.

Bridges over mountain streams have a short life. Cloudbursts on the mountain and runoff of melting snow both cause their share of bridge mortalities. Generally Underhill bridges don't wear out; they are washed out. Nearly every torrential rain or spring freshet takes its toll of bridges.

In 1852, Underhill was asked to help pay the expense of building a bridge over the Winooski River between Jericho and Williston at Fay's Ferry. Underhill was to pay 5/60 of the entire cost; Williston, Jericho, and Essex to pay the remainder.

Voters decided that the bridge would not benefit Underhill in any way and voted it down. In 1854, by court order, Underhill was directed to pay approximately \$400 towards the cost of the bridge, but the following year, this \$400 was paid over to the Trustees of the surplus fund.

## *Railroad*

A new era of prosperity opened for Underhill when the Northern Vermont and Lake Champlain Railroad proposed to build a line from Essex Junction to a point in Cambridge.

Towns were contacted all along the route to request help in financing the project through bonding.

Underhill appointed three commissioners: A.C. Humphrey, L.F. Terrill, and William M. Naramore in August of 1874 and voters agreed to bond the town to the amount of three times the Grand List to aid in building the road and to maintain good freight and passenger service.

At one time, an easterly route through Underhill was studied; eventually five miles of track were laid closely paralleling Vermont Route 15 in the westerly part of the town. This piece of track was to connect at Cambridge Junction with the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad (later known as the St. Johnsbury and Lake Champlain Railroad), under construction at the same time.

By 1876, the road was completed as far as Jericho and the following year to Underhill. This section became known as the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad.

For a period of about 60 years (1877-1937) Underhill people enjoyed very good railroad service. They could board the cars at one of the three stations

in the town and travel west to Burlington, east to St. Johnsbury or Portland, Me. or north to Swanton.

In addition to passenger service, the trains also carried mail and transported cattle, sheep, milk, butter, maple sugar and syrup in barrels, and shipped lumber from Underhill sawmills to the big lumber yards on Burlington's waterfront.

In the middle 1880's, nearly five million feet of lumber were shipped from the Underhill station and 60,000 lbs. of butter, as well as 15,000 lbs. of potatoes.

In addition to the full-fledged station at the Flats, and a flag stop at North Underhill, there was also a flag stop in Riverside, mostly for the convenience of the Dixon House patrons.

Underhill people rode the cars to Burlington for a day's shopping, to attend performances at the Howard Opera House, religious revivals at Queen City Park, and all-day excursions on lake steamers. They packed lunches and took the cars to Burlington for picnics in city parks.

But here as elsewhere, the automobile spelled an end to rail travel and for want of business, first passenger service was given up and then freight service and thus came the end of the "B and L" as it was usually called.

The last train to carry passengers between Essex Junction and Cambridge Junction was run on June 16, 1938. Mrs. Lillian Cross, mother of Earl Cross, made not only the last trip, but also the first trip in June 1877.

When the depot building in the Flats was no longer in use by the Railroad, it was remodeled by George Drinkwater for a house. Eventually it came into the hands of the Arthur Seymour family, present owners and occupants.

The building now referred to as the old North Underhill Station was not the original station which was on the opposite side of the road.

In 1910 approximately, the station was a flag stop and persons wanting to board waved a green flag in the daytime and a lantern at night.

A short distance northerly of the North Underhill station was the water tower where engineers stopped to fill the steam boilers and a little farther on was the Car House, a boarding house for trainmen. Still further northerly, about halfway between the depot and the Cloverdale Creamery crossing (in Westford) was the wood siding. Cord wood, cut in four-foot lengths in woodlots along the Poker Hill Road, was transported across country by teams to the trackside below where it was sawed up and loaded onto tenders for the old woodburning engines.

The Cloverdale Creamery was located at the crossing just north of the Underhill-Westford town line and did a thriving business, thanks to a strategic location close to the railroad tracks. The Borden Company had a trackside location at the Flats, where they had a pickup station for milk between the depot and Park Street. Nearby was a stockyard and a scale for weighing animals to be shipped.

The stretch of road bed paralleling Route 15 seems to have been hazardous, especially in winter months as the track was laid through marshy ground. There were many derailments and wrecks caused by flooding and washouts.

The most famous derailment was that of the engine that went into the mud in December 1910 and try as they might, the train crews could not retrieve their engine, old No. 328, until the following spring.

The Railroad's finest moment came in August of 1906 when a special train with a Burlington fire engine aboard, raced to the aid of Underhill to help put out the blaze that threatened to destroy the Flats village. The time from Burlington was 35 minutes.

The people of this area had a real affection for their little railroad, and it was with feelings of sorrow and personal loss that the town quietly marked the end of the railroad era in Underhill.



## *PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, POST OFFICES, LIBRARIES*

Until about 1933, Underhill had no electric service. The Public Electric Light Co. brought power to the town in that year, and in 1953 merged with Central Vermont Public Service Corp. which company now furnishes power to part of the town.

In 1938, the Vermont Electric Co-operative, Inc. was formed three years after the Rural Electrification Administration was launched and for the first time farms and homes in rural areas were supplied with electricity.

In the late 1890's, Underhill had its first telephone service, provided by a company (Weed & Abbott) later owned by Central Telephone Company and purchased in November 1939 by the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. Operators manned the switchboard, located in various places in the Flats. The first switchboard was located in the brick store. Other sites were Dr. Nay's drug store and the Hira Hanley house (then Santamore's), then to the house of Mrs. Alice King, chief operator.

It used to be possible to call central when the fire alarm was heard and say; "Alice, where is the fire?" The village doctor occasionally left with the operator a number where he could be reached in an emergency when he was out on calls.

In 1955, a brick building was constructed in the Flats for the new dial telephone equipment which went into service in February 1955. In 1970 the increased demands for service in Underhill and Jericho made it necessary to construct an addition. In 1975 some 1,160 customers and 100 businesses were served from this office.

A small water system owned by Thomas Thorpe provided running water to residents of the Flats starting about 1894. The spring-fed reservoir was located on Blakey Road, just off Poker Hill Road. In 1925 it became the Underhill Water Co.

Later, the sources of supply were springs not far from Route 15 on the farm of Axel Ringwig in the Flats.

In 1971, work commenced on a new water system, located just north of the Flats on the bank of the Creek. Water is pumped to a water tower on the hill overlooking the village. This system is providing good water for all village residents.

At this date (1975) there is no community sewage plant; each resident has his own septic tank or cesspool.

Underhill Center has no water system, each home having its own spring or well; also each residence has its own septic tank.

## *Fire Department*

Until about 1913, Underhill had no fire department. The first piece of equipment acquired in that year was a 75-gallon chemical tank mounted on an axle and two wagon wheels and was used only in fighting fires in the Underhill-Riverside area.

The equipment was housed in a garage, now part of the Chamberlain tenement building. In 1936, fire fighting equipment occupied a small building which stood north of the Methodist Church parish house in the Flats. This building was bought by Claude Potvin, who moved it to his lot to be used as a garage.

About this time, Jericho began to contribute funds for fire fighting and the Fire Company became known as the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department.

It has been a volunteer department from the first. Funds are provided each year at Town Meeting by vote of the people of both towns. Additional money comes from the annual chicken barbecue and from donations.

The equipment is presently housed in a fire station on Route 15, constructed in 1952 mostly by volunteer labor and contributions.

Until the village dial telephone system was cut over in 1955, telephone operators handled fire calls. Now, three red phones in three village locations can activate the siren, which alerts firemen.

## *Post Offices*

In 1793, Congress established nine post offices in the state, including one at Burlington. Underhill had postal service by 1810 but did not acquire its first post office until the 1820's. Cyrus Birge was the first postmaster, appointed in 1825. The post office was in his house on Poker Hill Road, the Birge Tavern, a house owned for many years by the Seth Taylor family, now by the Brewers.

From 1810 to 1877 a stage carried mail from Essex to Underhill. The coach then went on to Cambridge via the post road over Poker Hill.

In 1877 the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad opened service between Burlington and Cambridge and the mail was carried on the train until 1938 when rail service was discontinued.

The post office in the Flats has moved about a great deal. At one time it was located in the room at the south end of the house now occupied by Mrs. Daisy Mead. Her husband, Will Mead, was postmaster for 17 years, and after his death Mrs. Mead served as postmaster for about a year.

Later the post office moved to what was Simpson's Store block (now Blanchard apartments), where it remained until the new post office building was built on Route 15 and dedicated in November 1960. William

Cook was postmaster for many years. The present postmaster is Richard Bacon.

In the Center the first post office was established in 1850 with Benjamin M. Burbank as first postmaster. The office has occupied various sites, including the old Hotel, the store building next door, the house across the street on the corner which was once a Terrill store, and presently in the DeLaporte Building. The present postmaster is Lawrence Casey.

The North Underhill Post Office opened in 1864 in the tavern of Joseph Robinson on Route 15, corner of the North Underhill Station Road. Later, the office was moved up the Station Road to the home of Robinson's son, Fillmore. This is now the Lynford Lamphere house. In 1907 the post office was discontinued.

Two other post offices served the town at different times: the Riverside office established July 19, 1892 and discontinued June 30, 1934 was located at the old C.H. Hayden general store at Riverside.

The Pleasant Valley post office was established in 1851 and operated until 1893 when it was transferred to Lamoille County. This office served people living on both sides of the Underhill-Cambridge line.

For many years (roughly 1900-1958), Underhill had a Star Route for mail delivery from Underhill Flats Post Office to the Center. The following persons ran the Route: Lew Melvin, William Billings, Lavina Walker, Frank Ross and Henry Cook. At first the run was made with horse and buggy.

On the North Underhill run, the following persons carried the mail: Will Palmer, Gene Metcalf (36 years), Tom Flynn and finally Lynford Lamphere who carries the mail today to rural homes.

## *Libraries*

It will come as a surprise to many that Underhill's first library association was formed in 1800, surely a remarkable action for a town settled for only 14 years.

Articles of Association, signed by 20 men, included the following statement: ". . . a certain degree of knowledge in the people at large is absolutely necessary for the preservation of the invaluable rights we enjoy under our national and State constitutions, public libraries are highly essential, we the subscribers for the purpose of maintaining the blessings aforesaid and handing them down to our posterity, pure and unimpaired, do by these presents form ourselves into a society by the name of 'The Underhill Library Society,' subject to such a constitution, rules and regulations as shall hereafter be agreed on . . ."

Each of the signers was ordered to pay one dollar on or before the first day of February next or deliver grain to the treasurer to be equal to the



above said sum in value.

How long this Society continued will probably never be known. There seems to be no further record of it.

The present town library or DeLaporte Library was established at a town meeting of 1903 by voters who made application to the State Board of Library Commissioners, receiving a gift of 86 books from the State as a nucleus for the infant library.

The literary-minded members of the town organized a Book Club and during the summer of 1903 located a small building suitable for a library. They rented it and held cleaning and painting bees, arranged to have bookshelves built, and announced themselves in business.

Mrs. W.J. Fuller was first librarian and the library opened on Sept. 5, 1903. In order to raise money to support this activity the Club sponsored various entertainments and this brought in enough money for rent and for printing a statement of rules drawn up by the board of trustees.

After three years, the 1906 Town Report revealed that the library had a total of 316 books of which 86 were given by the State; 17 presented by friends; 151 purchased by the Club; and 62 bought by the trustees.

This growing library was benefited greatly when, in the year 1917, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore DeLaporte of Rhinebeck, N.Y., summer residents here, presented to the town the so-called Carville property "for the use as a town library and other town purposes." Mrs. DeLaporte was made an honorary life member.

At her death in 1936, it was learned that she had left the sum of \$1,000 in trust, the income to be used for the support of the library. Mr. DeLaporte, born Theodore Dorr, was a native of Underhill.

In 1933, books were placed in three different locations for the convenience of those not living near the library. Also, books were deposited in various schools.

Mrs. Charles Cavanaugh, assisted by her daughter Marguerite, served as librarian for 20 years.

The town report of 1941 was the first to mention any town aid given to the library. In that year, the sum of \$25 was appropriated.

During the years that the DeLaporte building housed the library the structure was used as a community center which was the thought and wish of the donor. During World War I years, Red Cross sewing was done here, and Farm Bureau meetings held.

In 1960, the trustees, realizing that the little building was falling into a state of disrepair, and aware also that the town needed a site for the Center post office, agreed to let the post office operate in the small building, and the library books were moved to the basement of the Town Hall, where they remain today.

In 1970, the trustees, with the help of the Underhill Historical Society, carried out an ambitious program of up-dating the library's quarters in the

Town Hall. This involved paneling the walls, and wall-to-wall carpeting. The entire building was provided with electric heat.

Five trustees serving five-year terms, direct the affairs of the library.

Waters Library occupies a neat little white clapboard building in the Flats, which was constructed by E.S. Sinclair at a cost of \$2,831.00, Augustus Waters bearing \$1,000 of this amount.

The library was started informally in 1924 by the Mansfield Women's Club by accepting contributions of books which were housed at the home of Mrs. Clara Benedict until 1925 at which time they were moved to the school, and then made several more moves before they found a final resting spot in the new building.

The Mansfield Community Library Association was incorporated June 21, 1929. The library receives an appropriation from both towns that it serves (Underhill and Jericho).

## PROFESSIONAL MEN

Underhill has been fortunate in having outstanding men as doctors. Some of them refused the chance to establish a more lucrative practice elsewhere in favor of serving in this town.

In chronological order, the following men have practiced here during the last 100 years, administering to the old and young. This is not a complete list.

Dr. G. W. Roberts and son, Dr. G. W. Roberts, homeopaths (1864-1882).

Dr. Hiram Benedict (1848-1861).

Dr. Arthur F. Burdick (1858- mid-80's). He was the son of Timothy Burdick, an early settler in the northeastern part of town.

In September 1849, infected with gold fever, Arthur Burdick set off for California, traveling by the newly-constructed Burlington and Rutland Railroad, thence by train and by wagon to Boston where he took passage on a ship bound for San Francisco by way of the Horn. He procured work as a carpenter.

In the spring of 1852, he was back in Vermont with his pockets full of money, enough to pay for his education. He attended Green Mountain Academy in Underhill Center, then went to Burlington to study medicine with Dr. Samuel Thayer. He attended medical lectures at the University of Vermont, graduating in 1858 and then, after some time spent studying in New York and serving as a surgeon in the Civil War, returned home to Underhill where he practiced until the mid-1880's.

An account book of Dr. Burdick's, covering the period 1877-1882, gives a good picture of the practice of this country doctor. He gave careful accounts of calls on patients, listed the medicines prescribed, the setting of fractures, and the giving of professional advice.

For his services he was paid mainly in money, but here and there appear such items in the credit column of the ledger as one pair of chickens \$1.00; hay \$10 per ton; butternuts; sap buckets, 20¢ each; maple sugar so much at 10¢ per lb.; nine cords of wood at \$1.25 per cord; one bushel apples at 50¢; 108 lbs. beef at 5¢ per lb.

When Dr. Burdick retired, Dr. W. Scott Nay, who had been working with him, took over the entire practice. When Dr. Nay died in 1949 at age 98, he was the oldest living graduate of the University of Vermont.

When he was 20, in March of 1871, he began working with Dr. Burdick in the Flats. He worked in the doctor's drug store, also attended the family garden, looked after the horses and performed every chore requested by



both the Doctor and Mrs. Burdick. Meanwhile he studied the doctor's medical books.

Finally he had the opportunity to enter the Medical College in Burlington, graduating in 1873.

Dr. Nay was a horse and buggy doctor and his practice covered not only Underhill Flats and Jericho, but the Center, the English and Irish Settlements, Pleasant Valley, Stevensville and West Bolton. His practice covered every facet of doctoring; he once estimated that he had delivered over 1,000 babies; he set broken bones, he pulled teeth and he sat up with the dying.

He was much loved in this area and for the last 10 years of his life, on each birthday, the entire town turned out to do him honor. He served the community for over 60 years. He died Jan 16, 1949, aged 98.

Dr. Charles Newton, 1892-1902.

Dr. R.W. Prentiss, 1905.

Dr. Alston Fogg, 1909-1917.

Dr. W.F. Rogers, 1937-1939.

And finally Dr. Raymond D. Towne, beloved by people living in Underhill today. "Doc" died suddenly June 5, 1974 at the age of 66, having practiced here since 1939, devoting his talents to the practice of family medicine.

There was probably no more able a family doctor, never a more sympathetic and kindly listener, and never a more wrathful man than he when he felt his orders were not carried out.

The doctor's office is now occupied by Dr. Stuart Alexander.

### *Dr. Bert K. Kusserow*

Dr. Kusserow died Dec. 19, 1975 at the age of 51. A physician on the staff of the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, he pioneered in the field of artificial organs. He was a professor of the University of Vermont Medical College. Contributing greatly to the town, he served on the zoning and planning commissions, and also on the town school board. He gave generously of his time and talents to his fellow man.

## *Lawyers*

Lawyers have come and gone, none of whom seem to have made much of a ripple on the history of the town, although the records are full of civil suits filed by one citizen against another.

Some of the lawyers who practiced here are:

Daniel G. Sawyer, 1840's and 1850's.

Ashton Dixon, 1860-1873. His office was in the DeLaPorte building in the Center; in fact this little building was built for his law office.

H.N. Deavitt, 1870's. His office was in the Center.

J.J. Monahan, who served the town as town clerk from 1877 to 1899, was also a practicing attorney. His office was in the ell of the R.D. Towne house. Here also, Mrs. Monahan had the post office.

## *THE WARS*

### *Revolutionary War*

As Vermont was not a state at the time of the Revolution, but an independent Republic, her support to the Revolutionary War was purely voluntary. However, when the War ended in 1783, men who had fought came to Vermont to settle. Many were buried here. Among them: Oliver Wells, Chauncey Graves, David Birge, Samuel Calhoun, Josiah Sheldon, Asa Rider, George Olds, Bernard Ward, Caleb Sheldon, Adam Hurlburt and Udney Hay.

### *War of 1812*

Action on Lake Champlain at the Battle of Plattsburgh, and subsequent firing on the battery at Burlington, was the closest to action that Underhill came. However, Underhill men were involved. Lt. Col. Luther Dixon commanded a regiment at Plattsburgh in 1813.

Quoting Rann's History of Chittenden County:

"While his (Dixon's) command was at Plattsburgh, Vermont Gov. Martin Chittenden (who opposed the war) issued a proclamation ordering the militia back to Vermont and dispatched an agent to the camp at Plattsburgh to distribute the same.

"Colonel Dixon looked upon it as an attempt to incite insubordination in the camp and ordered that the agent be flogged which was properly done by a detail from Captain Birge's company.

"On the 15th of November an answer was drawn up and signed by Colonel Dixon and all of the officers in his command and duly forwarded to the governor.

"In the proclamation, the officers of the brigade refused to obey the governor's orders to return to their homes. They pointed out that they were out of the jurisdiction or control of the executive of Vermont.

"We conceive it our duty to declare unequivocally to your excellency that we shall not obey your Excel.'s order for returning, but shall continue in the service of our country until we are legally and honorably discharged."

This remarkable protest was signed by Luther Dixon, Lt. Col. and 17 of his officers.

Upon his return home, he was sued for causing the arrest of the governor's agent at Plattsburgh and was compelled to pay \$1,000 in settlement of the matter.



Afterward, two or three attempts were made in the Legislature to reimburse him, but without success.

In addition to Lt. Col. Luther Dixon, other men who fought in the War of 1812, listed as Volunteers for Plattsburgh, from Underhill were: Capt. Elijah Birge, Samuel Quincy, Peter Martin, Eli Woodruff, Jeremiah Matthews, Benjamin Parker, Wait Hurlbut, Josiah Mead, Martin Mead, John Atchinson, Abraham Story, Rapha Woodworth and Truman Sheldon.

Other veterans who settled here were Capt. N.M. Hanaford and Timothy Burdick.

A letter in a Burlington newspaper of Sept. 20, 1814, publicly recorded thanks to Underhill selectmen "for their liberal donations of vegetables, etc., which were delivered by Messrs. Ward and Sheldon to the sick and wounded in the General Hospital.

"Such actions do honor to their hearts and are highly expressive of their humane and patriotic feelings." Signed: Dr. Hunt, hospital surgeon at the General Hospital in Burlington.

A story is told of Freelove Mead who climbed South Hill and could hear the firing of the British guns during the shelling of Burlington. She was the wife of Martin Mead, volunteer, in the Battle of Plattsburgh.

After the War of 1812, local militias were formed and drills conducted. In town records can be found names of men who participated in the Underhill militia and lists of their equipment.

On a June day each year it was customary to have June Training and the men turned out for a quick military formation followed by revelry for the remainder of the day.

Public interest in the militia waned about 1845 throughout the state.

## *Civil War*

It has been said that no state gave more to the cause than Vermont, in heroism and self sacrifice. Men and money were offered from all over the state. Towns voted to raise money on the Grand List and subscribed to equip militia and support the families of volunteers.

Before the war commenced with the firing on Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861, there was a general lethargy in the state. Not a regiment was ready to march.

Yet within seven days after the firing on Fort Sumter, eight Vermont companies reported filled and in efficient condition.

Less than two weeks after that fateful day, the Vermont Legislature met in special session and unanimously voted an appropriation of one million dollars for war expenses. It passed acts providing for organizing, arming, equipping six more regiments for two-years service, the government had called for only three months-troops; the Legislature voted \$7 per month

pay in addition to the \$13 offered by the government; provided for relief of families of volunteers in cases of destitution; and laid the first war tax, 10 cents on the dollar of the Grand List.

By May 10, the services of 50 full companies were offered to the government, more than twice as many as it was ready to accept. When the three months were up, five out of six men re-enlisted.

In addition to infantry regiments, Vermont sent batteries of light artillery, a regiment of cavalry and larger proportion of sharpshooters than any other state. Her cavalry regiment raised in the fall of 1861 was the first full regiment of mounted men raised in New England. It was comprised of 2,297 officers and men, and had a notable record, serving in many engagements. The Cavalry wanted Morgan horses and Underhill provided many of them.

Vermont had a higher percentage of men killed in action than any other state. She sent to war 10 men out of every 100 of population.

In Underhill, it was the same. Some 157 men from this town served in the Northern Army; an additional six townsmen served but were credited to other towns. The town's population in 1860 was 1,637. (Note: One source says Underhill provided 175 men.)

## *World War One*

Forty men served in World War One from Underhill. A list dated Sept. 12, 1918 names 116 men who were of draftable age (18-45).

While Underhill men fought in the trenches of Europe, on the home front Underhill women were doing their bit to earn money for the Red Cross. Headquarters for this activity were in the DeLaPorte building, now the post office in the Center. The women met weekly.

The amount and diversity of work done by the ladies and the sums of money turned over to the Red Cross were truly astounding. Dances, entertainments, box socials, musical programs and an outdoor festival were utilized for earning money for war relief.

They made surgical sheets and bandages for hospital patients, and they made towels, afghans, pillows, coverlets, quilts, pajamas, socks, sweaters, mufflers and kit bags. They sponsored a farewell party for the young men leaving for training camp.

They worked for Belgian Relief, and for a nation-wide linen shower for the aid of hospitals in France.

When the war was over the ladies continued to meet and sew for the needy families in town and raised money for Ohio flood relief and for Japanese relief. A truly remarkable record.

## *World War Two*

The agonizing days of World War Two are still fresh in the minds of many residents. Underhill supplied some 49 young men and women to the Armed Forces. Three did not return home.

Along with the rest of the nation, Underhill had practice air raid tests. Short blasts of the fire whistle signalled the alert and the all-clear signal was one continuous blast.

Rationing of meats, fats, processed foods, sugar, fuel oil, tires, gasoline, and shoes was in force.

Owners of woodlots were urged to get out pulp (fir, hemlock, and spruce) for the war effort. Paper made from pulpwood was used for packaging all sorts of war materials.

Young men of high school age held bees for collecting old scrap metals. Youngsters collected milkweed for use as fillers of life jackets. All residents were asked to save metal toothpaste and shaving cream tubes to be reclaimed.

Underhill men fought also in the Korean War (1950-1953) and in the Vietnam conflict (1960-1973) but regrettably no lists of names are available.





*Passing the time of day in the Terrill store in the Center. The four gentlemen, seated around the stove were, left to right, Gaylord Terrill, Robert White, Leslie Terrill and George Forsyth. White was cook for Gen. U.S. Grant during the Civil War, according to his nephew, George White of Jericho.*



*The United Church of Underhill (former Congregational Church) above, and Methodist Church as they looked several generations ago.*





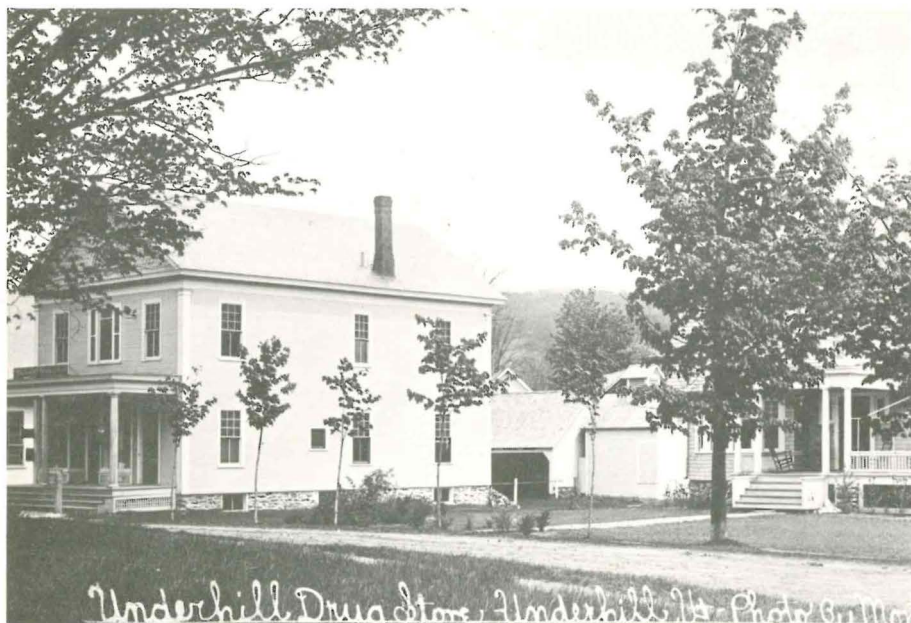
*The Park in the Flats and below, Effie's Lunch and Bus Terminal next to the Underhill Garage.*







*Dr. W. Scott Nay and his drug store.*



*Underhill Drug Store Underhill N. H. Photo by Wm. C. Allen*

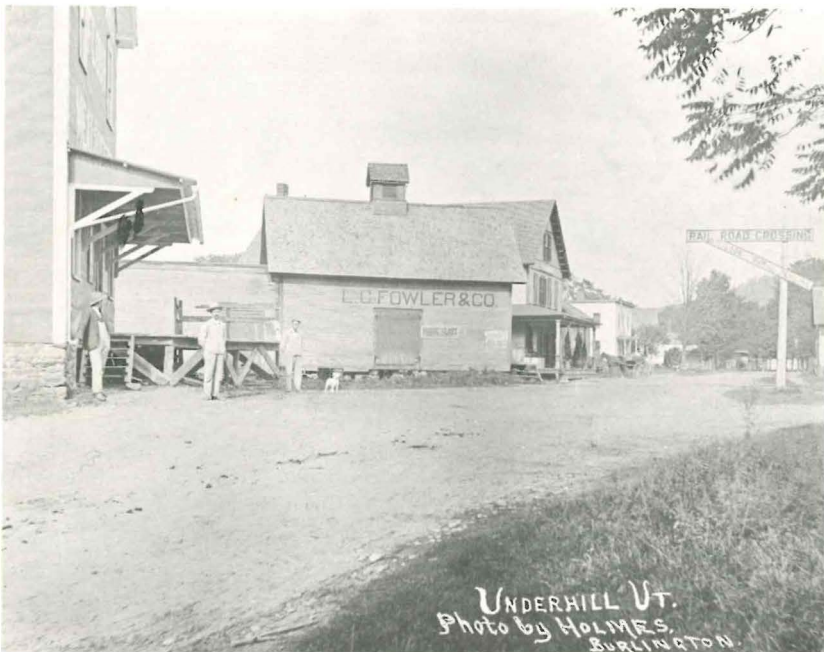


*Built in 1880's, this store is now Jacob's IGA. Below is the Gallup Hardware Store which later moved to the building next to the IGA Store.*





*The Underhill Grist Mill with building in Jericho and steps in Underhill, separated from IGA Store and warehouse by the railroad. Mill dismantled 1952.*







*Chamberlain apartment building as it looked when E.G. Nealy operated his furniture and jewelry business. The town's first fire engine was kept in the central part of the building; a cobbler shop and a barber shop occupied the remainder.*



*The G.A.R. Hall was the scene of frequent festivities, at the turn of the century. Built 1880's.*



*The Custer House, above, and Sinclair Hotel were well-known inns. The Custer House, near the site of the Flats Post Office was burned in May 1915.*





*Two of Underhill's interesting old houses: the stone house above, built in 1840's on the Pleasant Valley Road and now owned by Henry Clark, and the Birge Tavern, below, on Poker Hill Road.*







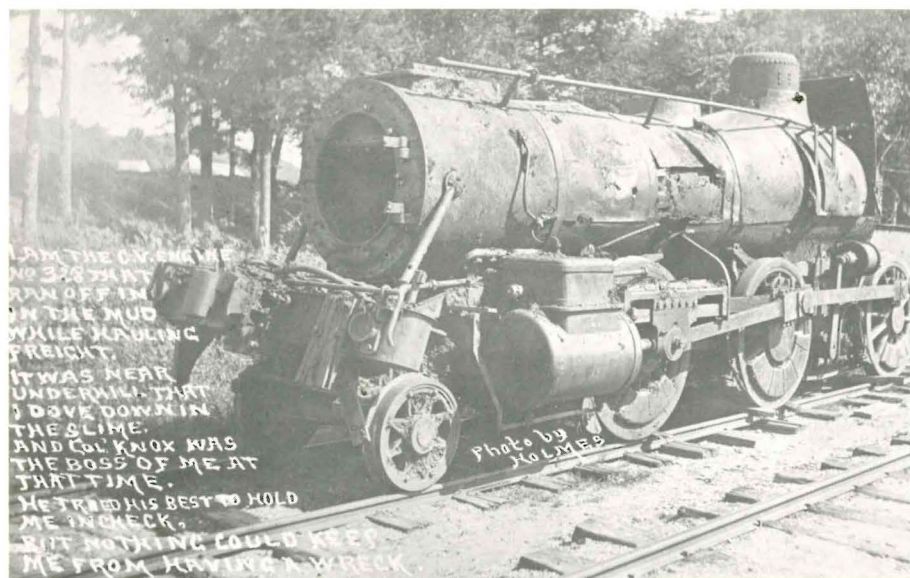
*Barney Tavern built probably about 1800 in the Flats. Below, the Roland Ellis House, formerly Shannon's, in Stevensville.*



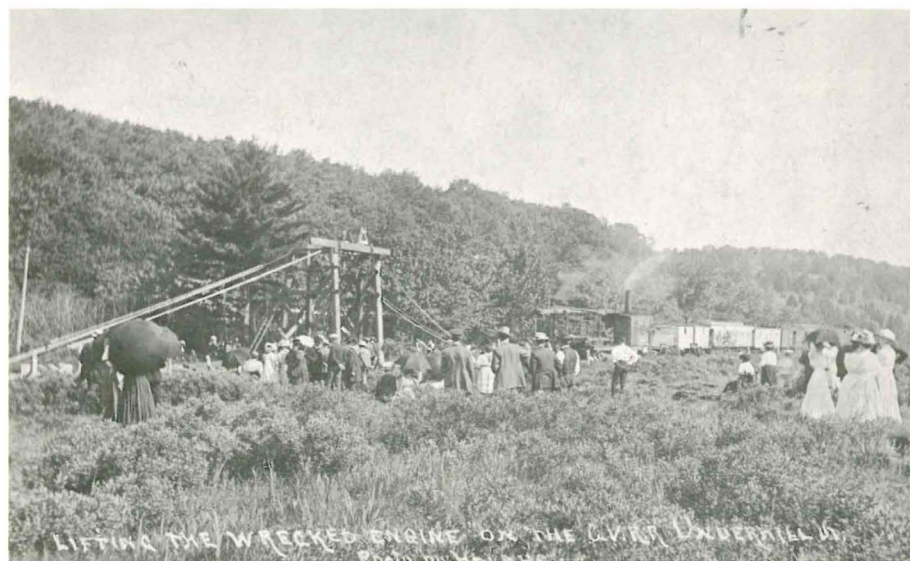


*The railroad that served Underhill, running from Cambridge Junction to Essex Junction from 1877 to 1937. Shown below is the North Underhill Station. Both depots now converted to dwellings.*





*The engine that came up out of the mud after being buried all one winter following accident. Below can be seen the scaffolding built to raise the engine. The engineer, Colonel Knox, was badly hurt in the mishap. (Dec. 1910)*







*Underhill Center. Two Terrill stores on the corner, facing each other, offering patrons the same goods, catered to the loggers and their families. The store above was for years Bolio's Market, now the K&T Market. The store below is now a residence. The ell was moved about 20 years ago to a lot east of the Town Hall and is now a residence. St. Thomas Catholic Church faces the Green.*





*The front of the Gay Terrill Store (now K&T Market) as it looked many years ago, and below, Clifford (Clip) Terrill who kept store for many years on the other corner.*

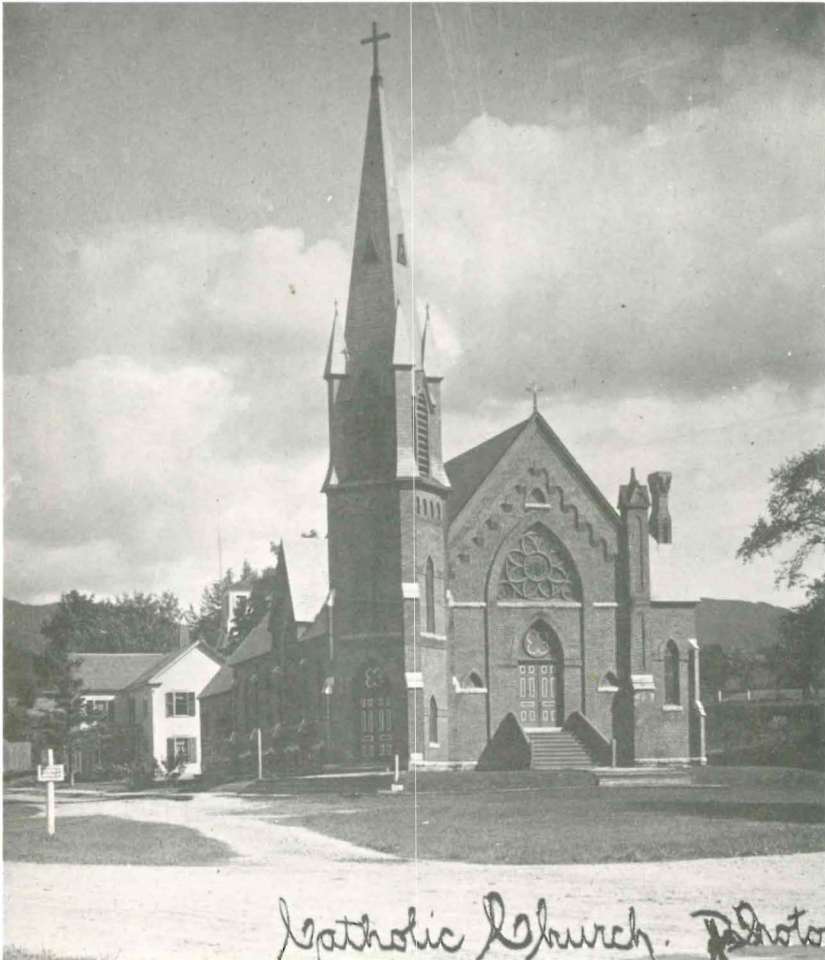




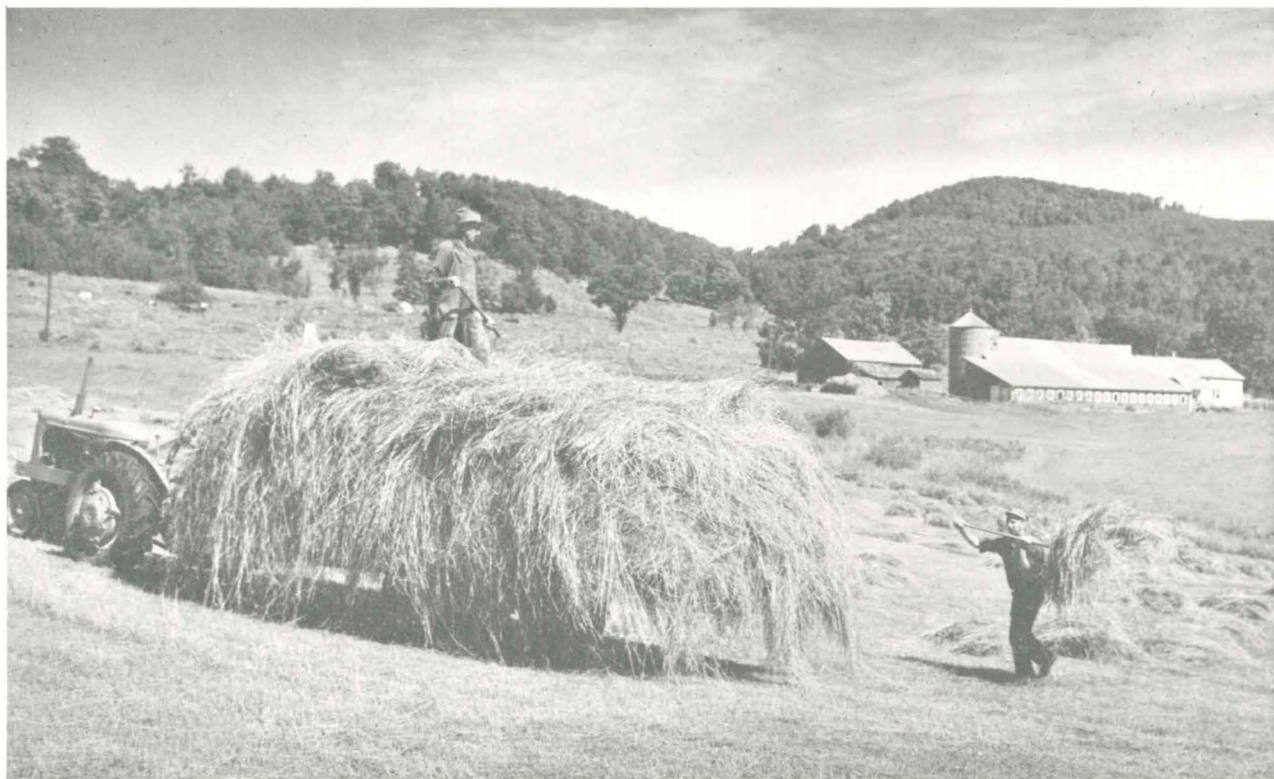
*Underhill's Town Hall since 1950, former Freewill Baptist and Methodist Church, built jointly in 1850. The Green Mountain Academy, below, was also used as a town hall at one time. Since 1953 owned by Artist Roy Kennedy.*







*St. Thomas Church, built in 1899, the second church to stand on this site.*

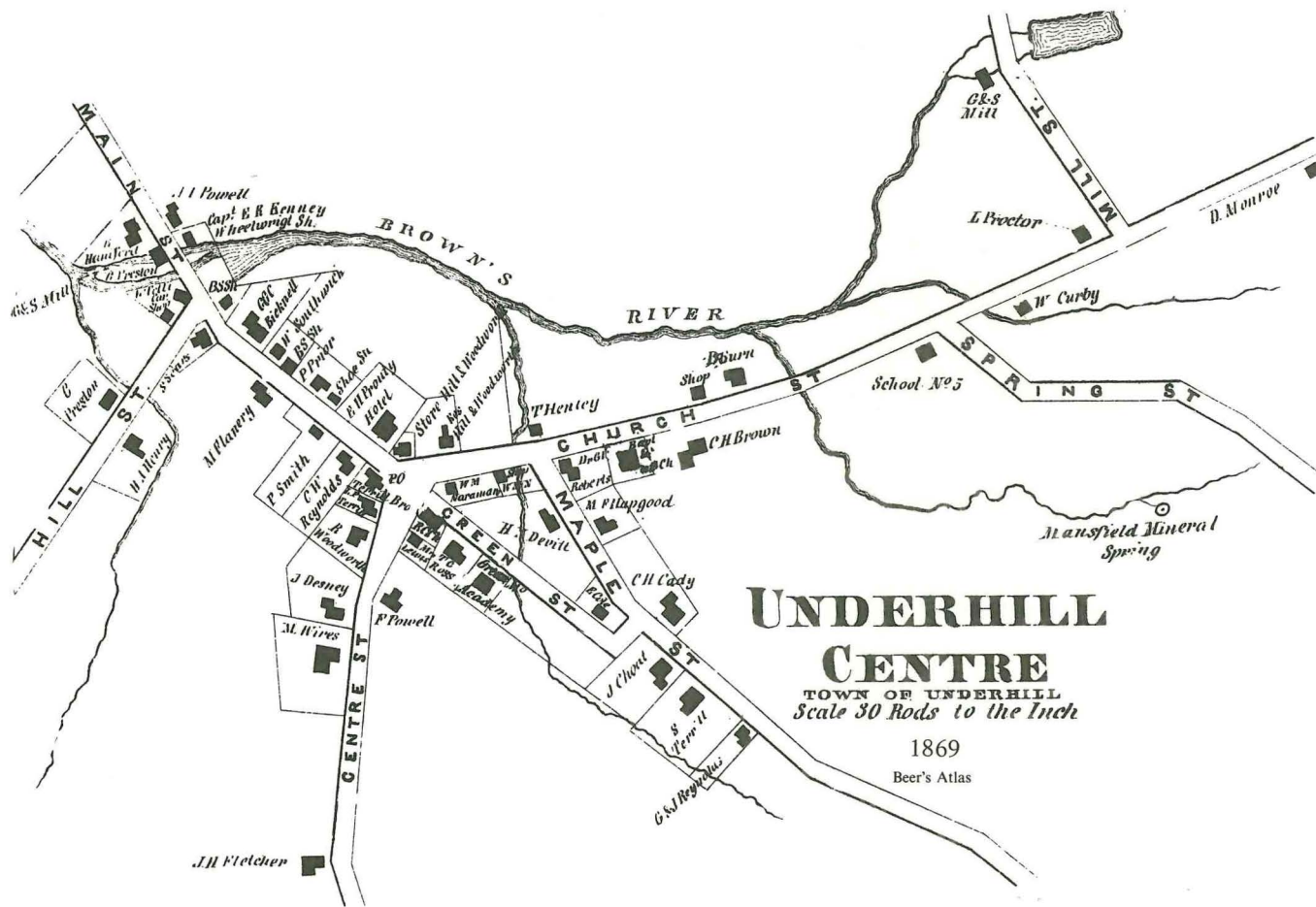


*Typical farm activity a few years ago, now not so frequently seen. The former Walker farm.*



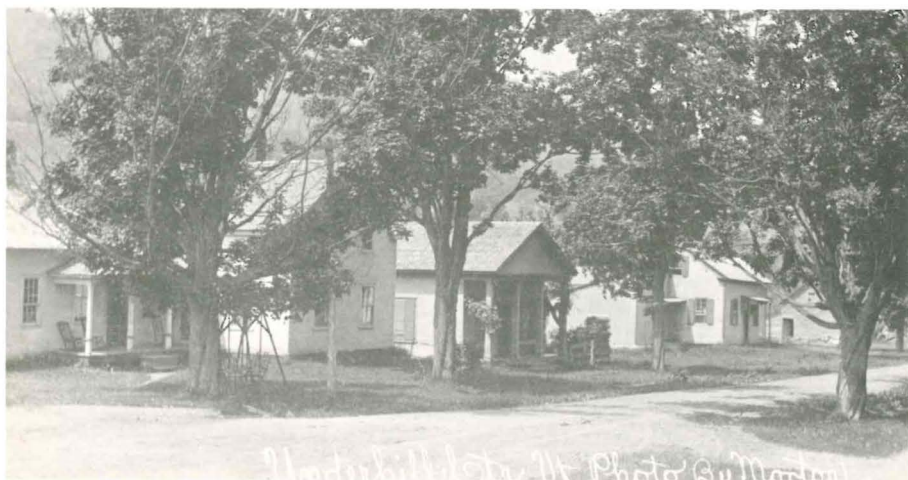




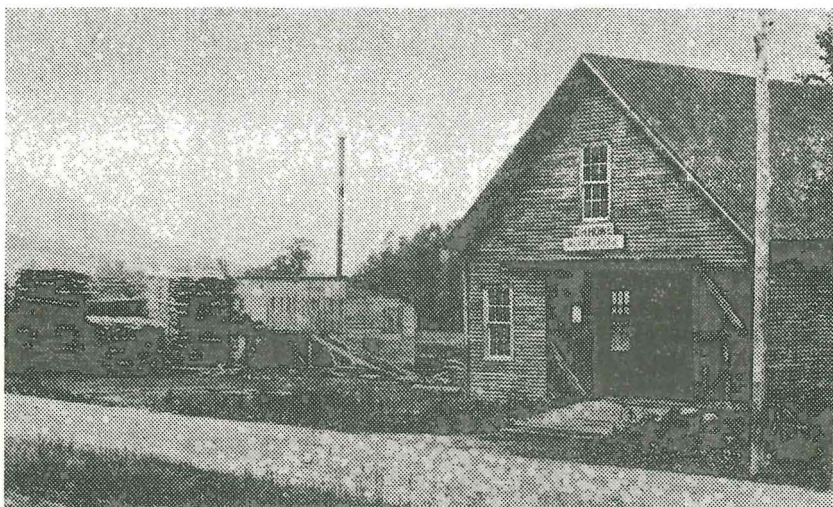




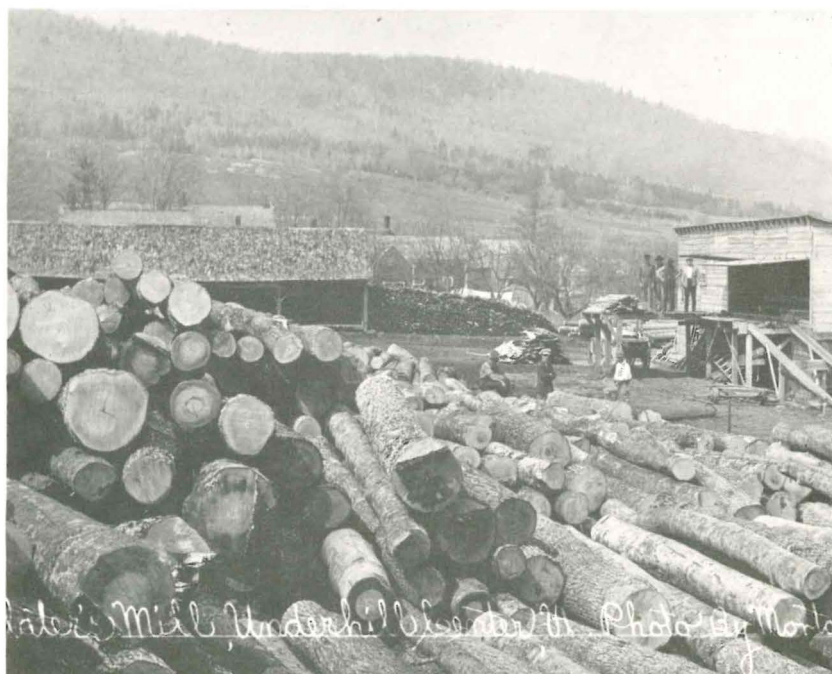
*Room and board cost \$3 per day at the Mountain House or Mansfield Inn as it was called by the Henry family, last to operate the Inn. Now a private home. Below, the tree-lined road looking west from Underhill Center. The three buildings shown are still standing; center one being the DeLaporte building which houses the Center post office.*







*The blacksmith shop of C.M. Howe which stood across from the present Town Hall. Stacked lumber conceals the Slater Mill shown below.*





*Three acres of logs ready to be made into lumber at Underhill Steam Mill in the Flats. Typical scene at a portable mill shown below, possibly a mill in Pleasant Valley.*







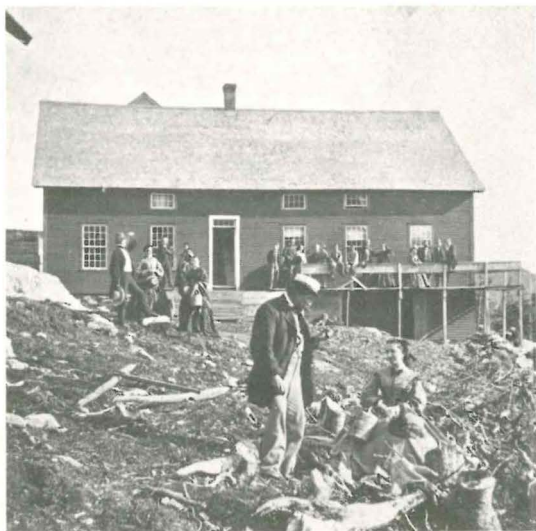
*Back in 1916 at a Labor Day celebration, the Fat Ladies challenged the Lean Ladies to a game of baseball. History does not tell us who won.*



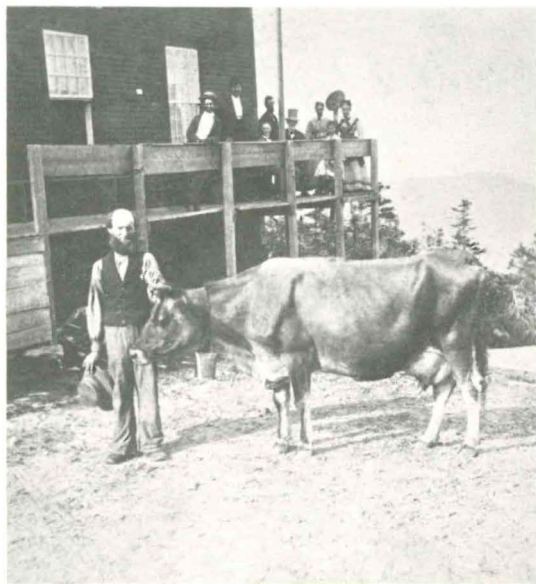




*Following the Shanley slide on the mountain (1887), four ladies bravely undertook to climb the gravelly slide with a man companion, Samuel Safford of Cambridge. The ladies were Mr. Safford's wife Ellen and three cousins from the West.*



*Visitors at the Summit House, on top of Vermont. Below, a view of the porch and the cow that provided milk for hungry guests.*





*The Halfway House as it looked about 1930. This was a famous landmark on the Underhill side of the mountain. Horses and buggies and later automobiles were left here while climbers made the ascent on foot. Below is the Summit House pictured shortly before it was burned down by the owners in the fall of 1964.*







*A typical sugar house where maple sap is boiled down to syrup and sugar. Underhill has always been noted for the perfection of its maple products, still made today (1976).*



*Collecting maple sap in the old way with oxen Sam and Dewey on the Ellsworth-Sage farm in Pleasant Valley.*



*Big snow in Pleasant Valley.*



*Underhill's meteor, rumored to have fallen in 1792 on what is known today as the Cook farm, northern end of Poker Hill Road.*



*Underhill's log cabin school on the Mountain Road near the Green Camp. The first teacher was 14-year-old Mary Breen. Below is the Irish Settlement School, one of the last four District Schools in use in this town. Given up in 1953.*

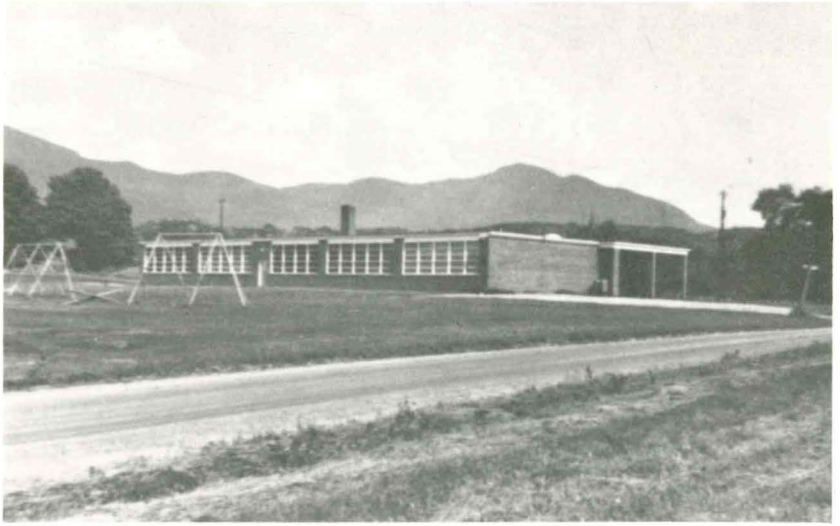




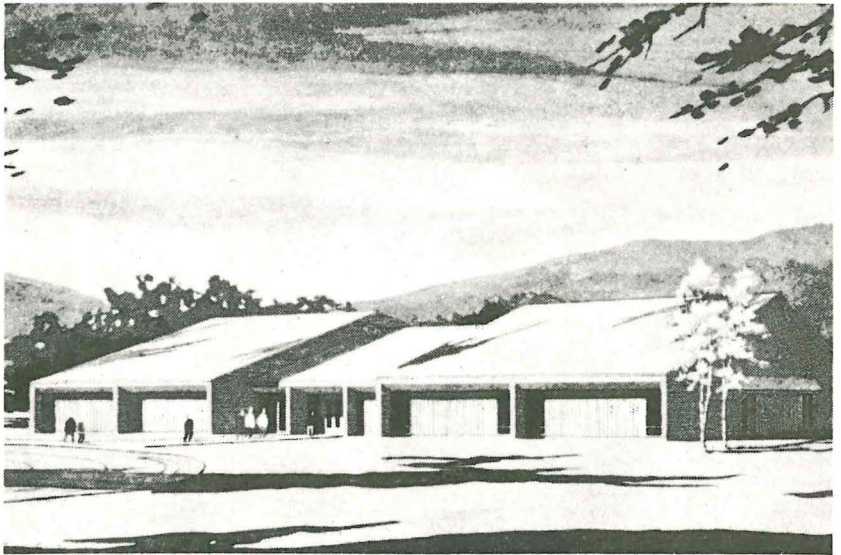


*The "Red Bridge" at the eastern end of the Center was destroyed by high water, probably in the Flood of 1927. Seen beyond the bridge is the old District No. 5 school when it had but one story. A second story was added about 1900. This building still stands but in a very dilapidated condition.*

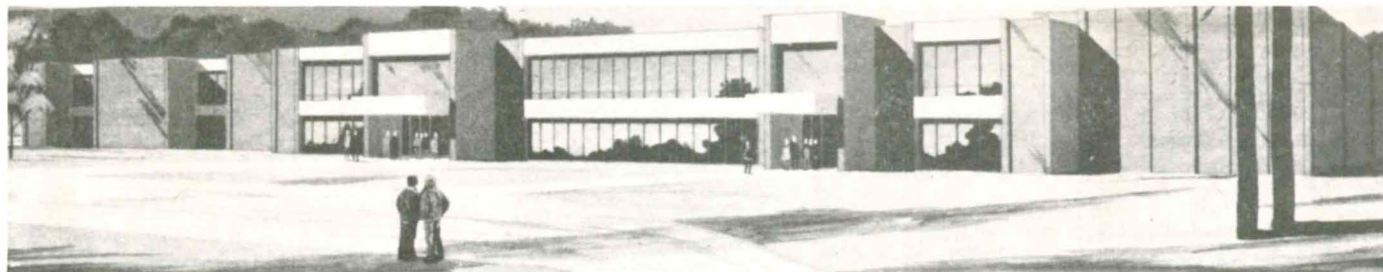




*Underhill Central School opened in 1953 and housed all elementary students except those in the I.D. This school replaced the last four district schools. At first it housed eight grades, now four.*



*New Incorporated District School*



*Browns River Middle Schol, top.  
Mt. Mansfield Union High School, bottom.*







*Green Mountain Service Station owned and operated by Martha Dain. Bolio's Texaco Station and Garage on Route 15, formerly Paul Ward's. At the bottom, Underhill Garage, Inc., Route 15.*





*Underhill-Jericho Volunteer Fire Station*



*Underhill Flats Post Office*



*Gertrude Hunt's Beauty Shop*



*Gifford's Funeral Service*



*Old Brick Store in the Flats*

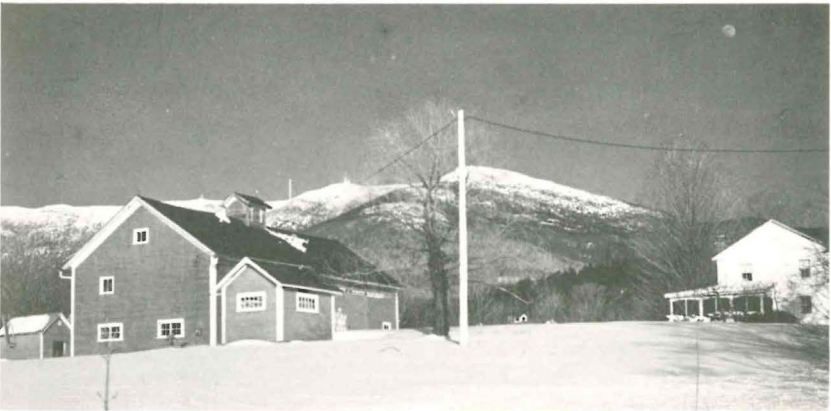


*Green Mountain Foam Co., former I.D. School*

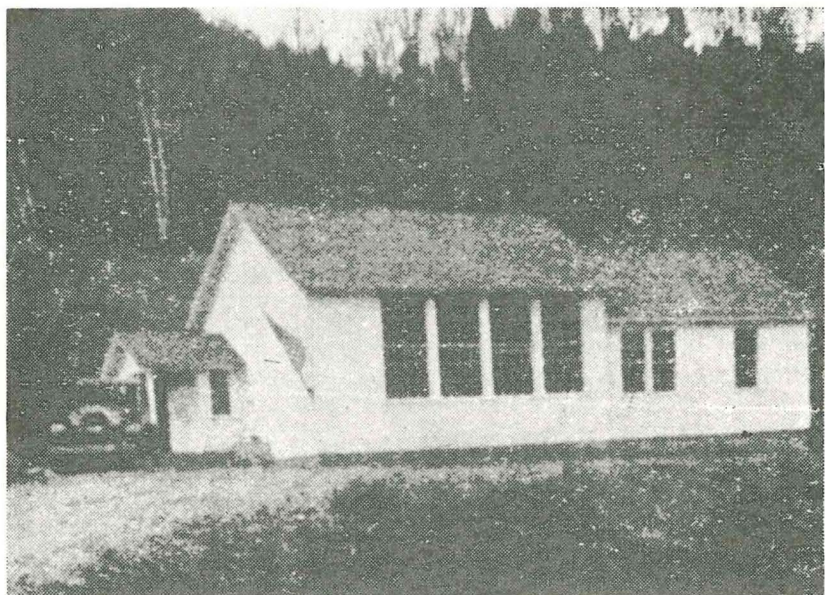




*Snow Bowl in sightly spot in foothills of Mt. Mansfield has fostered skiing since the 1930's. At first under ownership of Lawrence Egan in cooperation with Underhill Winter Sports Club; now owned by William and Emily Durbrow.*



*Winter in Stevensville (Roland Ellis home).*



*Creek School on Route 15.*



*Miss Elizabeth Barrett was school teacher at District No. 4 school, foot of English Settlement Road, when this picture was taken, about 1914. This building is now part of the residence of the Shelton family.*

## *MOUNTAINS, ETC.*

Dominating the town, as indeed the county and the entire north central part of the State, is Mt. Mansfield, highest peak in Vermont. This landmark lies north and south, and its crest forms roughly the eastern boundary of the town and county. The Chin, rising to a height of 4,393 feet above sea level, lies in Underhill, very close to the northeast corner of the town, while the Forehead and Nose are in the Town of Stowe.

South from Mt. Mansfield are the following landmarks, in order, north to south, all in Underhill; Mt. Dewey, Nebraska Notch, Mt. Clark, and Mt. Mayo. Mt. Mansfield, however, has always been "the mountain" to all within sight of its grandeur.

### *"The Mountain"*

Mt. Mansfield was named, many believe for its likeness to the profile of a sleeping giant. "Mansfield Mountain" was the common name a generation or two ago.

Albert D. Hager, a Vermont geologist, claimed that the mountain was named for the town which was so named to honor Solicitor General William Murray, Lord Mansfield, because he used his influence with the British authorities on behalf of the New Hampshire Grants. Another name, "Moze-o-de-be-wadso" was said to have been the Indian name for the "mountain with head like a moose."

The distance from Forehead to Chin is two miles. The Nose projects 400 feet above the upper lip to an elevation of 4,080 feet above sea level, while the Chin, the highest point in the State of Vermont, has an elevation of 4,393 feet.

The mountain was at one time beneath the sea and at another time, geologists say, it was much higher than it is today. Between the Nose and the Chin are drift scratches on the rock, and nearby lie the very boulders which made these scratches during glacial times.

Mounts Dewey and Clark were named for two distinguished Vermonters of Spanish American War fame, and Mt. Mayo for Admiral Mayo, a hero of World War I.



## *Nebraska Notch*

Nebraska Notch was named, according to legend, at the time when it was popular for young men to leave the farm and travel to the western territories. A young man, headed for the Notch from the Stowe side, when asked where he was going, said, "To Nebrasky." Ever since that time, the Notch has been called Nebraska. Whether this is the true reason for the name, no one is sure. There is also a section of Stowe called Nebraska.

The Notch forms a deep cleft through the Green Mountains between Mounts Dewey and Clark, and forms a natural route between Underhill and Stowe.

In the early days of settlement, perhaps as early as 1797, there was a road or trail which proved helpful to Stowe farmers taking their produce to Burlington markets. This route cut off 20 miles from the route by way of Waterbury.

The Notch road was said to have been used by stages which carried the mail. However, this has not been verified.

Almost at the height of land, in the heart of the Notch, beavers have dammed the rivers which flow both east and west from this elevation: Miller Brook to the east and Clay Brook westerly.

Early farmers of both towns drove their wagons into the Notch to load hay made from the luxuriant grasses growing where now the beavers have caused a small lake to form.

Here, also, used to be visible traces of the old corduroy road which traversed the meadow. To the west of this pond is a clearing where the Quinn Brothers camped in a shanty while they lumbered the area.

Sugar Loaf, a cone-shaped hill, sits squarely in the Notch. The famous ice cellars lie between Round Top and Sugar Loaf; great rocks lie tumbled every which way, forming caves which hold snow and ice far into the summer.

Names given by old timers to certain areas in the Notch are still in use: Polk Flat and Peter's Dump. The latter took its name from one Peter St. Jock who traveled through the Notch with his wagon carrying some corn for the Underhill grist mill and he took the opportunity to pick up some rum in the village. On his return trip, at a steep place on the road, horse and wagon pitched over the brink, killing the horse and dumping the wagon into a brook far below. Somehow, Peter survived and ever since this place has been known as Peter's Dump.

The old road continued down the east side toward Stowe, to Chase's Clearing and Lake Mansfield.

Located in the Notch is Taylor Lodge, a Green Mountain Club camp for those traveling the Long Trail.

The Mt. Mansfield Civic Club, seeking to put Underhill in the public eye, requested the Legislature of 1927 to authorize a survey of the Notch with

the idea of putting through a scenic road. Nothing came of it but from time to time interest in this project is renewed and once again we hear that some person or organization is trying to promote a road through the Notch.

### *The Summit House*

The Summit House, on top of Mt. Mansfield, was built in what was the old town of Mansfield.

According to Emily Flynn, Underhill teacher and historian, the House was once contested country with both Stowe and Underhill claiming it. The problem was solved by allowing a Stowe man to operate the hotel one year and an Underhill man the next.

This condition continued until much trouble was caused by hilarious young men getting hard liquor at the hotel and neither town having jurisdiction to stop the sale of it or punish the offenders.

According to Miss Flynn, Stowe sent surveyors to survey the line. The Summit House proved to be in Stowe, or so it was said.

The House was opened in 1858 and about 12 years before the carriage road up the Stowe side of the mountain was completed. All lumber for the building was carried up on the backs of Underhill men and their horses. The first structure measured 24 ft. by 40 ft. and several additions were made to the original building.

The large living room contained lounges and a stove in which there was always a fire going, even in summer. A table in the center had a Bible and a pack of cards on it. About 50 persons could be accommodated overnight. Food was good, thanks in part to a flock of hens kept on top of the mountain, and a cow tethered nearby. This building was burned by the owners in 1964.

### *Halfway House*

For almost a hundred years, the Halfway House was a landmark on the side of Mt. Mansfield. There is no Halfway House today, but its location still serves as a point of reference for those who would climb the mountain or locate a trail.

The first Halfway House was built on the mountain side probably about 1858 on the plateau at the 2,300 ft. elevation by a Mr. Gray and his son. This house burned in 1876. In 1878, Francis Cahill, an Underhill man, acquired the 52½ acre Halfway House property "along with the exclusive right and control of the mountain trail as it now runs for travel with saddle horses and mules to the top of the mountain."

Catering mainly to summer visitors, Cahill also provided room and board for loggers during winter months, according to Mike Harvey, an old

Underhill logger.

Dr. W.G.E. Flanders of Burlington obtained title to the property in 1924. He made improvements to a building then standing on the Halfway House site, and installed an electric light system. On a clear night when the lights were lit, the illumination on the mountain side could be seen in Burlington.

The Halfway House was still standing in the 1930's when Lawrence Egan owned the property. It was in bad shape and slowly being undermined by porcupines. It was leveled about 1939. This mountain lot, still privately owned, is surrounded by state-owned land.

From this place, hikers start out on the "Old Trail" or Flanders Trail, the Stevens Trail, Halfway House Trail and Sunset Ridge Trail. Men of the Civilian Conservation Corps did much work on the trails in the 1930's.

Another well-known landmark on the mountain is the so-called Green Camp, built on the site of the house of John McNulty. It suffered greatly in August 1955 when a cloudburst washed out a culvert above and re-routed Browns River directly through the camp.

Near the Green Camp site in 1830, men erected a log school house. The first teacher was Mary Breen, aged 14. This school, No. 15, was in use only a short time.

### *Green Mountain Club Trail*

"A footpath through the wilderness" is the poetic description of the Long Trail which follows the Green Mountains from the Massachusetts border to Canada. It was constructed in sections, completed in 1931 and is said to be the longest continuous foot path in the country with its 261 miles.

A large segment of the Long Trail lies in Underhill, covering the following points of interest: Mt. Mayo, Lake Mansfield (Stowe), Sugar Loaf, Nebraska Notch, Mt. Dewey, and the Nose and the Chin of Mt. Mansfield.

### *State Forest Lands*

Some 3,095 acres of the eastern part of Underhill, in what was formerly the town of Mansfield, are now designated as State Forest. Near the site of the old Halfway House, a recreational and camping area was developed about 1938 by the State Forest and Parks Department under Perry Merrill.

A good gravel road up the mountain leads to the campground from the Pleasant Valley Road. During the summer months, a caretaker lives in a snug little cottage and superintends the renting of the ten or more campsites.

From this point, one can proceed on foot or by jeep to a plateau a short distance above to what is still referred to as the Halfway House lot.



### *C.C.C. Camp*

The Civilian Conservation Corps men, while located in Underhill (1933-1942), had a camp on the Range Road. Each day the men were driven to the mountain side, where they worked on the mountain road or on the trails.

When the C.C.C. project closed soon after the onset of World War Two, the men were engaged in constructing a road southerly along the side of the mountain, with Nebraska Notch as the destination. This road was never completed.

### *Green Mountain Parkway*

During the depression year of 1935, the U.S. Government, in an effort to provide more employment, brought forth an idea which, if it had been carried out, might have resulted in shattering changes for Underhill, and other towns in the foothills of the Green Mountains.

Government officials proposed construction of a skyline drive along the crest of the Green Mountains with motor highway, bridle path and foot trail, all part of the master plan. The Government offered to spend \$18 million on the Drive and all Vermont had to do was to purchase the right of way along the route and then turn this property over to the Federal Government as a permanent national park.

It didn't sound like a bargain to suspicious Vermonters and it was voted down. It would have meant re-routing part of the Long Trail, and many Vermonters felt it would ruin forest and wildlife areas. When put to a vote in March 1936, the project was carried in only four of the 14 counties.

In Underhill, one of the towns which would have been most affected, the vote was 171 to 57 in favor.

### *The Range*

In 1926, the U.S. Government made arrangements to purchase from the State of Vermont 1,153 acres of Underhill land to be used as an artillery range in connection with Fort Ethan Allen. At the same time, the government purchased chunks of land in Bolton and Jericho, at the point where the three towns adjoin.

Thus a no-man's land known as the Underhill Artillery Range of approximately 4,600 acres, was created. Here, young artillery officers in the reserve from Norwich, Harvard, Yale, and other colleges came for summer training before World War II.

In about 1948, the U.S. Government purchased more acreage so that the total acres encompassed equalled about 6,000. Underhill has 3,292 acres engulfed in the Range.

In 1948 General Electric Co. of Burlington opened a missile and armament manufacturing plant in Burlington and made arrangements to use the Range for a test area. It is still being used for that purpose. Part of the land is used for summer training by the Vermont National Guard and the Guard has rebuilt many of the old roads which had been allowed to fall into disrepair.

In the Underhill part of the Range, old maps show five roads, lined with farms when the Government took over the land. Landowners were paid for their property, and when they moved off, the buildings were either leveled or sold and removed. The farms abandoned bore such names as Magraw, Agan, Burke, Reynolds, Breen, Bicknell, Leary, Burke, Story, Davis, Fuller, and Marlow.

A poignant paragraph appearing in Underhill land records refers to "an ancient monument of stone that marks the dividing lines between said towns of Underhill, Bolton and Jericho, that should forever be preserved and there should be an order of Court directing the plaintiff, the United States of America, not to disturb the same and reservation should be made to said towns to keep and maintain said ancient monument intact with a right to enter upon the premises at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner for that purpose, said towns, before entering upon the premises, first to give written notice thereof to the Commanding Officer at Fort Ethan Allen. Dated at Burlington, Vt. Dec. 31, A.D. 1928. Signed by William Cashmore, Jericho; Thomas McGuire, Underhill, and William Agan, Bolton."

On May 9, 1971, a group of people, obtaining permission, drove and walked to the area and located the marker where the three towns come together. The marker is merely a pointed rock set into the old stone wall, near the road, and difficult to find.

## EVENTS AND PEOPLE

### *Meteorite 1792*

Two men returning to Cambridge at night over the Hill Road were terrified by a brilliant light in the sky. The next day a large boulder, never before seen, was found on a hilltop east of the present Cook farm.

### *Shanley Slide*

June 3, 1887, started out like any other day but soon storm clouds were converging on the mountain from different directions.

Eugene Quinn and his brother Charles were logging on the mountain side when the skies opened up and the rain poured down; the men sought shelter under a bush.

"I thought I was going to drown," said Quinn to his son, Max, later, describing the intensity of the rain.

Suddenly the two men heard a terrible sound — the mountain was moving! A large part of the mountain side, loosened by the downpour, started to move faster and faster down into the basin formed by a spur extending westward from the Chin.

The slide tore loose huge trees 50 to 80 feet in length and up to three feet in diameter, together with rocks estimated to weigh up to 500 tons and all came sliding down the mountain. At the last minute the frightful avalanche split around a house occupied by Fred Shanley and his family. This house is the one now occupied by Towner Dean and his family as a summer home.

The torrent of water and uprooted trees and rocks rushed down into Pleasant Valley under the bridge. Mattie Ellsworth (Sage), a young lady of 13, helped the Cavanaugh children across the bridge, walking on the only part of the bridge that remained — the stringers. She returned safely and in an instant the rest of the bridge dropped into the river.

North of the bridge in the little settlement of Pleasant Valley at the fork in the road, the wildly-rushing river gouged out a much larger channel, undermining a building and cutting a ditch in back of the house at the corner.

Frightened people, lifting their eyes to the mountain, saw a fresh scar, two miles long, varying in width up to 600 feet. The scar is still visible today.

There was, in 1824, approximately, an equally disastrous slide on the mountain.



### *Cloudburst in 1892*

In mid-August 1892, a cloudburst loosed a chunk of earth and rock on the mountain leaving a scar about 40 rods wide by nearly a mile in length. Residents on University Hill in Burlington could see the path of the slide.

Oliver Papineau, whose house was near the Mountain Road, found a channel 10 to 12 feet deep and over 200 feet wide within 10 feet of his home.

Papineau's hog house was carried away, "The hog wearing a look of pained surprise," according to a newspaper account.

Delavan Terrill's mill at the Center had a quantity of lumber washed away.

The paper declared that this was the third great slide on the mountain.

### *Electrocution on the Mountain*

A mountain top is no place to be during an electrical storm. On Aug. 4, 1898, a two-seated surrey pulled by two horses made the trip up the mountain from Stowe, carrying four people. They stopped at the Summit House for lunch and then decided to walk to the Chin. Two storms appeared, one in front of them, and one behind. The clouds were so dense that at mid-day it seemed like night.

The four huddled under a shelving rock for protection. A bolt of lightning struck nearby, killing Edward Gomo of Essex and stunning the other three people, Mrs. Gomo, and Mr. and Mrs. Billings of Underhill.

### *Costly Fire*

On August 11, 1906, fire destroyed a large part of Underhill Flats Village. A kerosene stove in the Walter Grace home was blamed for the blaze which burned for two and a half hours and destroyed two homes, the Methodist Church, Drug Store and the Grange Hall.

There was no fire department at that time and citizens formed a bucket brigade.

The disaster might have been far worse, except that the men pulled down the horse sheds behind the Church, which kept the flames from spreading to two nearby homes and a store.

Several times the Congregational Church caught fire, but each time sparks were damped in time. Word was sent to Burlington, whose officials sent a fire truck via the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad. The run from Burlington to Underhill was made in 35 minutes. The train arrived at 1:30 p.m. with the steam engine pounding down the track, whistle blowing, and bells clanging, in an heroic effort to help the stricken town. Shortly after the engine arrived, rain started to fall and extinguished the flames.

## *Engine Buried in the Mud*

When Engine No. 328 of the Burlington and Lamoille Railroad went off the track and buried itself in the mud, there to remain until the following spring, it probably didn't actually rate as a disaster, but it was the subject of so much conversation, both then and now, that it might as well have been.

It was late in December, 1910. The "B and L" mixed train left Cambridge, headed south, but about two miles north of Underhill and in pre-dawn darkness, the engine nosed into a lake of ice not far from the present Sturtevant farm on Route 15. There had been a fall of snow, a thaw, and a freeze-up. Three inches of ice covered the track.

The engine and tender left the track. The cab caught fire but the flames were put out with only slight damage. The engineer, Henry Knox, however, was seriously hurt.

A wrecking train from St. Albans was brought in and cleared the track quickly, but the old engine, No. 328, was stuck in the mud and had to be left there all winter.

There are some who insist that the engine is still buried in the mud, but an old postcard picture of the muddied engine proves that it was disinterred eventually.

## *Flood of 1927*

Underhill did not escape unscathed from the "Big Flood" of 1927 which so ravaged the Winooski River Valley and many other river valleys of the state.

The main hardship here was the loss of mail service due to washouts on the "B and L" Railroad and the loss of the bridge at the foot of the Range Road.

The last regular mail was received Thursday morning. There was no afternoon mail. Friday, Nov. 4th, was the day that the state awoke to the magnitude of the disaster which had struck.

On Saturday, Nov. 5th, the assistant postmaster at Underhill Center made a trip to Burlington with his auto, taking mail from the Center, Flats, Riverside, Jericho, and picking up mail in Jericho, Essex Center and Essex Junction.

The Winooski River Valley was a scene of desolation. On Sunday, a truck was able to drive over Smuggler's Notch Road to Burlington.

The St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County Railroad was in hopeless condition. Hardwick mail to Jeffersonville was routed via Mt. Mansfield, carried by a star route contractor from Morrisville to Stowe. To add to the difficulty, the road through the Notch was practically all ice-covered. Yet the Notch Road was the only one that was passable for the first fleet of relief cars sent to Waterbury and vicinity.

## *Snow Buries Village*

Nobody who lived in Underhill the winter of 1939 and 1940 will forget the severe wind and snow storm that struck on a peaceful Sunday afternoon.

It was on January 18th that the wind started to blow and increased in volume as the day wore on, piling snow into ten-foot drifts across the roads. Underhill Center was literally buried in snow.

The town barn blew down and a tree fell on a house. On Pleasant Valley Road, a barn at the stone house collapsed.

In the Irish Settlement several houses lost chimneys and snow filled the road. Days later, one buried car was located by the tip of the radio antenna poking up through the drifts.

Emily Flynn, resolute teacher, snow-shoed over three miles to her classes at the Center School. On her return trip she stopped to "neighbor" with each family along the way. Her brother, alarmed at hearing no word from her since morning, collected a search party to look for her, which annoyed the veteran teacher somewhat.

Henry Cook of Underhill Star Route delivered the mail on foot with a knapsack on his back.

In the English Settlement, four farms reported roof damage. In School District No. 1, North Underhill, teacher Ella Covey struggled through the snow to school, but found no pupils there.

But the scariest place of all was at the C.C.C. camp on the Range Road where, confined in their wooden barracks during the storm, the men had to put out their stove fires when wind racked the buildings and lifted the roofs high enough to dislodge the stove pipes. The big winds buckled the walls by as much as three inches and snow seeped into the buildings.

Yet the entire C.C.C. camp turned out to help the stricken village. By Wednesday men were still working and clearing the roads of the huge drifts.

Farmers took their milk out on hand sleds. Father Michael Costello volunteered to help with the milk detail and also offered to bring in a doctor somehow if he were needed.

Older inhabitants declared this storm the worst winter storm in their memory.



## *Jet Plane Crash*

The peace of a fall afternoon in Underhill was blasted October 31, 1956 when a jet plane based at Ethan Allen Air Base crashed in a hillside pasture not far from the house now occupied by Henry and Kate Schaub. The area is reached by the steep road leading up from the River Road to the old Bapp place in the English Settlement.

Luckily the plane did not strike the Schaub home, which was occupied at the time by the Strommes. Mrs. Stromme heard the loud roar of the hurtling jet and thought it was going to hit the house. Instead, it slammed into the ground only a short distance away.

A neighbor called the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department and the Air Force also sent fire-fighting equipment.

It was the local firemen, however, who were the real heroes of the day. They stayed on the scene fighting the blaze even though they suspected the plane had live ammunition aboard.

The pilot parachuted to safety and lived to fly another day.

## *Hurricane "Diane"*

A cloudburst on the mountain Aug. 17, 1955 was blamed on Hurricane Diane, which had already caused great damage in southern New England before slamming into Vermont.

The mountain took the brunt of the cloudburst. From his home in Stevensville, George Meech could see water streaming over the rocks that make up the bony forehead of Mansfield.

Swollen mountain brooks feeding into Browns River in minutes raised that ordinarily quiet river to flood stage and higher. A dirty, roily Browns River gouged out roads on the mountain and in Stevensville. The raging river took out four bridges, gushed over Route 15 at Riverside, and raced onward to Essex and Westford.

A New York couple who were staying at the mountain camp area had an experience they will never forget. Sheets of water washed down the mountain side, taking roads and bridge abutments and forming new ravines. The worst thing, they said, was the terrible noise of the grinding and crashing of boulders and big trees. Although they were safe at the camp site, they decided to walk out that night with the warden, leaving their car.

When the town assessed the damage of this storm, it found four bridges destroyed: one on the Mountain Road, one in Stevensville, one on Crane Brook near the Central School, and the one at the easternmost end of the Village of Underhill Center.

Two men making their way home from Burlington, arriving on the site where a bridge had been and finding it gone, removed their shoes, waded

through the swollen river, replaced their shoes and walked miles to their homes that night.

Stevensville was cut off from the rest of the world; the Irish Settlement and Pleasant Valley areas could be reached only by driving south out of Cambridge.

The Forbes family, an elderly couple living in the Center in the house near the Browns River Bridge, refused to leave their home, even though water was swirling around the foundation and the front porch was awash. Bob Bolio and Bob Russell in a rowboat tried to take them to safety but they refused to leave their home.

It was two weeks before things returned to normal. One of the first repair jobs was to put the badly-gutted Sand Hill Road back into shape and divert Pleasant Valley traffic through the Irish Settlement. Next the road crew replaced the culvert on Crane Brook and put in a temporary bridge to replace the demolished Center bridge. Finally came the work on the Stevensville and Mountain Roads and bridges with the State Highway Department helping.

It was several weeks before the New York couple could retrieve their car from the mountain campground and it was a costly disaster for the town.

## UNDERHILL'S WAYS

Underhill's way of doing things was not always peculiar to Underhill. Many customs which seem odd today were common to many early settlements.

### *Warned Out Of Town*

Frequently found in early records are notices that certain persons were warned to leave town. This meant that the town officers, fearing that these people might at some future time become town charges, or in the old parlance, "come on the town," by "warning them out" neatly rid the town of the obligation of their support. Those warned out didn't even have to leave town!

In 1844, Burlington's overseer wrote stating that if Underhill would put up the sum of \$15 then Burlington would do likewise "to procure a passage for old Owen L. to Ireland where he wishes to lay his bones or he will be upon the town for the remainder of his days."

### *Paupers Bid Off*

In Underhill, as in many other towns, paupers were put up for bid (as late as 1843) and the lowest bidder took the pauper into his home, fed and housed him and got as much work out of him as he could.

Year after year, the same names appeared. Betsy B., for example, was bid off many times from 1814 to 1825 at different rates.

Doctoring the poor was also up for bids and at a town meeting of 1843 it was voted to pay Samuel Quincy \$14.75 for doctoring the town poor. There is no mention of Quincy being a doctor.

### *Apprentices*

A father apprenticed his son so that the boy could learn a trade. Terms of the arrangement were often severe. Some employers undoubtedly were harsh to the youngsters, who were virtually their slaves until they reached the age of 21.

Matthew Brewin, guardian to Barnard Brewin, placed him with Owen Marlow Jr. when Barnard was 15 years old (March 1858) "as a servant to Owen to dwell with and serve the said Owen as a servant or laborer on the



farm from the day of date hereof until 30 June 1864 at which time the said Barnard if he be living will be 21 during which time he shall not absent himself from the service of the said Owen, but shall in all things behave himself as a good and faithful servant ought. And the said Owen agrees to furnish said Barnard suitable food and clothing, that he will take suitable care of all his wants and necessities in sickness and in health — that he will send the said Barnard to District School three months each winter excepting the last before he arrives at age of 21 years and at expiration of said term of service the said Marlow is to pay the said Barnard \$150 and to furnish him with two good suits of clothes, one suitable for common wear and one handsome suit."

Simeon Mead worked for four years as an apprentice learning the tanner's trade. The first year at age 17, he worked for \$15 a year and his keep; \$20 for the second year; \$25 for the third and \$45 for the fourth and final year.

At the end of each year his father came and collected the wages from the employer to help out on the family expenses. At the end of seven years (1841) Simeon returned to Underhill and set himself up as a tanner at the foot of Poker Hill.

### *Inventories*

Inventories of a man's personal property, compiled after his death, indicated whether a man was well to do or not and enables a reader to draw a picture of life as it was lived in the early days, from the lists of house furnishings, clothing and farm tools.

Stephen Burbank, who died in 1810, evidently was a man of property judging by the following list of household goods and clothing listed in his estate:

Home farm, all except what William Cilley has taken by Execution, \$800; chintz gown, 2.00; tea kittle [sic] 1.00; tin stove, .75; brown bed quilt, 1.50; barrel with some pork in it, 2.50; barrel with some beef, 2.50; potash kittle[sic], 5.00; 10 pounds flax brook (broke?) out, 1.25; potatoes and turnips, 3.00; fall leaf table, 2.00; fall leaf table, 3.50; low chest drawers, 2.00; pine table, .50; six Windsor chairs, 3.00; 8 common chairs, .96; 6 sheets, 6.00; pr. black pantaloons, 2.00; callico [sic] bed quilt, 3.00; felt hat, 1.67; pewter tea pot, 1.33; feather bed and pillows, 10.00; bed stead, 1.00; high chest drawers, 5.00; silk gown, 6.00; checked apron, .75; blue bed quilt, 2.50; rose cover-lid [sic], 2.50; feather bed, 7.00; woolen sheat [sic], 1.00.

Calf skin, 2.00; large trunk, 4.11; 9 table plates, .75; 6 large green-edged plates, .50; 2 bu. rye, 2.00; 2 bu. Indian meal, 1.00; 27 sapbuckets, 2.25; grindstone, 2.50; 2 old fry pans, .50; fire shovel and tongs, 1.00; pail pot, 1.00; small pail pot, .75.

Cow, 16; 3 sheap [sic], 4.00; potash kittle [sic], 5.00; 19 buckets, 1.58; pig, 1.50; 2 dung forks, 1.17; bedsted [sic], 5.00; and cord, 1.00; yearling heifer, 7.50; old cart, 5.50; horse collar, 1.00.

In contrast, James O'Brien's personal property listed on the 20th day of May, 1812, carried only the following items: one great wheel, \*2.00; one clock berl (burl?), .75; two chairs, .40; one pail pot, .75; one long tramel (trammel?), .50.

### *Cauldron Kettles*

Iron kettles were a prized possession and highly valued. Many stories are told of the hardships involved in transporting these heavy kettles to new homes in the wilderness.

In Underhill, they were considered valuable enough to be listed as part of a man's wealth even as late as 1925.

Old iron kettles were used for making potash, boiling maple sap, boiling out the family wash, making soap, boiling swill for hogs, and of great importance at slaughtering time.

Potash kettles weighed as much as 500 pounds and a Jericho blacksmith made a potash kettle weighing over 700 pounds.

### *Security for the Aged*

Some old folks, to guarantee to themselves care and companionship in their old age, deeded their property with written provisions that they were to be looked after adequately for the remainder of their lives.

Mary S. Sheldon in 1891 when she was 85 years of age, deeded over her property to E.R. Brush her pension and household effects except one bureau, one bed and bedding, on condition that E.R. Brush is to provide and maintain in proper manner the said Mary B. Sheldon for during the period of her natural life and furnish her with Christian burial. Mary was the daughter of Caleb Sheldon, one of the first settlers of Underhill. She lived to be 86.

In a similar deed, Robert Prior acquired title to his parents' property with certain provisions: He was to provide care for them (Heman and Submit Prior) and likewise agree to pay his three oldest brothers Heman, Ebenezer and Levi \$50 each, said sums to be paid by Jan. 1, 1842. Likewise he agreed to pay his three younger brothers, Luther, Philip, Leonard and sister Rhoda \$100, i.e., \$50 to each as they became of age and the other \$50 to be paid by Jan. 1, 1842.

In 1883, Patrick Farrell deeded to his son Phillip, the farm property on the Poker Hill Road, "said Phillip is to furnish said Patrick his room, bed,

bedding, washing done, food provided, said Patrick to have privilege of planting one bushel of potatoes every year, also to have one tub of maple sugar of 20 lbs., said Patrick may have grapes planted — said Patrick to pay his own doctor's bills and medicines."

### *Dividing the Farm*

In March, 1849, Hannah Howe of Underhill divided her farm with Stephen Hale of Jericho, the farm "where Hannah now lives and on which she has a life lease of one third — to use the door yard in common — further agreed that Stephen may occupy the north half of the cellar and all the house except the west room and bedroom — the west end of the chamber to center of chimney, also one equal undivided half of kitchen on north side of house except the ash oven which is to be used by said Hannah." Hannah was 77 at the time of drawing up this remarkable paper. She lived to be 92.

### *Crop Marks*

Underhill, like many towns, allowed cattle and sheep to roam at large pretty much where they pleased in the very early days of the settlement. Animals had ears cropped, each man having his own crop mark for identification.

In Volume 1, Town Records, all these crop marks are listed to the man who owned the mark. After a man's death, his earmark was taken over by another farmer. Some of these crop marks were: slit under side of each ear, two slits right ear, square crop and halfpenny on right ear, two half pennies underside left ear, two holes right ear and swallow tail on left ear.

### *Marking Logs*

Log marks were sometimes used. In 1921 we find where a Burlington man recorded the mark he was putting on each log cut on his Underhill property (P.H. Robertson), probably for identification when his logs reached the mill.

### *Celebrating the Fourth*

Celebrating the Fourth of July was customary in the days when there was not much day-to-day excitement, so that fireworks, orations, games, a parade and a concert meant a day of fun for the entire family.

The celebration reached a glorious height in the 1880's. The following paragraphs are quoted from a Burlington paper of July 7, 1883.

"The booming of cannon brought hundreds of our citizens as well as those of adjoining towns, to celebrate with us Independence Day in a



manner creditable to the people and appropriate to the occasion.

"Arrangements were made to enjoy the day in a beautiful grove at the skirt of the village (Underhill Centre) but on account of the morning showers, the assembly repaired to the church for their literary entertainment.

"Mr. D.G. French, president of the day, took the chair at 10:30 with Mr. D.J. Foster of Burlington, orator of the day at his right.

"The exercises were opened by words of greeting from the chair followed by the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Mr. Frank Jackson. Then came an able and appropriate address by Mr. Foster.

"After the address, Mr. George Dunton, marshal of the day, formed a line of march headed by the veterans' drum corps of Underhill, followed by Post No. 10, G.A.R. of Cambridge who were welcome guests and added brilliancy to the occasion by their martial step, beautiful dress, and flaunting flag, next came the distinguished guests and citizens.

"This column was conducted to a large and commodious building where the ladies of the Methodist and Baptist churches had prepared a bountiful feast to cheer the heart of man and procure means to repair their church.

"But the scenes of festivity were not complete until a series of appropriate toasts were ably and wittily responded to by the Messrs. Parker and Morse of Cambridge, Captain Monahan, Rev. C.E. Scott, E.C. Lane, D. Tillotson, F. Jackson and D. Mead.

"The order of march was then resumed to escort the president of the day to the hotel where he disbanded the company by a hearty speech full of thanks and good cheer.

"Immediately there was seen a procession of the most horrible horrors that ever haunted our streets.

"The fireworks in the evening opened with such wonderful brilliance that it was necessarily brief, lasting less than two minutes. For, as the first rocket was being fired, sparks fell into the box containing the stores and all exploded at once, filling the air with squibs and colored lights and Roman candles and fire rockets and frightened boys, but fortunately none were seriously injured.

"Then all was over save the lightning-glare of a mountain storm and the peals from the battlements of the sky, which closed a worthy and appropriate celebration of another anniversary of our National liberty."

Mary Esther Hayden, writing in the Suburban List of July 1959, had this to say about Underhill's old cannon.

"What has become of it? Doubtless somebody knows but its deep bass voice has not spoken for a number of years — although for many decades after the Civil War it was a normal part of the holiday proceedings around here.

"Many generations of boys apparently used to get their 'kicks' by ferreting it out of its hiding place in somebody's barn, dragging it under

cover of darkness to the top of a certain hill, whence it punctuated the dawn with its heavy old voice and thus ushered in the Glorious Fourth. That cannon was as revered as any other veteran surviving the conflict.

"To cart that old cannon around must have absorbed a lot of the excess energy of the young men who participated in the annual struggle, giving them a sense of achievement in mischief.

"The trick seemed to be for a certain group to hide it in order that others might have the trouble of detective work to discover its whereabouts.

"That was fully as important as making it speak its annual piece at dawn. I never heard that it did anybody any harm."

### *Crystal Palace*

Will Naramore and his wife Madine at one time owned and operated a store at the Flats. He suffered financial reverses and was threatened with the loss of his home. His friends and neighbors turned out and built him a house in the woods on the Clark lot. This was known as the Crystal Palace, presumably in honor of the building of like name built in England in 1851. This story was told by Joseph Metcalf.

### *A Bargain*

Isaac Bourn, who lived in the house now owned by the Osgoods, next to Browns River bridge in the Center, bought the 100-acre lot No. 55 in the first division, encompassing most of Underhill Center village at a tax sale, for \$3.00 in January of 1822.

### *Deer Extinct*

It may come as a surprise that during the middle part of the last century, deer had become very scarce in this area. The Burlington Daily Times of Oct. 18, 1865 reported that R. Reynolds of Underhill shot a 180-lb. buck that came out of the woods into his mowing where he had young cattle.

"We believe that no one has, for years, suspected the existence of a deer in Underhill, and Mr. Reynolds is unusually fortunate in killing what has been regarded as an extinct animal in these parts."

## INTERESTING PEOPLE

### *Udney Hay*

Udney Hay was one of the few early land speculators to actually live here, though not one of the original proprietors. Born in Scotland in 1739, he established a good lumber trade in Quebec, but gave it up because his sympathies were with the American colonists.

During the Revolution, he was deputy commissary general for the Northern Department of the Continental Army and was a member of George Washington's personal staff, and a confidant of Ethan and Ira Allen.

He came to Underhill about 1796, having already purchased hundreds of acres of land here and in Westford.

He served the town and state in various capacities. He represented Underhill in the State Legislature and was named to the Council of Censors in 1806. This was a group empowered to order a convention to recommend changes in Vermont's Constitution.

He died in Burlington on Sept. 6, 1806, and was buried in this town.

It is this writer's belief that Udney Hay and his wife were laid to rest in an early cemetery on the Hay farm, Poker Hill Road. This property was later owned by the Jackson family (now Francis Russin family). According to Joseph Metcalf, Mrs. Jackson plowed up the old cemetery which contained eight or nine graves. When Bernard Ward, in 1812, gave a plot of land for the North Underhill Cemetery (the present location), it is possible that the Hay graves were moved to the newer Cemetery.

A new regulation marble stone now marks the spot in the Cemetery where Udney's bones are believed to be. A proper ceremony on Aug. 14, 1966 was held at the dedication of the new stone, procured by the Underhill-Jericho Post No. 22, American Legion.



### *William C. Bailey*

William C. Bailey, retired Underhill farmer, became something of a celebrity after reaching the age of 79 when he took up bicycle riding for his health.

In 1937 he pedaled to Chicago to visit a granddaughter, a distance of 2,500 miles averaging 50 miles per day. On his return from Chicago, he was escorted into Underhill by the fire department and a number of automobiles, with the fire siren blaring a welcome. The Mansfield Grange and Mansfield Women's Club gave him a public reception.

In 1938, as a guest of Gabriel Heater, he was heard on a CBS radio network program, making the trip to New York on his bicycle, a girl's machine which he preferred. It had been a gift of a Chicago manufacturer. In a small box attached to the back of the seat were his possessions.

On October 26, 1939, while pedaling from Underhill to Cambridge, he was thrown to the pavement when the front wheel brake locked and bicyclist William C. Bailey died, just one month short of reaching his 87th birthday. He is buried in Underhill Flats Cemetery.

### *Emily Flynn*

Emily Flynn, born in Underhill June 20, 1889 and died March 9, 1968, spent virtually her entire life teaching in the District Schools. She was a descendant of an early settler in the Irish Settlement and one of 13 children born to William and Joanna (Shanley) Flynn. Three of the daughters of the family taught school. Emily taught in School Districts No. 5, 12 and 14.

Long interested in Underhill history, Emily had compiled much information before she died.

In May, 1959, retiring from teaching after 50 years, she was guest of honor at a reception attended by most of Underhill Center, young and old. Among those present were hundreds of former scholars. She was a stern disciplinarian, but her pupils profited by this and remembered her as a dominant figure in their growing-up years.

She was the last but one of her large family.

### *Edwin W. Henry*

"Ed" Henry, as he was generally known, was town treasurer from 1899 until his death in 1938. About 14 years of this period, he was also town clerk (1923-1937). After his death, his daughter, Luella Henry Lamphere, became town clerk and served until 1958.

Born in Underhill Center, 1866, Mr. Henry lived all his life in that community. He represented the town in the state legislature in 1904 and served as county senator in 1912.

He was an indefatigable supporter of the town and with other members of the Underhill Civic Club, tried to interest the state in constructing a road through Nebraska Notch. In the late 1920's this group favored the purchase of lands by the U.S. Government for an Artillery Range, thinking this would be a boon for the town.

### *Gene Kirkland*

Gene Kirkland may have been a recluse with a tendency to avoid the company of people, but he loved wild animals and they returned his affection.

Gene worked in lumbering all his life and made his living by cutting a cord of wood a day and doing odd jobs. He lived for a time in Stevensville near Miss Patterson's summer home and also on the Mountain Road near the Green Camp while he did some logging for Ralph Burns.

Several times a week he walked down the Mountain Road, leaving his lantern in Lawrence Casey's gravel pit and went to the village store to buy food. He loaded his canvas bag with loaves of bread and other treats for his animal friends. Cats, raccoons, skunks and even a bobcat were welcome in his shack. The bobcat he had raised from a kitten after its mother was caught in a trap.

At the time of his death he occupied a small shack on the Irish Settlement Road near the little brook that feeds into Crane Brook. He sometimes asked to have groceries left for him at the side of the road. One bitter cold day, a neighbor noticed that the groceries had been left untouched for over 24 hours and, upon investigation, he found Gene burned to death in his shack.

Though he was a veteran of World War One, he had refused to draw a government pension or old age pension until about a year before his death, which occurred when he was 75.

### *A Hardy Race*

The Irish were a sturdy lot. When Thomas Gill, born in Ireland, died in Underhill April of 1873, aged 102, it was written in the town records after cause of death: "none what ever."

### *An Unusual Family*

An extraordinarily tall family lived on the Pleasant Valley Road. Hiram Bogue and his wife Octavia (Morway) Bogue moved here from Enosburg. The couple had 10 children, all of unusual height.

Hiram, the father, was seven feet tall; his six sons were all over six feet; Max, the oldest, was seven feet two inches; other six-foot-plus sons were Leland, Alvin, Howard, Homer, and Arthur. Three daughters, Ida, Anna, and Glenna, were all tall also.

## ORGANIZATIONS — PRESENT AND PAST

### *Present*

Bicentennial Committee: Formed in 1973: sponsored various money-making activities, planned activities for July 4, 1975 and 1976; spearheaded publishing of *Underhill History*, in cooperation with the Underhill Historical Society.

Hanaford Volunteers: a fife and drum corps, outgrowth of Bicentennial Committee, named for Nathaniel M. Hanaford, a fifer in the War of 1812.

Underhill Historical Society: Formed in 1967 for the purpose of preserving and renovating the Town Hall; sponsors money-making projects including a profitable auction each year.

American Legion Post and Auxiliary No. 22: organized 1919.

Community Club: formed 1932, renovated Town Hall, sponsored many community endeavors including installation of street lights, signs for town roads, sponsored youngsters for Boys' and Girls' State.

Senior Citizens: a group comprised of Jericho and Underhill older residents who meet for recreation and worthwhile projects.

Proctor Research Farm: since about 1944, operated by the University of Vermont; sponsors research concerning all aspects of maple sugar and syrup making, propagation of maple seedlings toward procurement of sweeter sap.

Maple Leaf Farm Assoc.: incorporated 1956, for promotion of the cause of temperance and to provide a place where individuals with alcoholic problems can find rest, recuperation and health at minimum expense.

Jaycees, Jericho-Underhill, formed 1968.

Snowmobile Club.

Rod and Gun Club formed about 1960: maintains its own shooting range.

4-H Clubs for boys and girls.

Mansfield Women's Club (1920-1975): carried out many worthwhile projects, including sprucing up the park in the Flats, sponsored Waters Library.

Jeri-Hill Home Demonstration Club.

Seed and Weed, a garden club.

Little League Baseball.

Babe Ruth League.



## *Past*

Underhill Civic Club, organized to promote Underhill, 1927.

Knights of Pythias, Minerva Lodge.

Mt. Mansfield Grange.

Winter Sports Club; functioned late 1930's to mid-1940's.

Grand Army of the Republic, Lucius Bostwick Post, organized 1883 with 61 members; built GAR Hall with most of labor and materials furnished by veterans; monument in Park erected in 1939 to honor Civil War veterans.

Women's Relief Corps, associated with GAR Post.

Catholic Order of Foresters.

Modern Woodmen of America.

Village Improvement Society in the Flats.

Bright Light Club in the Center.

Farm Bureau.

Red Cross.

## UNDERHILL TODAY

Underhill has undergone relentless change during the past generation. No longer is Underhill mainly a town of dairy farms, big and small, a quiet little country town nestled under the slopes of the highest mountain in the State.

It is becoming increasingly a town of summer homes and camps and residences for those who work in other communities.

From a town of approximately 100 farms 75 years ago, there are now in 1976 four dairy farms. One man, now in his 70's, remembers when there were 20 farms in the Stevensville area alone. Now there are none.

Young people 100 years ago remained at home to help their parents, at least until their marriage. In recent years, more and more sought their fortunes in larger communities. The old folks were left on the farm with only the younger children for help. The small self-reliant farmer is a vanishing aspect of the Vermont scene, victim of ever stricter regulations imposed on dairy farms and lack of dependable help.

This is typical not only of this area but in all Vermont, and probably in the country as a whole.

No longer does the average family raise most of its own fruit and vegetables, have a dairy herd, and a flock of chickens, raise a beef critter and fatten up a couple of hogs for the family's winter meat. One hundred years ago, farm produce which they didn't need themselves, they traded for tea, coffee, flour, tobacco, cloth or shoes at the village store.

A hundred and fifty years ago, the women of the family spun the yarn and wove the cloth of which the family clothing was made. All this at home.

Even the littlest child, boys and girls both, learned at an early age to knit and turned out socks and mittens at a rapid rate.

One country custom still prevails to a limited extent: "You help me with my haying and I'll help you with your sugaring." Services are still traded in this way and garden equipment may be owned jointly.

Today there are few persons who produce maple sugar and syrup. The sugar woods were largely cut off years ago. (\$3.50 per tree in 1927.) There was more money to be made selling the centuries-old maples to a lumber dealer or logger than could be made from maple syrup and sugar. And, too, selling the maples helped many a farmer pay off the mortgage which had become a heavy burden.

All these changes have not taken place without some benefits. With the conversion of rocky sidehill pastures and upland meadows to homesites,

the town has been compelled to improve some of its old roads which have had little use for many years.

A century ago, there were nine settlements dotting the Underhill countryside, eleven if you count Cloverdale, partly in Westford, and Pleasant Valley, of which Cambridge claims the greater share.

Today, most of the business of the town is transacted along Route 15 and Park Street in Underhill Flats, a name which isn't appreciated by those who live there, but it has a history of long use.

Underhill, located in the northeast corner of Chittenden County, 17 miles from Lake Champlain, with no navigable river, no airport, no railroad nor bus line, at a considerable distance from the new Interstate Highway, is a town not likely to attract industry, except the small, home-centered type of business.

Underhill valleys and hillsides will, in all probability, never see a revival of dairy farming, lumbering or sheep raising as was known 50, 75, or 100 years ago.

The U.S. Government has taken a big bite of the town for the Artillery Range; the State has taken another sizeable chunk for the State Forest and Park; the University of Vermont owns several hundred acres, both on the crest of Mt. Mansfield and for its Proctor Maple Research Farm in Pleasant Valley.

These many thousands of acres today are non-taxable and in effect are lost to the town, perhaps forever, as far as revenue goes except for a proportional share of the lumber cut on state-owned land plus a very small property tax paid by the state.

In effect, Underhill has seen many thousands of acres slip out of its control.

In spite of these negative factors, the general picture is one of optimism. Enterprising young families are moving into town due largely to the ever-expanding International Business Machines plant in nearby Essex Junction. The number of new year-round homes built each year is now over 20. The population trend is definitely upward after years of remaining at about the same figure.

A Union High School with Jericho and three other neighboring towns opened in 1967.

Underhill people aware of the changing use of land and seeing a need for protection against undesirable land uses, authorized the formation of a zoning commission and in 1963 at March meeting, voters approved a proposed zoning ordinance. This ordinance has not been without opposition; however, it continues to serve the people of this town well.

In its preamble it states that its purpose is to: "Promote the health, safety and general welfare of all the inhabitants of the Town of Underhill, to protect and conserve the values of property, to secure the safety from fire,



congestion or confusion . . . in accordance with Vermont Statutes."

In this, it has succeeded well.

Underhill also has a planning commission to study the best use of the town's natural assets and it is part of an area planning study.

In a recently prepared "Comprehensive Plan for Underhill," the Planning Commission states:

"Planning must provide for future town needs in the areas of education, recreation, and public facilities. It is essential that future building conform to the basic requirements of underlying terrain and soil characteristics, for the sake of the health of the community, as well as its natural beauty."

And further: "The most attractive aspects of Underhill are its beautiful natural setting and rural character and that, according to the opinion survey of residents and property owners, these characteristics must be preserved as much as possible in the future."

## POEMS

### MOUNT MANSFIELD

*I look o'er intervening miles  
Of valleys, hills, and fertile land  
To where in its majestic pride  
Our loved Mount Mansfield stands*

*Outlined against the sky at dawn,  
Purpled at eve by sunset's glow,  
Dark 'neath the storm cloud's angry frown  
Or white with the winter's snow.*

*I love the grand old mountain  
In all its varied moods,  
Its streams of crystal waters  
And green, rock-studded woods.*

*Gleaning morning light from the East,  
Sunset rays from the West,  
It guards the peaceful vales that lie  
In the shadow of its crest.*

*Gone out from the sheltered valley,  
I stand at the Western gate  
And look back to the distant mountain—  
Pride of our Vert Mont state.*

—M. Laura Leddy  
Born Underhill Ctr. 1881  
Died 1965

## STONE WALLS

*As I sit  
in the speeding train,  
looking from the window  
I see  
running along beside the track  
miles and miles of  
stone walls.  
Some are tumbling down,  
some still firm and intact.  
Up hill and down  
they go,  
curving here and there,  
sometimes running off to meet  
other stone walls,  
across where once were fields  
rich with harvest,  
now over-grown with trees  
and brush wood.  
Sometimes there are double rows  
of stone walls,  
making lanes, where cows  
were driven to pasture  
for the day's feeding  
and back at night for the milking.  
As I watch them,  
I like to visualize the men  
who built those  
stone walls:  
Young men and strong,  
old men, bearded and grey,  
barefoot boys with their dogs  
at their heels.  
All are long since gone . . .  
There is nothing left  
to tell  
of those forgotten days  
but miles and miles of silent  
stone walls.  
For those men of the aching backs  
and bruised hands  
I breathe a fervent prayer.*

—M. Laura Leddy  
Born Underhill Ctr. in 1881  
Died 1965



*Gaius Naramore, born Oct. 19, 1833, son of Hawley and Fannie Naramore. The Naramore home was on Poker Hill Road about two miles south of the Cambridge line. "Gay" attended the Green Mountain Academy. He wrote many poems and essays in the form of letters to "Dear Don."*

*THE BIRGE HOUSE  
Underhill, Vermont*

*It is night and I am sitting  
In a Hall of old renown,  
In the crag-embattled turret  
Of a rough old mountain town,  
Looking out upon the forests  
As the drowsy moon goes down  
And the world grows hushed and awe-struck  
'Neath the shadows' ghastly frown.*

first of four verses

*MANSFIELD*

*It was midnight by the shadows  
That o'er Brown's wild fountains lie,  
As we climbed the Mansfield mountains  
Where they throne the deepest sky.*

*O, the rapture of that moment,  
When we crowned the rock-built fane,  
And looked down upon the lifeless  
Shores and waves of Lake Champlain.*

*Then the past came up before us,  
All the varied scenes of years,  
All our boyish sports together,  
All our frolics, all our tears,—*

*All our Burnside, moonlight rambles  
Where the Brown's wild waters fly,  
All our bright plans for the future,  
Friendships that could never die!*

4 of 6 verses

## DECEMBER AT UNDERHILL

*Sadder and sadder the sad hours grow,  
Fiercer and Fiercer the frost-winds blow,  
Deeper and deeper the dark nights flow  
Over the pulseless world below;  
And pallid spectres do ever go  
Through the shades, singing wild songs of woe,  
As they sow;  
And their pitiless laughter is oft heard — ah wo!  
And all through the long nights they hasten, we know,  
To scatter their storm-seed of hail and snow!*

*And still nights grow longer and deeper starred,  
And longer old Mansfield's shadows are cast;  
Later and later the sun is barred,  
Till morning's smiles are all o'ercast;  
And then, in a veil of frost and hail —  
Say dear Don, must it not be drear  
To watch the very sun grow pale,  
And, O Sorrow, hear  
No songs but dirges for the dead year,  
And see no flowers but through death's veil!*

*(first few verses only)*

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## 25¢ Christmas Greetings

I saw that the cartoon contest in the Nov. 4 U.S. Notes column featured the United States 25¢ Christmas Greetings stamp of 1988.

Seeing the stamp reminded me of a picture



The 25¢ Christmas Greetings stamp of 1988, top, reminded a *Linn's* reader of this photo taken outside a Vermont post office, bottom. Both the stamp and the photo show people sitting in a horse-drawn sleigh.

that was taken outside the Underhill Center, Vt., post office one November morning. The photo, like the stamp, shows two people sitting in a horse-drawn sleigh.

Linda Everett  
Essex Junction, Vt.