

Hinesburg, Vermont

from 1762



Cover photo: Reed & Patrick, Hinesburg Village

Hinesburg, Vermont

From 1762

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**The Account of the History of Hinesburg
Since 1762**

Has been taken from the following sources:

Walton's

Vermont Register, 1820

Erastus Bostwick's

History of Hinesburg, 1861

Hemenway's

Historical Gazetteer, 1868

Child's

Chittenden County Directory, 1882

Beers, Ellis & Soule's

Atlas of Chittenden County, 1882

Documents in the Town Clerk's Office
and Town Library

From various other sources and persons

**Dedicated to
the residents of Hinesburg
past, present and future**



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HINESBURG, VERMONT FROM 1762

[the main text is taken from the 1994 printing, with 2012 additions by the Hinesburg Historical Society included in bracketed italics]

The Charter for the Township of Hinesburg was granted and signed by "His Excellency, Benning Wentworth, Esq., Governor of New Hampshire, June 24, 1762."

The town was named for Abel Hine, who recorded the Charter on February 18, 1763. For a time after the Charter was granted, Hine acted as Proprietor's clerk.

The Charter referred to the township as a "New Plantation" and was granted upon conditions, of which the following are a part:

*"...the rent of
one ear of
Indian corn
only, on the
25th day of
December
annually, if
lawfully
demanded..."*

"As soon as there shall be fifty families residing and settled thereon...shall have the liberty of holding two Fairs...and a market may be opened and kept one or more days in each week as may be thought most advantageous to the inhabitants...That every Grantee his heirs and assigns shall plant and cultivate five acres of land within the term of five years for every fifty acres contained in his or their share of proportion of land in said Township. That all white or other pine trees within the said Township fit for masting our Royal Navy be carefully preserved for that use. That before any division of the land be made to and among the Grantees, a tract of land as near the center of said Township as the land will admit of shall be reserved and marked out of the Town lots, one of which shall be allotted to each Grantee, of the contents of one acre. Which tract is to contain six miles square and no more, out of which an allowance is to be made for highways and unimproved land by rocks, ponds, mountains and rivers. Yielding and paying therefore to us, our heirs and successors for the space of ten years, to be computed from the date thereof, the rent of one ear of Indian corn only, on the 25th day of December annually, if lawfully demanded, the first payment to be made on the 25th day of December, 1763. Every proprietor...shall yield and pay unto us...yearly and every year forever from the above said 25th day of December, one shilling proclamation money for every one hundred acres he so owns and possesses. His Excellency, Benning Wentworth Esq., (to be given) a tract of land to contain five hundred acres as marked 'B.W.' in the plan which is to be accounted two of the shares. (This tract was located in the extreme southwest corner of the township. Similar allotments from Charlotte and Monkton adjoining the above tract would give Wentworth 1500 acres in one tract.) Also one whole share for the incorporated Society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts. One share for a Glebe for the Church of England...One share for the first settled Minister of the Gospel, and one share for the benefit of a school in said town."

At a meeting of the grantees in New Milford, Conn., on the last Friday of July, 1762, the following was decided:

"It was voted to send a surveyor to run round said Township of Hinesburg next Fall, providing the committee can agree with the committees of the Townships of Ferrisburgh, Monkton and Charlotte in employing a surveyor to run round said Townships. Voted that the Clerk shall be allowed four shillings York money for recording the said Charter. Voted that said Clerk of Hinesburgh shall have sixteen pence York money for entering and recording each deed. Voted a tax of forty shillings York money on each right. Voted that the proprietors give Capt. Seth Warner, Ethan Allen, Remember Baker, Gideon Warner, and others 400 acres of land, providing that they pay for laying out the same, which land is given to the above named company in consideration of their defending the land from the unlawful claimants, also that the above company have 400 acres for making a wagon road through said town."

At a meeting on Monday, January 4th, 1790, “the following measure was adopted, showing the spirit of the times, and a weakness of one of Vermont’s brightest men; vote that we choose a commission to refer a complaint to the commissioners...for the purpose of settling and adjusting the account of Ira Allen Esq., late surveyor general, for an exorbitant charge against the town by said Allen for cutting roads, and perambulating the town lines.”

There were 64 charter grantees, or proprietors, most of whom were living in New Milford, Conn. Their last meeting was held at that place on May 9th, 1783. One week later a warning was issued through the public papers, signed by Ira Allen at Sunderland, Vermont, for a meeting to be held at the house of Abner Chaffee in Hinesburg on the fifth Monday in June, 1783. (Chaffee lived on the west side of Monkton Road directly west of the present Masonic Temple). At this meeting it was “voted to rescind the votes passed at New Milford on January 10th, 1775, giving to Colonel Ethan Allen and others 400 acres of land for making road, as they did not do it. Voted to give Isaac Lawrence, John McNeil, John Bishop Jr., and Elnathan Hubbell 100 acres of land for making road, they paying for surveying the same.”

At the time the Vermont charters were granted it was the custom of the grantees to acquire the rights and hold them for future sale. Within a few days after the date of his right, Job Gould Jr., sold his original right to Benjamin Ferris for eight shillings. All but one of the original Hinesburg grantees never settled in the township.

The first town meeting in Hinesburg was “warned and holden” at the house of Eliphaz Steele on the third Tuesday in March, 1787. (He lived on the Monkton road about one-half mile south of the village.) Josiah Steele was chosen moderator, Elisha Barber, town clerk, Jacob Meacham, constable, Elisha Barber, George McEuen and Eliphaz Steele were named selectman. Lemuel Bostwick was the first town representative.

Erastus Bostwick was born in 1767. With Noble and Austin Bostwick he started from New Milford, Conn., on May 24, 1790 with a pack on his back, for Hinesburg, arriving on June 1. The distance, more than 200 miles was covered in eight days. Erastus Bostwick was town representative for two years, postmaster for nine years, justice of the peace for 22 years, town treasurer for 35 years, and town clerk for 40 years. He wrote a history of the town in 1861 when he was 93 years old.

The only settlers known to have lived in the town previous to the Revolutionary War were Isaac Lawrence, from Canaan, Conn., and Abner Chaffee. Lawrence was granted 100 acres of land for making roads. He settled on Lot 26 about one mile north of the lower village [correction - Lawrence did settle north of the village, on Rt. 116, about 1/3 mile north of the Shelburne Falls Rd. intersection, but his Lot #26 is actually located on Leavensworth Rd, the road being the south line of the lot – HHS]. He left town during the war and returned after its close, remaining until 1793, when he sold out to Epaphras Hull, and moved to Canada. Hull, who came from Wallingford, Vermont, kept a tavern for several years. He eventually committed suicide, and not being allowed to be buried in a cemetery, he was buried in a roadside lot on his land. His marble marker can be seen from the road.

The first [colonial – HHS] birth in the town was that of Hine Meacham, April 4, 1785. There were no doctors, so Mrs. George McEuen acted as midwife, being drawn to the scene of the birth on a hand-sled.

“The first town meeting in Hinesburg was “warned and holden” at the house of Eliphaz Steele on the third Tuesday in March, 1787.”

In 1785 George McEuen built a log house on Center Road (*Gilman Rd. – HHS*) and lived in it until 1797 when he built a two-story brick house on the site, the first of that material used in the town. The brick were made by hand by McEuen. Another brick house was later built on the site and is occupied at this time. The site is about two miles from the lower village. (Center Road runs parallel to, and between the Starksboro and Monkton roads.)

The house on Center Road, about three and one-half miles from the village, now occupied by Earl Place [*corner of Gilman & Lewis Creek Roads –HHS*], was used as a post office at the time of the first settlement. It has been told that a hole was cut through the wall of the house so that mail could be handed direct to callers for the same.

Joel Peck was the first blacksmith in the town. There are no records as to the time.

Lockwood and Alpheus Mead came to the town in 1797. A grandson of Alpheus, Oscar A. Mead, was the grandfather of Leonard O. Mead, now living in the town.

Of the original grantees, only one, Andrew Burritt, moved to the town and settled. He located in the south-western part of the township in 1786, where he lived to the age of 96 years. The generations that have followed him to the present time are: Tilly, Nelson, Marquis, Leonard, Marvin, Rollin, and the latter's sons: Theodore L., Thomas E., Charles R., Robert L., John M., William A. (Also a daughter, Judith C.). All of these generations have lived on, or near, the original tract settled in 1786.

About the year 1788, Elijah Peck, who came from Newton, Conn., built the first two-story house in the town. It was located on the present site of Lantman's store at the head of the Charlotte road. This was the first public house, or tavern, in the town. At the time the village consisted of, in addition to the tavern, four log houses, occupied by Robert Beach, Elnathan Billings, Elijah Peck and James Cummings. Doctor Bostwick [*Doctor was his first name; it was a popular name at that time – HHS*] built the second two-story house, and Robert Beach, the third, which was located directly across the street from the present high school [*White Building at the Community School – HHS*].

In 1787 David Weller settled in the geographical center of the township [*intersection of Buck Hill & Lavigne Hill Roads – HHS*]. In 1838 Asa S. and Greene D. Weller built a store second door north of the present park [*at the bend in Rt. 116 in the village – HHS*]. They occupied it until 1855, when Phelps J. Murphy acquired and occupied it for 25 years, then selling it to Elvin L. Douglas, who previously had a store at the north end of the village.

Elisha Meech brought his family in 1785 from Bennington. During the latter part of the journey the wagon overturned injuring Mrs. Meech and a child. In the spring the horses died from lack of food; the following year the corn was frostbitten. There was no mill nearby, so Mr. Meech made a hand mill from a spring-pole and pestle suspended over the hollow stump of a tree, in which he pounded the frost-bitten corn for the family. During the sugar season their only cow died from drinking syrup.

John Partch, born in 1780 in Danbury, Conn., came to the town with his parents in 1796. His descendants have been, Deacon Noble L. Partch, his son Ernest, and grandson, Leo. The family settled on the Monkton road [*Silver St. – HHS*] about two miles south of the village.

*“In the spring
the horses died
from lack of food;
the following
year the corn was
frostbitten...
During the sugar
season their only
cow died from
drinking syrup.”*

In the early days of the town Nathaniel and Elijah Austin had a saw mill on Lewis Creek near where there was a cheese factory in 1880, and near the site of Lemuel Bostwick's mill. (This location could have been just off the Monkton road.)

At an early date Jonathan Green had a store on the Burlington road (Rt. 116 – HHS) about one mile north of the lower village [*The main village was referred to as the lower village; the area at Mechanicsville, where the mills were, was called the upper village - HHS.*]

In 1825 Jedediah Boynton, who came from Shelburne in 1807, had become the most prosperous man in the town. He built the house directly opposite the present town hall, now occupied by Howard Russell. He also built a store that was later occupied by Henry M. Hull, a general merchant. It was directly across the street from the present St Jude's Parish House. In 1820 Boynton and Mitchell Hinsdale opened the canal from the foot of Pond Brook to the north end of the village, where they built a factory for the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods. From the outlet of the canal a flume extended to where it afforded water power of sixteen feet head, and power for the factory. Concerning the factory, Erastus Bostwick writes: "A number of females, after employment had been scant, soon appeared on the Sabbath in new apparel." In 1848 B. & H. Byington, who operated the factory, failed in their business. It was operated the following year



by David Frazer. Jedediah Boynton made liberal contributions for public purposes, giving land for the Academy (now the site of the Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library) [*the old brick library in the village – HHS*], also land for a cemetery directly to the south. He gave an acre of land on which the Baptist (now the United) Church was built. At one time he operated mills on Baldwin's Brook, and for several years was the principal merchant in the town.

Jedediah Boynton house, left

Ebenezer Bostwick was one of the first manufacturers in the town. In the 1790s he operated a shop for making brown earthenware, "which was a great convenience to the people."

Erastus Bostwick in his history of the town writes:

"John Weed bought of Elisha Lawrence, Lots 67 and 68 in the first division, in 1787." (This section is on the Burlington road about two miles north of the village). "He was married to Dolly Phelps in 1797. The first clearing on said lot was by his brother, Hezekiah Weed in 1788, and built a cabin and moved into it with his wife and child. Stayed about three years and then left. This year the purchaser built a log cabin and moved into it in March, 1792. In 1797 his log cabin burned,

together with a plank house and most of his provisions which he had laid up for the winter. Mr. Weed always acknowledged the kindness of their neighbor, Mr. Epaphras Hull in the interest he took in their loss. While the ruins were blazing Mr. Hull mounted his horse and before morning he had visited most of the families in town, inviting them to come, and before the sun shone, the timber for a small house was on the spot, boards, shingles, nails, provisions, clothing, and the house was built in a day. He lived in it for a number of years, raised a family of eleven children which are very much respected in society, and all lived to be over forty years of age before there occurred a death in the family. Mr. Weed lived on this farm until his death in 1839."

(Three Weed families, those of Anson, Charles and Enoch, were listed in a town directory in 1882. At this time Miss Bessie Weed, a daughter of Anson, occupies the farm.)

THE LEAVENWORTHS

Nathan Leavenworth I (born 1732, died 1804), with his son, Nathan II (born 8/20/1764) came to Hinesburg from New Milford, Conn., in 1787. Nathan II married Ann Cunningham in 1790. She was born in 1770, and died in 1805. Their son, Henry, was born in 1798, and Nathan III was born in 1801. Nathan II married, second, Betsy Hurlburt in 1806. The Leavenworths built a log cabin about one mile west of the lower village. At a later date a large square house was built, and is occupied at this (1962) time. In 1790 they built a saw mill on Lewis Creek a short distance over the boundary in Charlotte. Before the grist mill, which they built later, went into operation the townspeople were obliged to go to Winooski, Burlington or Vergennes for their grinding. Nathan Leavenworth II was one of the organizers of the first military company in the town in 1788. In it he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. He became a large land owner in the town. At one time he owned a grist mill at the foot of Pond Brook. He gave two acres of land to the Congregational Church, with the proviso that a church would be built thereon. The site is where the present Masonic Temple is now located. He was elected to the legislature 21 times, and was a state senator for two years.

LAWYERS IN HINESBURG

Peck house, far right corner of Mechanicsville Rd. & Main St.



Nahum Peck, father of Cicero Goddard Peck, was born in Royalston, Mass., in 1796. He was admitted to the bar in Washington County, Vermont in 1825, and immediately came to Hinesburg and opened a law office which he continued until his death in 1883. He was one of the oldest practicing lawyers in Chittenden County.

Asahel Peck, brother of Nahum, was also born in Royalston, and came with his parents to Montpelier, Vermont. He attended a Washington County grammar school, and Hinesburg Academy. He was graduated from the University of Vermont, where he received the degree of A.B., and from Middlebury College his L.L.D. He spent a year at a French college near Montreal. He read law with his brother, Nahum in Hinesburg, and after a few months study with Baily and Marsh in

Burlington, was admitted to the bar. (Marsh was the American Minister to Italy in 1882). After being a state senator, Asahel Peck was a judge of the circuit court for four years, and a judge of the Supreme Court of Vermont for fourteen years. He was Governor of Vermont from 1874 to 1876. He died in 1879.

Other lawyers who have practiced in Hinesburg were: John M. Eldredge (1821), John E. McVine, Joseph Adams, Mitchell Hinsdale, Newell Lyon, Edward Vansickelin, Harmon Tobey, Nathan Knowles, Ira Hodge and Elisha Mead – the last three practicing about the year 1850.

HINESBURG POND

There are indications that in the early days of the township a small dam was built at the outlet of Hinesburg Pond, or Upper Pond, as it was at times referred to, or Lake Iroquois, as it is now named. The dam provided water power for a saw mill just below it. Old maps indicate that before the present outlet dam was built, the shore lines were lower, the pond area smaller, and the islands larger. The



saw mill operators cleared off the available timber and eventually moved the mill down the brook to a site, probably just below the present Reservoir [*Sunset Lake – HHS*], where a small dam was built. Tree stumps which can be seen in the bottom of the reservoir show that this area was once covered with a forest growth. The stream flowing through the reservoir dam (built in 1867) flows on to become Pond Brook.

POND BROOK

That part of Hinesburg following the brook from the Reservoir outlet to the foot of the hill has a fall of nearly three hundred feet in a distance of about one mile. The brook continues on to join the LaPlotte River, and thence to Lake Champlain at Shelburne. The section has been known by various names; Factory Village, Factory Corners, The Corners, Murray & Patrick's Corners, Upper Village, and in auto road maps as Mechanicsville. Perhaps the first name was Pond Brook. Six dams and mill ponds have been built on the brook, all of which are out of commission except the top-most which can still furnish part-time water power for the Iroquois Mfg. Co., the only industry on the brook at this time. Three mill sites on the brook were bought from the original proprietors by Beriah Murray, of Claremont, N.H. While on a hunting trip in 1790 he sold the sites to Lemuel Bostwick, who had come to town in 1787 and settled on a plot, of which his father was the original proprietor.

*The outer
bearing rested
on a stone
“which was
calculated to
grind it off, as
it did in the
course of a few
years, and the
mill stopped.”*

1791: Lemuel Bostwick and Daniel Sherman built the first saw mill on the brook. Bostwick also built a carding mill which he operated until 1816.

1793: Bostwick built a grist mill. It was a two-story structure containing two runs of stones, and a bolt operated by an overshot wheel outside the mill. The outer bearing rested on a stone “which was calculated to grind it off, as it did in the course of a few years, and the mill stopped.”

1803: Bostwick, John M. Eldredge and Elijah Peck built a saw mill at the foot of the brook.

1813: William Bacon built a three-story shop in which he made sleighs and cabinet ware. In a year he attached a small saw mill to the shop.

1814: Thomas Wilcox rebuilt the Josph Wilcox saw mill and sold it to Colvin, Celah and Allen Murray [*Colvin was the oldest son of Beriah Murray – HHS*]. Brigham C. Wright later bought the mill.

1816: The Bostwick property was sold to Colvin Murray, who built a grist mill.

1818: A distillery was installed in the Bacon shop, where liquor was made by Stephen Byington and William Hurlburt until 1824. (They were among the members of the Literary Society, in whose meetings the liquor question at times was debated, and always decided in the negative.)

1818: Brigham C. Wright built a dam on the brook, below which he erected a cloth-dressing mill. In 1835 the mill was operated by Clark Whitehorn. Wright operated the mill until 1823, when the property was sold to Orren Murray and John S. Patrick who had formed a partnership that was to last until 1857. They added another carding machine.

1818: Samuel Wiley and Abijah Lake build a carding mill just above the bridge over the upper brook. It was later converted into a dwelling which was occupied by C.F. Knox in 1882 [*The upper brook feeds into Pond Brook from the north, flowing under the Richmond Rd. and then Partridge Hill Rd., entering the brook just below the cemetery pond dam. – HHS*].

1822: Samuel Hurlburt built a saw mill which was operated by various persons until 1835.

1822: Brigham C. Wright and Colvin Murray built a saw mill at the outlet of the Reservoir and built a dam. It was sold to Murray and Patrick in 1824, who now came into possession of the reservoir site. They added a carding machine.

1825: The grist mill built by Colvin Murray was now operated by Orren and David Murray.

1827: A trip-hammer shop was built by Samuel Wiley and that year sold to Murray and Patrick who then sold the property to Alanson Lyon. He attached a wagon shop in 1830. The shop was destroyed by fire in 1832 with a loss of \$3,000. In the sale Murray and Patrick gave Wiley the first brook privilege in part payment. Wiley then, with L.F. Clark, built a blacksmith shop.

1829: Murray & Patrick erected a building for carding and cloth dressing. The next season they began making satinnet with two power looms, and using a nearby house for a bark and finishing shop.

1831: Lyman Huntington built an ashery, and Francis Willson built one the following year.

1832: The Lyon shop having burned, Rufus Patrick I and Lorenzo Murray built on the site the foundry which was operated by David K. Patrick from 1876 to the early 1900s. This is the mill pond site where the Iroquois Mfg. Co., is now located, and is just above the site where Clark Whitehorn built a cloth dressing mill and mill pond in 1835.

1835: A saw mill was built by Stephen Adams at the foot of the brook, and operated by him until 1853.

1836: A building three floors high was built by Lorenzo and Colvin Murray for manufacturing, but was not outfitted until 1842, when it was bought by Murray & Patrick, who installed machinery. It was occupied by them until destroyed by fire in 1844 with a loss of \$10,000. They rebuilt in 1845. During this year the equipment was removed from their grist mill and the building converted into a dwelling.

1843: Enos Hoadley built a saw mill just below the bridge. It was not successful, and was converted into a dwelling [*near Iroquois Manufacturing – HHS*].

1845: A carding and cloth dressing shop was built by Sayles and Whitehorn near the foundry. The building replaced the one built by Whitehorn in 1835. In 1848 the building was sold to Lorenzo Murray, who later converted it into a cheese box factory, making from ten to fifteen thousand boxes per year.

1845: Marcus Hull built a starch factory at the foot of the brook. It was used for that purpose for a few years and then converted into a carriage shop by George Marshall.

1845: A factory and dye house built by Murray and Patrick burned with a loss of \$4,000. It was on the site of the grist mill built by Colvin Murray in 1816.

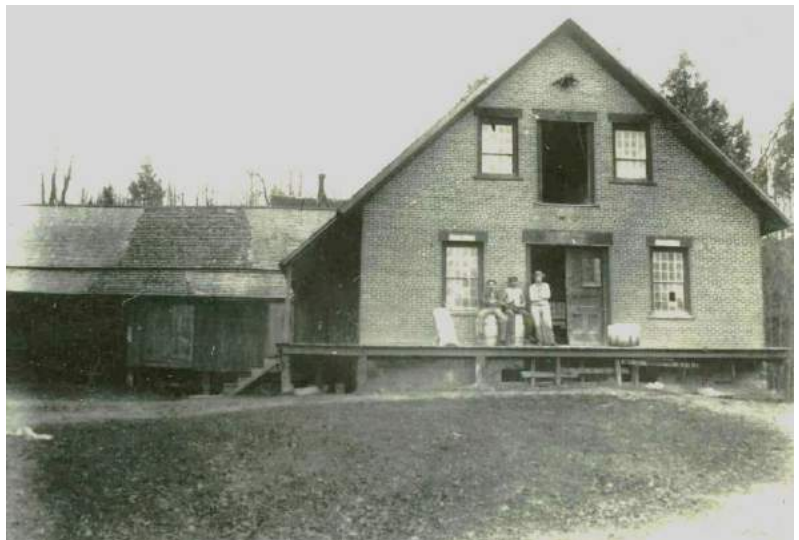
1847: Lorenzo Murray sold his cloth dressing and carding mill to Enos Hoadley, who added to it the manufacture of cheese boxes.

1851: Murray and Patrick closed their business and the property passed into the hands of J. & F. Peck of Burlington.

1854: Murray and Patrick built a saw mill on the Bostwick mill site. It was attached to a machine shop.

1855: Murray and Patrick and others, including Herman Murray, Walter Abbott and

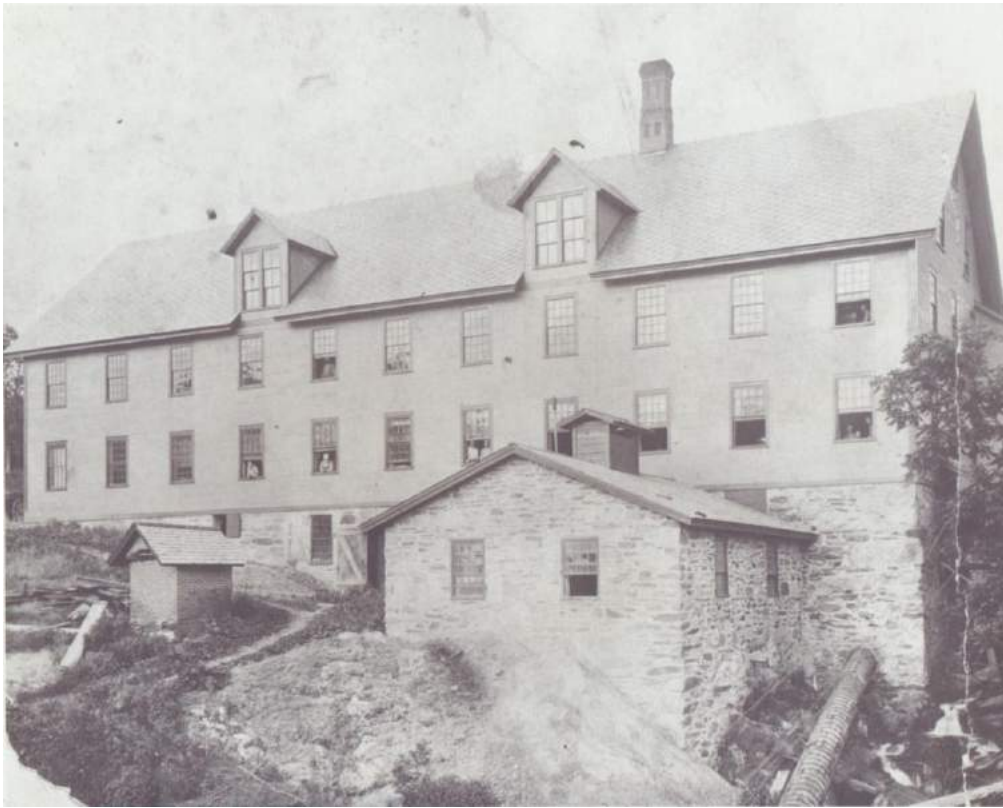
*brick grist mill,
built in 1855*



Morton Crossman, built a grist mill on the site of the factory that was destroyed by fire in 1845. It carried four runs of stones. It was later operated by Russell Corey, and by S. Fletcher in 1869, and by Harrison Peirce into the early 1900s. (The mill and contents was purchased by Shelburne Museum and dismantled in the early 1950s.) *[The HHS cannot find any evidence of this transaction, except mention of the leasing out of the town grader to the Shelburne Museum in the 1952 town report – HHS]*

1855: Lorenzo Murray built a cheese box factory at the foot of the brook.

1855: Andrew Dow, his son, Isaiah, and Nelson M. Nay formed a partnership and bought the J. & F. Peck property (which they had purchased from Murray and Patrick in 1851) and began the manufacture of woolen goods for farmers in the neighborhood. (Nelson Nay was the father of Dr. Scott Nay, who practiced in Underhill for more than fifty years.)



In four years Andrew Dow withdrew, and the business was continued by Isaiah Dow and Nay. The former then became the sole owner, and his father, who had moved to Jericho, returned and joined the company, remaining two years, then selling out to Philo Percival. A year later Noble Boynton succeeded Percival. Dow and Boynton operated the mill for two years, when it was destroyed by fire in 1868. The loss to customers who had owned consigned wool was \$15,000. Isaiah Dow went immediately to Middlebury and leased a woolen mill which he operated for six months trying to continue the

Dow Woolen Mill

supply of goods until he could rebuild in Hinesburg. In the spring of 1869 the mill was rebuilt, being completed in six weeks, and the machinery was in operation two months. William A. Martin now joined the company and it was operated as Dow and Martin until 1874. The mill was operated by Dow alone until 1883, when his son, Justin Gloyd Dow became a partner. Previous to the fire the mill was making 90,000 pounds of wool per annum. In 1884 Dow and Son began making white flannel. It was so successful a venture that the machinery capacity was doubled in 1886, and the mill, formerly idle part of the year now operated year round, making 5,000 yards of flannel per week. In the year 1888 the mill burned and was never rebuilt.

1857: Murray & Patrick dissolved their partnership, Patrick retaining the mill property, and most of the farm.

1859: A.D. Rood and W.K. Patrick bought the J.S. Patrick machine shop.

1863: C.C. & H. Post bought the Marcus Hull starch mill property. They took down the buildings and built a mill in which Lorenzo Murray made sap buckets, pails and excelsior. Murray and Patrick at one time operated a shop on the brook for turning wheels.

1867: There was a severe drought during this year. In the fall, Dow and Boynton united with three other concerns interested in having a good water supply, built the reservoir dam. This enlarged the Reservoir to about 80 acres. The stone dam was seven feet through at the base, five feet at the top, and was fourteen rods long. The cost was \$3,000. The Reservoir is fed by water from Hinesburg Pond (Lake Iroquois). The water gate installed in the dam is still in use.

1868: Rufus Patrick & Sons erected a building housing a saw mill, cheese box and butter tub factory and a cider mill, on a mill pond a short distance below the present Iroquois Mfg. Co. This industry was later operated by Daniel Patrick III until the early 1900s. He was the father of Rufus Patrick II, clerk and treasurer of the town until his death in 1949. Production of the plant was 5,000 feet of lumber per day, 3,000 butter tubs, and 12,000 cheese boxes per year. The cider mill made sixty barrels of cider per day during the season.

1873: Lorenzo Murray built an excelsior mill at the foot of the brook. It was later operated by his son, Charles K. Murray. At one time John Edwin, with a partner named Knox, operated a wheelwright shop on the brook. Also on the brook, Truman Averill made chairs for a time. The Valley Falls Creamery was operated by a stock company into the early 1900s. It was located near the site of the Dow woolen mill. [It burned down December 17, 1909 – HHS]



excelsior mill,
downstream from
the brick grist mill

The following concerning Upper Village, on Pond Brook, is taken from an article written by John S. Patrick. (Date not known, but probably about 1860.)

"The first settler upon the lot afterward owned and occupied by Capt. Daniel Patrick was Deacon Nathan Wheeler, who lived on the lot for a few years. The lot then went into the hands of David Roberts, a man not particularly distinguished for enterprise, but a mighty hunter. The lot then came into the hands of the above named Patrick in the year 1798, who built the first framed house on the premises where he continued to live until his death in 1843, aged 73 years. Murray and Patrick operated in business together until March 1, 1857, for a period of 34 years. In this period operating cloth shops, a machine shop, two woolen factories, one of which was destroyed by fire in 1845, causing a loss of about \$8,000. They were also owners of a saw mill, and a grist mill built in 1853. The only other casualty happening in this village was the destruction of a large triphammer shop, and one wagon shop by fire in 1831, owned by Alanson Lyon. There are now on the brook, one foundry, plough shop, cheese box factory, woolen mill, saw mill, machine shop, grist mill and wagon shop, all in operation. There have been several new dwellings within the last two or three years,

some of them being very fine ones. The village now contains 25 dwellings, and 140 inhabitants. The only public building is the public school, which is a large and commodious building and finished in a style that does credit to the spirit and enterprise of the inhabitants of this place."

BALDWIN'S BROOK

On Baldwin's Brook, a stream located about one and one-half miles south-east of the lower village [Beecher Hill Rd. – HHS], were located several mills soon after the town was first settled. There was a considerable flow of water at the time, along which were three falls. The following is taken from Erastus Bostwick's History of Hinesburg:

"The first, or uppermost fall on Baldwin's Brook was made use of by Clark and Ransom McEuen. Edmund and Orange Baldwin, who came to the town in 1797, built a saw mill in 1798 on the second fall, which did a good business and was a great convenience to the people. After the first saw mill built by the Baldwins, Jedediah Boynton built a substantial dam and put up a large grist mill of three runs of stones, and built a large distillery where spare grain was made into whiskey. In the winter of 1860 James Degree made great improvements by putting a saw mill into the old grist mill on Baldwin's Brook, which runs with great power, also one run of stones for grinding provender. In 1820, on the third fall, Frederick W. Baldwin built a tannery, with a bark mill and machine for rolling leather, which he has owned up to the present time." (1861; the tannery was supplying leather to shoemakers into the 1880s)

Charles Nash operated a carriage, sleigh and repair shop on the brook in the 1870s. At one time Giles Hard operated a carding mill, and a cheese factory on the brook.

Inventors living in Hinesburg have been: Jared Byington, who invented the steel pitchfork. He also invented a nail machine but did not patent it. John Patrick perfected guards for mowing machine blades. It is claimed that in applying for a patent he was deprived of his rights. In 1882 Harris and Patrick patented a wagon axle cutter. Charles C. Post invented the Eureka sap spout and bucket holder.



Hinesburg Inn

The building now occupied by Lantman Brothers at the head of the Charlotte road was built as a hotel by Royal Wright Post in 1860. It is on the site of the first town tavern build by Elijah Peck in 1788. At one time Nathaniel Miles operated the hotel. There have been many other landlords, among them: Baldwin, Crandell, Lewis, Ray, Flanagan, Carpenter & Degree, Parker, and Palmer. Reuben Wickware operated it in 1869. He later kept a grain store in a brick building across the street and north of the present United Church. The upper floor of this building was occupied from 1866 to 1935 by Patriot Lodge. In the 1860s Louis Sanctuary had a shoe shop in the lower floor. [this building was where the entrance to Kelley's Field is now – HHS]

In the early days of Hinesburg, Friendship Avenue (leading to the Starksboro road) was known as Church Street [*Rt. 116 in front of HCS – HHS*]. Outside the village the road to Starksboro was Johnnycake Street. The road to Charlotte was West Street, and the road to Monkton, Silver Street.

The first town hall was built in 1840. It was located directly south of the present United Church. The present town hall was built in 1901. Before the first town hall was built town meetings were held in either the Congregational Church, or in a nearby schoolhouse.

An epidemic in the town in 1813 took the lives of about forty persons. During the year 1816 every month had a frost, and nearly every month a snowfall. Most of the crops were ruined, and there was no seed for the following year. Jedediah Boynton and William Hurlburt kept a team on the road continually, distributing rice to the townspeople who were in need of food. They had bought the rice in Troy, N.Y. Stephen Hollister's barn burned in 1796. It was rebuilt the following day with help of his neighbors. At a later date Andrew Bostwick's barn which was stored with his year's supply of grain, was burned by lightning. His neighbors also helped him rebuild in one day.

The first military company in the town was organized in 1788. Nathan Leavenworth was named lieutenant. The following year he was made captain, and was raised by regular promotion to the rank of brigadier general. Erastus Bostwick writes: "In compliment for his election, on training day of that year he invited the whole town to dine with him, which invitation the people of the whole town were not backward in accepting. The tables were so well prepared that there was enough to spare, and all went off well." A company of light infantry was formed and equipped about the year 1800. The first officers were: Daniel Barnum, captain, Erastus Bostwick, first lieutenant, and Edmund Baldwin, ensign. Later a company of light horsemen was formed of which Daniel Patrick was captain, and Elisha Meech, major.

THE LOWER VILLAGE

Stephen Byington and Brigham Wright built a grist mill at the lower village in 1818. In 1866 it was used as a skating rink. The site was where the present Economou Cheese Corporation is now located. Leonard Andrews came from Shelburne in 1863, where he had been a general merchant. He was a postmaster of Hinesburg from 1865 to 1886. He opened a general store directly across the street from the present library [*former Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library – HHS*], operating it until it was taken over by his sons, Frank and William. The store was later operated by Clark Reed, and by Lantman Brothers. In 1869 Marcus Hull advertised: "Fancy and staple dry goods, hats, caps, boots, shoes, drugs, queensware, hardware, medicines, paints, oils, and general variety." In 1826 he had a store at the north end of the village, and later succeeded to the business of Byington and Hurlburt. James Degree started a shop on



Town Hall

*creamery, at
the foot of
Mechanicsville Rd.*



Friendship Avenue in 1869, manufacturing carriages and sleighs. It was located about where the Hart and Mead garage now stands. On his death in 1880 the business was taken over by his son, Edgar L. Degree, Elon O. Martin, and Frank Flagg. Charles C. Post opened a stove and tin shop in 1858 where the present fire station is now located [on the northeast corner of Mechanicsville Rd.



Reed & Patrick
Tin Shop, next to
the canal, corner
of Mechanicsville
Rd. & Rt. 116

& Rt. 116 – HHS]. Perry Reed and John S. Patrick later acquired the business. Patrick withdrew and moved to Burlington in the 1880s. Reed continued the business into the early 1900s. Charles C. Post invented the Eureka sap spout and bucket holder, which he sold in Burlington at 83 North Union Street until the 1880s. Bateman Stearns had a hatters shop in 1825, across the street from the present library. At an early date there was a machine shop located directly north of the library site. From Erastus Bostwick's History of Hinesburg, written in 1861:

"Dwelling houses, stores and shops are built on each side of the street, and neatly painted. Sidewalks of plank and gravel enclosed with a railing, pleasantly shaded with the locusts and maples, with dooryards adorned with shrubbery and flowers. Upon the sidewalk you see the man of business with a hurried step, to be in time to compleat the object of his pursuit. You also see the laydes in their enlarged skirts and flowing robes making calls of friendship and sociability. Benevolence dwelled with them. Their door was always open to the neighbors, traveler..."

THE PATRICK FAMILIES

Daniel Patrick, with his brother, John, came from Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire in 1797. Daniel was born in 1772, and died in 1842. A manufacturer of spinning wheels, he bought timber and returned to New Hampshire. Returning to Hinesburg the following spring he started in business, boarding with Lemuel Bostwick, who lived at Upper Village. He married Susannah McClave, of Lyme, N.H. in 1800. Their children were: John S. II (1800-1864), Daniel (1802-1882), Elizabeth (b. 1804) She married Orren Murray. Susan (b. 1808), and Rufus (1812-1882). John S. Patrick II, was for many years in partnership with Orren Murray in several enterprises located on Pond Brook. Daniel Patrick II, was a civil engineer and surveyor. He married Malinda Rollins. Rufus Patrick I, married Arabella Knox. Their children were: David Knox (1841-1924), Daniel III (1846-1925), Arabella, and John Stephenson III (1853-1944). The latter married Florence C. Andrews, daughter of Leonard Andrews, in 1874. Their children were: Flora Belle, and Roy Leonard (1876-1953), who married Harriet E. Stone in 1900. Their children were: John H., and Robert F., now living in Burlington. In 1962, A Lincoln Patrick, son of Rufus II, was the only male descendent of the Patricks living in Hinesburg. John Stephenson Patrick, formerly of the firm of Reed and Patrick in Hinesburg, moved to Burlington in 1892. He, with a partner, bought the business owned by G. S. Blodgett consisting of the manufacture of portable baking ovens, and plumbing and heating contracting. In 1916, Roy Patrick, having sold his coal and ice business, joined his father in the Blodgett Co. The oven business was expanded, and they acquired

interests in Eastern Magnesia Talc Corp. Inc., and in 1925 the Rock of Ages Corp. The Blodgett Supply Co. Inc. was organized in 1926. In 1962, Roy L. Patrick's sons, John H. and Robert F. were interested in all of the above corporations as directors and officers.

THE LYMAN FAMILIES

Jonathan Lyman, born in 1778, resided in Vergennes, later moving to North Ferrisburg. His son, Theodore Dwight, was the father of Frederick Fuller Lyman who was born November 2, 1836. Frederick moved to Hinesburg where he operated a carding mill on Pond Brook in the 1870s and 1880, located on a mill pond directly below the present site of the Iroquois Mfg. Co., now operated by his grandson, Leland H. Lyman. Roger T. Lyman, son of Frederick, was born in 1871. He died January 24, 1946. He carried on his father's farm on Road 23, later moving to the Harmon Beecher farm about one-half mile north of the lower village. He married Flora Norma Kenyon (daughter of Ovet A. Kenyon) September 16, 1901. Five sons and two daughters were born to them. Deacon Oliver Post, with his wife, Experience, came to Hinesburg from Westhampton, Mass., in 1801. He was a tanner, currier and shoemaker by trade. He served in the Revolutionary War, and was an early member of the Congregational Church. Alson H. Post, son of Oliver, was born in Southamptn, Mass., in 1794, and died in 1881. He built for himself, or repaired one or more buildings each year for 44 consecutive years while living in Hinesburg. He married Mercy Marinda McEuen, daughter of George and Mercy Wright McEuen in 1820. The McEuens had come to Hinesburg in 1785. The Post children were Herman Arthur, Royal Wright, Charles C., Hoyt A., and Martha, who married William Partch. The Rev. William A. Arthur, father of President Chester A. Arthur, was minister of the Baptist Church in 1833. He lived in a house on the south-west corner of Main Street and the Charlotte road. His brother, William, was born in Hinesburg in 1834. The following were born in Hinesburg and became politically, or otherwise prominent: William A. Howard, congressman from Michigan, postmaster of Detroit, and governor of Dakota; William L. Bicknell [*Picknell* – HHS], artist; Alphonso Barto, [*Lieutenant* – HHS] governor of Minnesota; Ossian Ray, congressman from New Hampshire, and John C. Allen, secretary of state and congressman from Nebraska. The first young men living in Hinesburg to graduate from the University of Vermont were: David Stone, 1810; Robert Steele, 1812; Isaac Kenyon, 1820; Henry Leavenworth, 1821; Ira Wood, 1825.

Chester A. Arthur spent part of his boyhood in the town.

THE KENYON FAMILIES

On June 11, 1800 Azariah Kenyon bought from Aeschylus Adams for "\$650 current money of the United States, 100 acres of land in Division No. 92, bounded north on Griffin Place's land, south on Andrew Burritt's, and west on the Rand lot." Division 92 is in the Rhode Island Corners section, where many Kenyon families have lived [*this is lot no. 92 in the second division – HHS*]. On November 22, 1802 Freeman Kenyon bought land from John Dimmock. A map of 1868 shows that nine Kenyon families were living in the Rhode Island Corners section [*intersection of Magee Hill Rd., Pond Brook Rd. & Richmond Rd. – HHS*]. This would indicate that they came from Rhode Island with other settlers from that state. A directory of 1882 lists the following: Philo G. (Harley lives with him) on Road 8; George E. on Road 9, Robert F. on Road 4; Miller, on Road 8; Anna, widow of Burton, on Road 23; Norman O. (Ovet lives with him), on Road 8; Orson, on Road 9; Alonzo, on Road 7; Horace B. on Road 9; Osman, on Road 9; Leonard, on Road 23 [*see map on page 29 for the key – HHS*]. In 1954 only Leonard Ezra Kenyon represents the name in the town. He is the son of Dayton Kenyon, who was a son of Leonard M. listed above.

THE PLACE FAMILIES

Thomas Place came to Hinesburg in 1785. Job Place, from Providence, R.I. came in 1789, and located on the farm owned in 1882 by his grandson, Stephen C. Place, on Road 3. Place's son, Harry J. married Mrs. Mary Clement, and lived on the old homestead all of his life. Eight sons were born to them. Of these, Stephen C. and William Wallace, lived on Road 3. Alonzo C. lived on Road 9. The above were listed in a directory of 1882, together with Rollin M. living on Road 3, and Lydia W. widow of Giles K. Place, who lived with Rollin. Also Andrew A. living on Road 28. In 1952, Kiland, Irwin, Carroll, Earl, Leon and Giles K. Place were living in the town.

THE BENEDICT FAMILY

On August 4, 1784, Isaac Hitchcock, an original grantee deeded to William McEuen "100 acres of land in Lot 23, for 23 pounds lawful money." On April 16, 1833 Jedediah Boynton and William Hurlburt "sold and deeded to Levi Franklin Benendict and Joseph Benedict, a parcel of land lying and being in Hinesburg, being part of Lot 23 in the second division of the original right of Isaac Hitchcock, in consideration of the sum of \$225. current money of the United States." Boynton and Hurlburt had bought this land from Montville Stone. Gordon Fletcher is the present owner of 268 acres of this tract (*Fletcher Farm Rd. - HHS*). The original stipulation that taxes on 84 acres of this tract shall be paid to the town school system is still in effect. In 1831 Levi Franklin Benendict and Olla Manwell, daughter of Stephen Manwell, of Richmond, were married, and settled on the farm now owned by Gordon Fletcher. A considerable part of their income was from cheese made, and sold in Charlotte. Ten daughters and two sons were born to them. One son died while young. The other, Henry, moved to Canada. The daughters were married as follows:

	BORN	MARRIED
Dulcena	1833	Isaiah Dow
Ellen	1835	Noble Boynton
Marian	1841	Chester M. Ferrin
Sarah Ann	1843	Ralph E. Weller
Cornelia	1845	Ira J. Flanagan
Loraine	1847	George W. Flanagan
Caroline	1849	Andrew Curry
Jane	1851	Daniel Patrick
Emma	1853	Rufus C. Wood
Kate	1855	William C. Childs

Many descendants survive these unions.

DOCTORS IN HINESBURG

William B. Marsh was the first doctor in the town. He was born in 1769 and came to Hinesburg in 1788 to practice at the age of nineteen years. At one time he kept a store located on the Monkton road. In 1807-08 he was town representative. He died in 1827. Other doctors in the town were Sylvester Church who practiced in 1811; and George Dudley who built a house directly south of the present Lantman store. It was later occupied by Dr. John Wooster Miles. Daniel Goodyear came in 1816 from Cornwall. He lived in a house directly south of the present location of Dr. Louis Wainer. Dr. Goodyear was born April 13, 1790, and died January 31, 1878. Later came David C. Deming; T. L. Beach in 1836, and John Work who practiced until 1838; also Hugh Taggart, Hector Taylor and Carlton E. Miles. Dr. John Wooster Miles was born in Hinesburg in 1812. He graduated from Woodstock Medical College in 1839. Dr John Fay Miles, a son of Nathaniel Miles, was born in 1820. He studied at Woodstock and at Castleton, but was not graduated from either institution, however he practiced until receiving his diploma in 1860 from Dartmouth Medical School. For many years he was town clerk, living to the age of 97 years. (His daughter, Mary A. Miles, succeeded her father as town clerk.) Elmer Beecher was born on the Beecher farm one-half mile north of the lower village. He started practice in 1840, Harmon Benson, N. F. Martin and G. L. Lyman were practicing in 1855. Dr. Elroy B. Whitaker was born in 1843. He came to the town from Pittsford, Vermont in 1869 and located at the upper village in the house now occupied by Dr. John F. Daly. Dr. Charles J. Russell, who was born in Bridport, Vermont in 1859, graduated from Howard University, Washington D.C. in 1883 and the following year came to Hinesburg. He married Edna Remington, daughter of Mitchell Remington who lived in a house located where Dr. Goodyear settled in 1816. Dr Russell later studied law and moved to Burlington where for many years he was Chittenden County town clerk. Among other doctors in the town have been: Merriam, McKibbin, Wilder, Frost, Burdick, Larner, Larner, Jr., Murphy, Hanson, Jones, Cooper, Fitzgerald and Child. At this time (1961) Dr. Louis Wainer is the town's practicing physician. [1994 note – Dr Louis Wainer retired in December of 1989. Today's practicing physician is Dr. Roger Giroux.] Those who have studied with Hinesburg doctors were: Mason Mead, Daniel Stearns, Warren Benson and Warner VanSteenburgh.



*Dr & Mrs. John
Fay Miles*

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In 1810 the Hinesburg Literary Society was formed, and incorporated in 1822. The Society met for many years in the Academy building built in 1824. Questions of the day were debated, and orators held forth on diversified subjects. In connection with the Society a library was organized and maintained until 1861, when interest lagged and the books were placed in a rear room of the town clerk's office, then located on the south side of the Charlotte road, second door from the corner of Main Street. The room was kept closed until 1901 when a new library was opened in the present town hall. This served the town until 1947, when the Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library was opened.

The first post office was established in 1803. Erastus Bostwick was the first postmaster, serving until 1812. He was appointed by President Jefferson, and dismissed by Madison. Others who have followed him are: Mitchell Hinsdale, Samuel Hurlburt, Thomas W. Gibb (1829-33), Edward W. Gibb (1854-57), Marvin W. Leonard, Nathaniel Miles, Leonard Andrews (1865-86), A. H. Weed, Guy D. Boynton, Jennie McKenzie, and her sister Marguerite, and the present incumbent, Arlene Lavigne. Today's (1994) Postmaster is Paul Maynard. After being located directly north of the present library for many years, a new post office was built on the Charlotte road in 1960 [*building at corner of Charlotte Rd. & Green St. – HHS*]. Prior to Rural Free Delivery Oscar Palmer, a war veteran, delivered mail daily, on foot, to Upper Village and Rhode Island Corners. There are now two RFD routes daily to the west and south sections of the township. Upper Village and the southeastern part of the town are serviced from Richmond, and the northwestern part from Shelburne. [*The eastern part of town, from Lincoln Hill to Texas Hill served by Huntington – HHS*]

The first town clerk of Hinesburg was Elisha Barber. Following him are: Lemuel Bostwick, George McEuen, William B. Marsh, Erastus Bostwick, Carlton E. Miles, William B. Viele, Henry L. Murray. [*followed by Andrew Gover, Elaine Place and Gay Muller – HHS*] Today's (1994) Town Clerk is Mary Zuber. [*the town clerk in 2012 is Melissa Ross – HHS*]

The population of the town in 1791 was 454. It increased to an all-time high of 1834 in 1850. There was a steady decline until 1925, when it was 954. In 1950 it had increased to nearly 1200. In 1790 and 1800 Hinesburg was larger in population than Burlington. Today's (1994) estimated population is 4200. [*The population in 2010 was 4,396 - HHS*]

CHURCHES IN HINESBURG



The Congregational Church was organized on May 20, 1789, with eleven members. It was the first church organized in Chittenden County, being formed by the Rev. Nathan Perkins who had been sent on a horse-back tour by a Connecticut Society to organize churches in Vermont. In a narrative of his tour he writes:

"Arrived just at night at Mr. Steele's, my old parishioner (Josiah Steele lived on the Monkton road about one-half mile south of the village), was cordially welcome and gratefully received at Hinesburgh – preached the 3th Sabbath in May at his house – a large audience for ye wilderness and deeply attentive. He lives well. Land good – gathered ye church & organized them on Wednesday, preached a lecture & baptized a child for Mr. Elisha Steele."

The following is taken, in part, from an address delivered at the centennial celebration of the church:

"The village consisted, in 1789, of one small frame house and four log cabins. There may have been three hundred people living in the township."

"A law passed in Vermont in 1783 provided that whenever two-thirds of the inhabitants of a town were agreed as to the mode of worship, they should be authorized to raise money by vote in town meeting to build a meeting house, and to support a minister."

"It was not until 1810 that a church building was started on a two-acre plot given the church by General Nathan Leavenworth, he stipulating that 'the same shall be occupied and made use of as a public green surrounding the meeting house now building thereon, or any that shall hereafter be built thereon for the purposes aforesaid.'

"Less than two years after the organization of the church the first pastor, Rev. Reuben Parmele was settled. The first Congregational Society was formed in 1807.

"The church building, completed in 1811, had a steeple with an open belfry on eight posts. A lightning rod was attached to the vane.

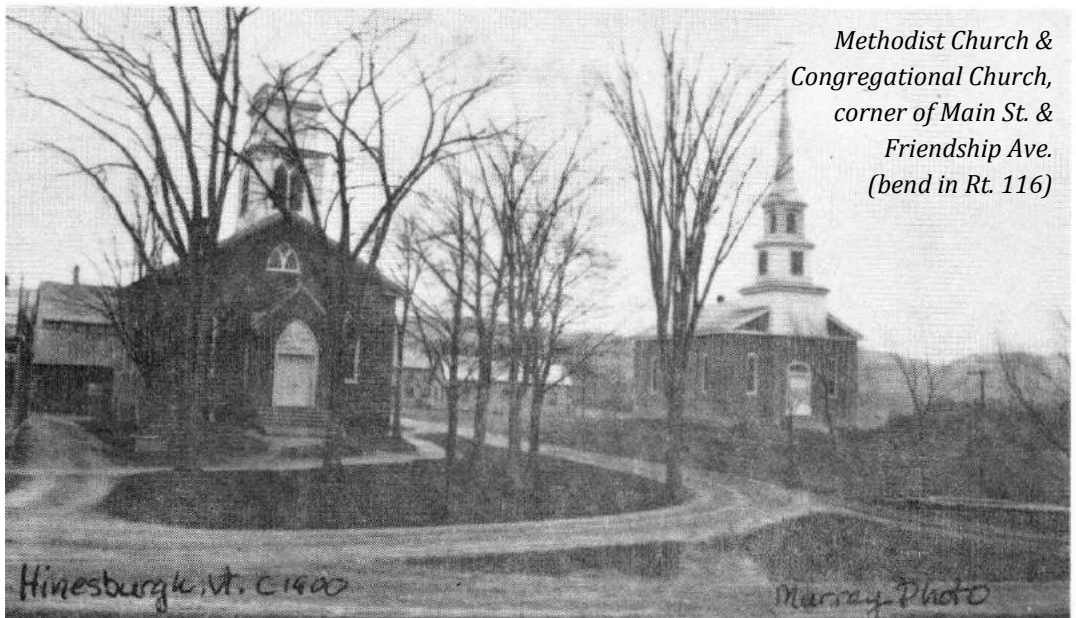
"Some of the pews were nearly square, with seats on three sides. The pulpit was supported by columns more than six feet high.

"A large door underneath the pulpit opened into a closet which was used to store powder belonging to the town in earlier days, and in later and more peaceful times were kept the vessels for the Holy Communion.

"A pew in the south-west corner, under the gallery, was set apart for the use of colored people, and was used by them for many years.

"When the church was used in the evening it was lighted with tallow candles. For some years there were no stoves in the building. Women took their foot-stoves to church. The men kept themselves warm with their inner fires. A long line of horse sheds occupied the green east of the church."

"The years 1809, 1817 and 1836 were times of religious revivals, which were considered to be a sign of signal and unexampled prosperity among the churches. However, there was a difference of opinion as to the propriety of this style of preaching. Dr. Bates, of Middlebury College was in favor; President March, of the University of Vermont was very decided in his opposition.



*Methodist Church &
Congregational Church,
corner of Main St. &
Friendship Ave.
(bend in Rt. 116)*

"At times, for the support of the church, members pledged themselves to pay cash, and donate livestock, grain and dairy products.

"The church, a wood structure, was replaced in 1839 with a brick building costing \$6,000. Over a period of one-hundred years the estimated cost of two church buildings, heating, lighting, maintenance, and minister's salaries was \$80,000.

"The church music was mostly by the choir. There were a few hymn books, without tunes. At times some of the congregation would sing, but it was not common. The leader of the choir started the tunes on a large bass viol.

"There were three services on Sunday; the morning service at half-past ten; in the afternoon at one, and the Sunday night prayer meeting at 'early candle lighting.' In 1858 the afternoon service was omitted, and the pastor preached in homes in remote neighborhoods of the township.

"At times there was not a regular pastor, and members of the congregation read sermons from the 'National Preacher,' a weekly publication which contained two sermons by the best known preachers of the day."

Services were held in this church until 1915, when the Congregationalists, Methodists (whose church building had burned) and the Baptists combined in a federation, meeting in the Baptist Church, under the jurisdiction of the Methodist Conference. It is the present United Church.

In the 1930s the Congregational Church building was given to Patriot Lodge, F. & A. M., and remodeled for a lodge and dining room. In 1950 the building was destroyed by fire and was replaced by the present Masonic Temple completed in 1954.



Methodist Church

church building known to be erected was in 1837. The church was rebuilt in 1857, probably by the Methodists. It was located on the site of the present park. Fire from a nearby house destroyed it in the early 1900s [1936 - HHS].

During the last half of the nineteenth century the church was unquestionably Protestant Methodist. Nahum Peck (see page 5) who came to Hinesburg in 1825, at one time wrote:

"Daniel Norton and Lockwood Mead (who came to the town in 1797) were not among the fathers of the town, but were foremost among the laymen in building and sustaining the young and small society of Methodists."

Methodist Church - Early church records state that "A Methodist Episcopal class was formed in 1799 with eleven members." Another record is that "The Episcopal church was organized by its first pastor, Rev. Noah Levens in 1831 with ten members." Still another that "The Episcopalians did not at any time have a settled ministry."

It can be assumed that the church in Hinesburg was Episcopalian until the 1830s, and that the first

(Nahum Peck was the father of Cicero Goddard Peck who is remembered by older living residents of the town as the leader of the choir in the church built in 1857). The following is taken from Hemenway's Gazetteer of 1868:

"In the early part of the life of Daniel Norton, such were the fears of the abuse of the Episcopacy at some future time in the Methodist Episcopal Church, that he was prevailed upon to attend the convention at Baltimore and assist in organizing the Methodist Protestant Church, of which he was a member."

The Protestant Church functioned in Hinesburg until it was merged with the Congregational and Baptist Churches in 1915.

A Free Will Baptist Church was formed December 18, 1817, with nineteen members living at Rhode Island Corners, a section on a crossroads in the north-eastern part of the township [*Intersection of Richmond Rd., Magee Hill Rd. and Pond Brook Rd. – HHS*] The members originally came from Rhode Island. The first meetings were held in a school house. At one time the church had a membership of seventy, made up partly by residents of Williston, Richmond and Huntington. A church building was erected in 1859 on the south-west corner of the crossroads [*Richmond Rd. & Pond Brook Rd. – HHS*]. It was 30 by 40 feet in size, and cost \$1,500. Moses Dow is said to have contributed liberally toward the church. Nearby Dow hill is named for him. A Christian Advent Church was organized by Rev. A. A. Hoyt, August 3, 1874, with ten members. A church building was erected the following year. It is now a dwelling, the second house north of the present town hall [*the Gilman Block, now a commercial building. At one time it stood perpendicular to the road; it was rotated 90 degrees – HHS*].

Hemenway's Gazetteer states:

"Since the first settlement there have been a few believers in the doctrine of Universal Salvation (Universalism). The first minister was Rev. Walter Ferris. A church was never built, the members meeting in homes. In 1846 a Society was organized with eighteen members. This order has embraced some very excellent and worthy citizens, among them were Daniel Patrick, Colvin Murray, and their descendants."

Saint Jude's Parish was organized in 1944. Services were held in Woodman's Hall until 1948 when the present church was built [*the current church was built in 1989 – HHS*]. In 1946 the Rev. John P. Mahoney became the settled pastor. He also had charge of Mount Carmel Mission in East Charlotte. In October of 1956 he was transferred and became pastor of Saint Mary's of the Assumption Church in Middlebury, Vermont. At this time the Rev. Joseph Pagliuca became the pastor of St Jude's, where he still serves [*Father David Cray is the pastor of St. Jude in 2012*].

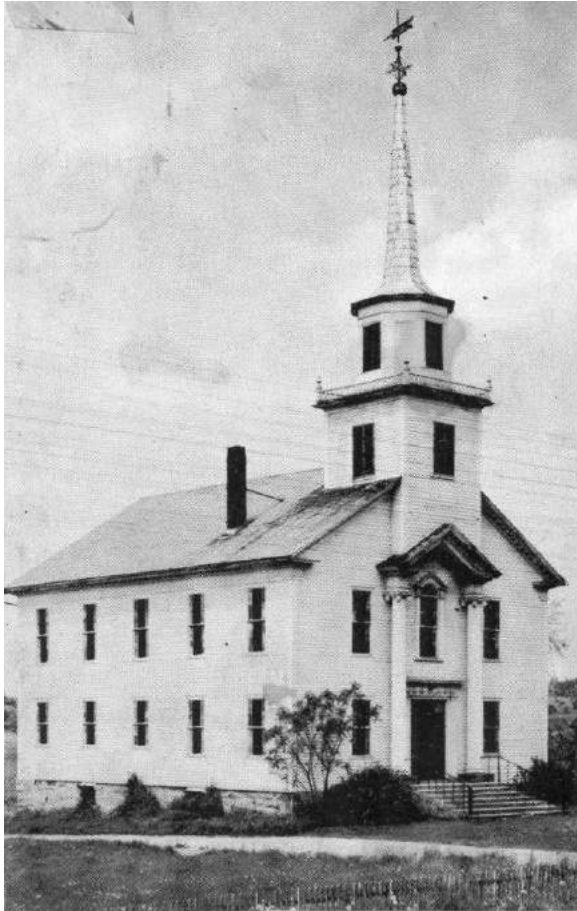
*original
St Jude's Church*



The present United Church was formed in 1915 by the union of the Congregational, Baptist and Methodist Churches. Ministers have been: Asa H. Edie, Charles Bennett, G. C. Cornell, F. F. Adams, Roy Ruth, Scott Cooley, John Robinson, Chester A. Simmons, Charles W. Saum, Leland Smith and the present pastor, James Osborn [*Rev. Dr. Michele Rogers Brigham is the interim pastor in 2012 - HHS*].

The Baptist Church in the lower Village was organized May 20, 1810, with eight members. Delegates from the Monkton Baptist Church met with the members in a school house

located on the south-west corner of Main Street and the Charlotte road and assisted with the organization. The church building, a wood structure, was built in 1826 on a one-acre plot donated by Jedediah Boynton. (It is significant to the lasting qualities of wood that this building has outlasted the two other town churches built of brick at later dates.) The Rev. S Churchill was the first pastor. Shubael Clark, a colored man, was a member of the church in its early days. The value of the church property was placed at \$4,500.00 in 1882.



Baptist Church

Ministers in Hinesburg Churches have been:

Congregational: Reuben Parmele (1791-5), Otto S. Hoyt (1818 to 1832, and in 1838), Brainerd Kent and Mason Knapen (1832 to 1837), G. C. Adams, Jedediah Bushnell, Clark E. Ferrin, Josiah Hopkins, Artemas C. Fields, Thomas J. Harris, Joseph Marshall, R. Owen, John B. Perry, W. B. Smock, Job Swift, H. C. VanHaagen, John Wheeler, Holland Weeks, White.

Methodist: D. P. Hurlburt (1842), W. Bedell, D. F. Brooks, E. Bouck, Ward Bullock, John Chase, Hiram Chase, A. S. Clark, R. T. Edwards, Asa F. Fenton, W. Foster, John G. Fort, Alson Hall, Bishop Isbell, A. J. Ingalls, Harris Kinsley, C. H. Howard, J. E. Metcalf, F. D. McCabe, David Osgood, Lewis Foster, W. R. Ryder, A. C. Rice, G. C. Simmonds, G. M. Sturgess, F. M. Sawyer, W. H. Tiffany, E. S. Vandenburg, E. L. Walker, Kelton, Taylor.

Baptist: William Arthur (1833), Wakeman G. Johnson (1842), S. Churchill, C. Ayer, Ephriam Butler, Ira D. Burwell, Daniel Bennett, N. C. Cushing, Peter Chase, Alanson Covill, Philbert Contois, John A. Dodge, Truman Gregory, A. S. Gilbert, Eben S. Greenleaf, M. C. Hodge, John Ide, Amazi Jones, A. Kingsbury, A. Locke, William Laughton, William Picknell, Sylvester S. Parr, Luman Smith, Reuben Sawyer, C. W. Safford, A. H. Stowell, P. C. Abbey, Archibald A. White, Ames, Fuller.

Free Will Baptist: David Kanaston, Davis, Baxter, Minard.

Universalist: Walter Ferris, H. P. Cutting, Atwood, Wakefield.

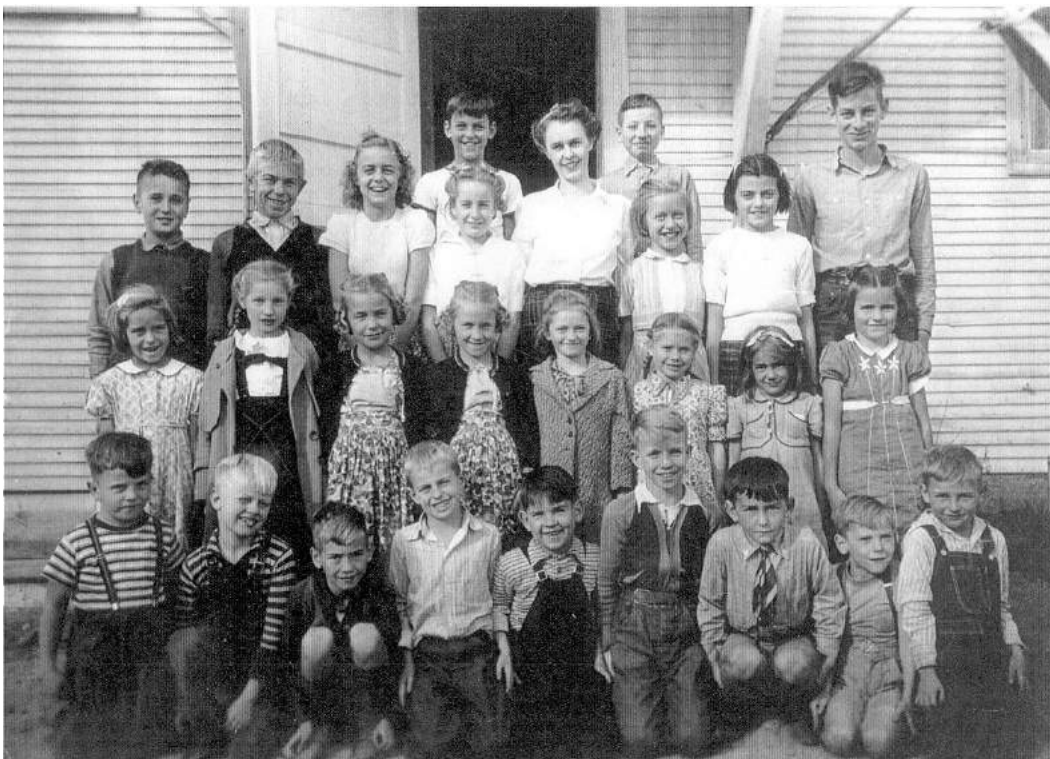
Christian Advent: A. A. Hoyt (1874-82).

Austin O. Spoor, and Frank Hemingway also preached in Hinesburg. (Churches not known)

SCHOOLS IN HINESBURG

Town records state that the delegates who organized the Baptist Church in 1810 met in a school house located on the corner of Main Street and the Charlotte road. There are no available records of any previous school house in the town. A school house was built in 1815 near the present high school [*White Building – HHS*]. It was replaced by one built in 1885 which is now used for agricultural purposes in connection with the high school [*the 1885 building is gone now; it stood to the east of the White Building – HHS*]. The school house built in 1815 was used for a time in the early days for Masonic meetings. After being moved to its present location it was used as a G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) and S.O.V. (Sons of Veterans) hall. At this

time it is owned and occupied by the Hinesburg Grange [*as of 2012 it is the home of H&M Auto Supply – HHS*]. The first Academy building was erected in 1824 on the present site of the library [*the former Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library, located in the small brick building on the west side of Main St. – HHS*]. It became a high school in 1871 and was occupied until the present high school was built in 1915 [*the White Building – HHS*]. In 1952 a central



elementary school was built, adjoining the high school. With the beginning of the central school the four [*remaining – HHS*] outlying grade schools were closed and the properties sold. They were located in Mechanicsville, Rhode Island Corners, the Hollow, and in the south-western part of the township [*corner of Drinkwater and Baldwin Roads – HHS*]. In 1956 the central elementary school was enlarged to contain extra class rooms, and an auditorium with kitchen and dining facilities. In 1840 there were fourteen school districts in the town, each with a school house. There were 598 pupils between the ages of four and eighteen years. "Public money accruing from rents on public lands, school taxes, and other funds, amounted to \$654.84, which gave a dividend of each scholar of \$1.08."

The population of the town in 1882 was 1330. There were thirteen common schools, with three male, and sixteen female teachers. The nineteen teachers received an aggregate salary of \$1,840.25 for the year. The total cost of operating the schools that year was \$2,070.57. There were 327 pupils. On November 27, 1847 the superintendent of common schools in Hinesburg licensed a young man named Roswell Farnham to teach in the schools that year. Mr. Farnham later became Governor of Vermont.

1941, school # 9
in Mechanicsville.

Jean (Aube)
Miner, to the
teacher's right. In
2012 Jean Miner
is the president
of the HHS.

THE HINESBURG ACADEMY

Hinesburg Academy, where the Literary Society met for 38 years, was first known as Vermont Institute. It was incorporated October 17, 1824. Rev. Otto S. Hoyt, Rev. Peter Chase, Jedediah Boynton, Nathan Leavenworth, William Hurlburt, Daniel Goodyear, John M. Eldredge

and Edmund Baldwin were the incorporators. The following were elected trustees: Stephen Haig, Monkton; Charles McNeil, Charlotte; Elisha Ferguson, Starksboro; Amos Dike, Huntington; Rev. Josiah F. Goodhue, Williston; Mitchell Hinsdale, Hinesburg and Ebenezer T. Englesby, Burlington. The latter presented the Academy with a bell. The board of incorporators met December 9 and appointed Nathan Leavenworth, chairman, and Heman Smith, clerk. Students during the first year numbered 95, and were



Hinesburg Academy building, left, on the hill

from Hinesburg, New Haven, Morristown, St. George, Sheldon, Charlotte, Burlington, Jericho, Shelburne, Ferrisburg, Monkton, Middlebury, Montpelier, Richmond, Vergennes, Cornwall, Bristol, Duxbury, Huntington, Williston, Westminster, Greensboro and Starksboro. Four were from outside the state. The school year was divided into four terms – one of ten, and three of eleven weeks each. Board was furnished for \$1.00 to \$1.50 per week. The cost of tuition for Reading, Penmanship, Geography, Ancient and Modern (with use of globes), English Grammar and Arithmetic was \$3.00 per quarter. For Logic, History, Rhetoric, Bookkeeping, Surveying, Algebra, Geometry, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Latin, Greek, and Astronomy, was \$3.50 per quarter. In 1860 the lower floor of the Academy was rented to the local school system, and in 1871 the Academy became a part of the town school system, being operated as an academy until 1895, when it became a high-school. The Chittenden County Gazetteer of 1882 stated that: "The Academy is a commodious two-story structure on a rise of land in the center of the village, above and back from the west side of the street, and fronted with a luxuriant growth of locusts and maples." Prior to 1824 the academy lot, and the lot adjoining to the south, contained a cemetery. Parts of skeletons were found when excavating for the present library in 1946. The academy and cemetery site was given to the town by Jedediah Boynton. The academy building was removed and used as a garage when the present high school was built in 1915 [*White Building – HHS*].

W. Dustin White's History of the Hinesburg Schools is in the Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library. It contains a list of the academy principals, school directors and teachers in the high school since 1871, and much other information.

MASONRY IN HINESBURG

Hinesburg and Charlotte combined in forming Friendship Lodge No. 20 in 1802. Dr. William B. Marsh of Hinesburg represented the Lodge that year at the Grand Lodge meeting in Burlington. Meetings were held, and officers elected, alternately by the two towns. Among the members from Hinesburg were, William, Joseph and Samuel Hurlburt, John M. Eldredge, Mitchell Hinsdale, and Daniel Patrick. In 1825 Patriot Lodge No. 63 was formed in Hinesburg. Among its members were, Daniel Patrick, Erastus Bostwick and John Wheelock. The first meetings were held in a school house. The Lodge functioned for a few years until a Movement against Masons caused it to discontinue activities. In 1854 Patriot Lodge No. 33 was organized. Among its members were, Daniel Patrick II, its first Master, Orren Murray, Marvin Leonard, John S. Patrick, David Frazer and Oscar Burritt. The first lodge room was in the upper floor of a building then located second door north of the present park [*curve in Rt. 116 – HHS*]. The rental was \$18 per year for a period of ten years. The building had been erected by Asa S. and Greene D. Weller in 1838, The next lodge room was in the upper floor of a brick building then standing across the street and north of the then Baptist (now United) Church [*at the entrance to Kelley's Field – HHS*]. This lodge room was occupied until the 1930s, when the Congregational Church building was given to the Lodge. It burned in 1950. The present Temple was built in 1954. Over the years nearly 600 members have been enrolled. More than fifty lived in Monkton, and more than forty in Starksboro.

In 1882 there were only two G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Posts in Chittenden County; Stannard Post, No. 2, in Burlington, and Cummings Post, No. 37, in Hinesburg. The latter met monthly on Saturday. John H. Allen was 1st lieutenant in Company G, 14th, regiment in the Union Army. He lived in the house now occupied by Charles Webster on Friendship avenue [*5th building east of Lyman Meadow – HHS*]. The Hinesburg Cornet Band, with twelve pieces, and John H. Patrick, leader, was organized in 1863. It met for practice in the town hall every Saturday.

The Whipping Post - On the southeast corner of Main Street and Friendship Avenue [*on the east side of the top of Silver St. - HHS*] stood the town whipping-post in the early 1800s. The post was used at times “when it was necessary to dispense summary justice to offenders at a time when prisons were yet unbuilt, and courts met infrequently.” It was also used as a bulletin board for advertising stray cattle, special town meetings, etc. There was a debtor’s jail across the street.

Henry M. Hull and Phelps J. Murphy opened a general store in 1873 where Elijah Peck had built a store in the early part of the century. It was located directly across the street from the present St. Jude’s Parish House. They continued in business until 1885 when Hull formed a partnership with David Frazer. Later Alfred S. Hull joined his father in the business. He later moved to Burlington where he established an extract business.

*Alfred “Ally” Hull
in front of his
store in the
village, cir 1920*



In a recently published book concerning old-time general stores, the author writes of the practice of customers trying to “stump” merchants by asking for unusual articles. Continuing from the book; “Henry M. Hull, of Hinesburg, Vermont was once asked for a ‘goose-poke’. He found one in his storeroom and made the sale.”

Industry and merchandising in the town at this (1961) time consists of the following: Lantman bros., general store; William Mallow grocery in the Hollow section; Garage of Hugh Hart and Leonard O. Mead; and of Ernest Giroux; J.P. Giroux repair shop; Iroquois Mfg., Co., making truck bodies and garden carts (Est. by Leland H. Lyman in 1925); Economou Cheese Corporation (Est. by Costas Economou in 1942); Gravel pits of Francis Casey, Wayne Bissonette, S.T. Griswold

Before the present paved road was built, plank sidewalks crossed Main Street from the post office [*east corner of Charlotte Rd. and Green St. – HHS*], and from the present St. Jude’s Parish House; the former with planks running length-wise, the latter crosswise. From the latter walk to Friendship Avenue [*Rt. 116 in front of HCS – HHS*] the road was shoveled out to a depth of about one foot during the 1890s, and the excavation filled with stones which were then broken with sledge-hammers. The stones were then covered with gravel. This was the first “hard-surface” road in the town.

For years a half-mile race track was maintained at the lower village [*in the field where Kinney Drug is – HHS*], where trotters and pacers were raced for small cash prizes and horse blankets. During the winter, horses were raced on the Reservoir [*Sunset Lake – HHS*], and on Hinesburg Pond [*Lake Iroquois – HHS*].

In 1894 a railroad was partially built from Burlington to Hinesburg. The town voted to issue bonds for \$25,000 for the project. Dr. John Fay Miles, then town clerk, refused to sign the bonds. Before the controversy could be settled operations were suspended. Had the road been completed, disintegration of the mills, and the coming of auto trucks would have forced its abandonment. The foresight of Dr. Miles therefore saved the town the above amount. Construction of a hard-surface road to Burlington was completed in 1934. It was rerouted around the swamp midway between the two points [*Shelburne Pond – HHS*]. A bus makes two round trips daily, carrying mail and express. Until the coming of autos, a horse-drawn stage made one round trip daily.

The following is taken from the Hinesburg census of 1850: Industry in the town in 1850 consisted of one woolen mill, one machine shop, three blacksmith shops, one wheelwright shop, two tanneries, two saddler’s shops, one grist mill, one saw mill, two shoemakers, one starch mill, and one potash mill. The total investment was \$35,100.00. Water power was used in six of the plants, hand power in nine, and horse power in one. There were 45 employees, among them four women who were paid eleven dollars per month. Average monthly of all workers was \$23 per month. There were 124 farmers in the township, the smallest farm being of eight acres, the largest, 395 acres. The largest number of milch cows on a farm was 42. Total improved land was 15371 acres. The cash value of all farms was \$341,212.00, and of all farm machinery, \$10,837.00. On the farms were 400 horses, 1068 milch cows, 168 oxen, and 6,593 sheep. The value of all livestock was \$83,041.00. For the year 1850, 3682 bushels of wheat were grown, 12,913 bushels of Indian corn, 14,981 bushels of oats, 21,176 bushels of potatoes, and 5,587 tons of hay. Production of wool was 20,895 pounds, butter, 74,580 pounds, and cheese, 187,400 pounds. There were, of course, no creameries or cheese factories at that time. The cheese and

*For years a
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butter made by the 124 farmers in 1850 was sold to dealers, or bartered at stores. (The population of the town in 1850 was 1834, or 700 more than in 1960). The Valley Cheese Factory was built in 1866 by a stock company consisting of Cicero G. Peck, Herman Post, Albert Ray, Eli Brownson, and the estate of Frederick Maeck. It was located on the brook that crosses the Burlington road about one -quarter mile north of the village [*the field to the north of Kinney Drug - HHS*]. It used the milk from 300 cows, and produced 60,000 pounds of cheese annually. The Union Cheese Factory was organized in 1871 on the Daniel Walston property by the stock company, of which Walston was a member. It was located about one-half mile from the Shelburne road in the northwest part of the township [*on the south west corner of O'Neil and Leavensworth Roads - HHS*]. It used milk from 250 cows. The McDonough family had a cheese factory in the late 1800s on the Starksboro road about one-half mile south of the Hollow road. Giles Hard, at one time, had a small cheese factory on Baldwin's Brook [*Beecher Hill Rd. - HHS*]. In the late 1800s the Valley Creamer was in operation on Pond Brook [*that building burned down on December 17, 1909 - HHS*].



*Valley Creamery,
with the ruins of the
Dow Woolen Mill in
the background;
Mill Rd,
Mechanicsville*

HINESBURG DIRECTORY OF 1882

John H. Allen, Ira Andrews, Lewis P. Bacon, Benjamin F. Clark, Degree & Martin, John Edwin, Timothy Degree & Son, Joseph Lavigne, Charles Nash, Alanson Moore, and Coburn Pierce were carriage, wagon and sleigh builders, or dealers.

Degree & Martin made "Heavy and light wagons, carriages and sleighs." Did, "bent wood work, repairing and tire setting." Were, "Dealers in Degree's patent tire oven. Saves time, expense of fuel. Only three minutes needed to heat one tire or twenty, and it avoids all danger of setting fires to buildings."

Joseph Bissonette, Samuel C. Castle, Newell E. Clifford, Frank Colt, Mark Glynn, Peter Lavigne, Fred J. Livingston, Elias R. Palmer, Cornelius and George Peters, David and Leonard Phillips, Andrew Place, Euzeb Sanctuary & Son, Timothy Stebbins, and Nelson strong were carpenters and builders.

John H. Allen was a harness maker. Also, "Dealer in heavy and light wagons, spruce and hemlock lumber, shingles, cedar posts, and maple sugar."

Andrew Curry, George Davis, Timothy Degree & Son, John Harris, and John Lockwood were blacksmiths.

C. J. Carpenter was a "Wholesale and retail dealer in meats, hides, pelts, and country produce."

Abdillah Tobey was a milliner, and sold "Fancy Goods."

George Toby was "Agent for Flinn's bed springs."

Elvin L. Douglas was a jeweler, and sold general merchandise.

George W. Flannagan operated the hotel.

Isaiah Dow's woolen mill made "Cassimeres, flannels, and fancy and plain stocking yarns."

David K. Patrick's foundry made "Plows, road scrapers, shovel plows, cultivators, traverse sleds, land rollers, sled shoes and sugar arch castings."

Reed & Patrick were dealers in "stoves and stove furniture, castings, hydraulic rams, lead and iron pipe, Studebaker wagons and farming tools, hides, skins, pelts, and furs." Were "Manufacturers of Tin, Sheet Iron and Copperware."

Henry M. Hull and Leonard Andrews operated general stores.

Daniel Patrick II was a surveyor and civil engineer.

Frederick F. Lyman operated a cloth dressing and carding mill.

Robert Montgomery was a meat dealer.

Lorenzo Murray made excelsior, excelsior mattresses, and was a dealer in furniture.

Aaron Wortheim was a dealer in livestock, and western work horses.

Lyman Partch was a dealer in horse rakes, mowing machines, seed sowers, and hay tedders.

Daniel Patrick III operated a saw mill, cider mill, and made cheese boxes and butter tubs.

Miss Cora B. Baldwin, and Miss Mary A. Shinville were "human hair workers."

Henry A White sold "pressed medicinal herbs."

The Union and Valley cheese factories made cheese.

William Brown, Louis and William Sanctuary were shoemakers.

David Frazer, Alexander Frazer, Orson Kenyon, and Peck and Jackman were apiarists.

Artemas C. Field, Asahel S. Gilbert, and I. W. Gregory were ministers of the Congregational, Baptist and Methodist Churches, respectively.

Lewis Bissonette was a tailor; Mrs. Nancy Lavine, a tailoress.

Miss Maria L. Brown, Mrs. Jennie Carl, Miss Mary Davis, and Miss Susan H. Webb were dressmakers.

Russell A. Corey, Alanson K. Moore, and Charles Nash were millers.

Joseph Landon was an insurance and pension agent.

Otis Bessie, Joseph Gilbert, and George E. Kenyon were masons and builders.

Royal Bell, and George Lamos were painters and paper hangers.

Barney, James and Thomas Cassidy were peddlers.

Samuel C. Castle, and Euzeb Sanctuary were funeral directors.

Marble Bissonette was a tanner.

John Wooster Miles was a physician.

John Fay Miles practiced as an allopath, and

Elroy B. Whitaker, as a homeopath.

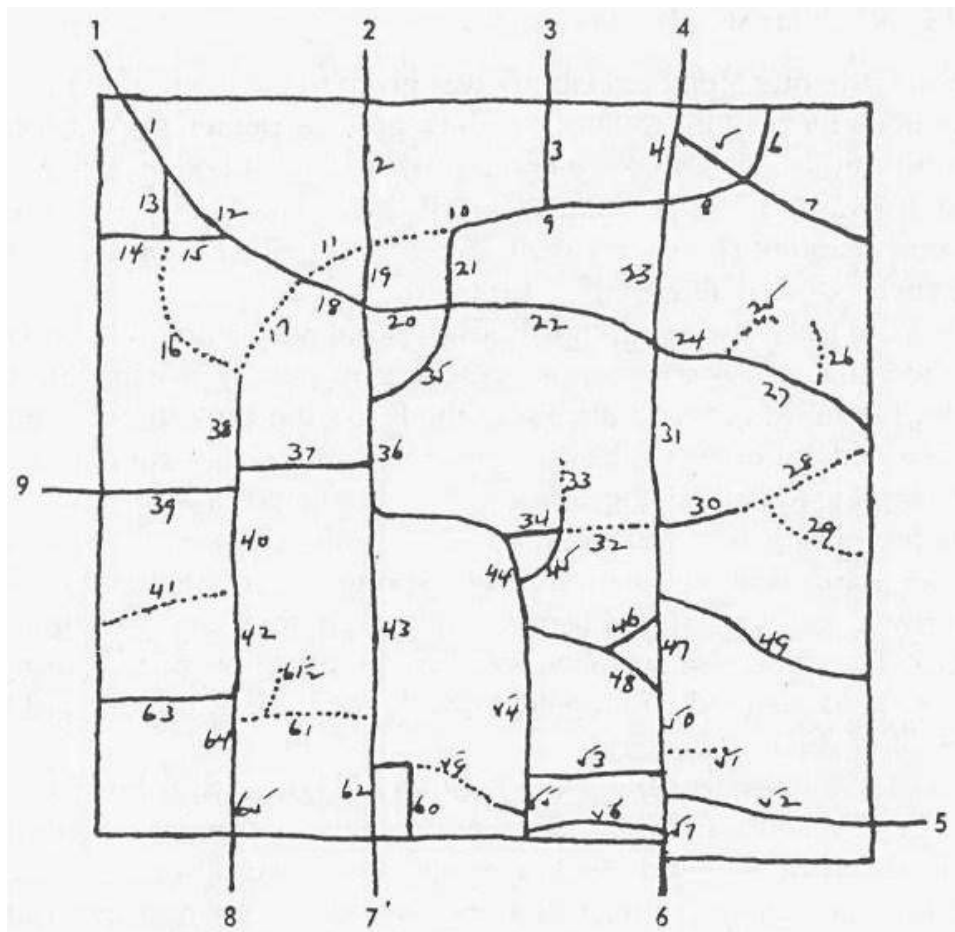
A modern fire truck and pumper is housed at the north end of the lower village on the canal. Hose connections reaching to nearby streams afford protection for buildings in both villages. In the 1930s the Laplotte River was deepened as a Federal project. This has prevented the former annual overflow into the valley meadows, giving farmers the advantage of steady use of fertile lands for raising hay and grain for their livestock. Several artesian wells have been drilled in the town. In 1954 a spring about one-quarter mile west of the town hall was tapped for a water supply for that building and several nearby homes. It also supplies water to the new post office erected in 1960 on the Charlotte road. During 1960-61 the pipeline was extended to take care of all of the lower village.

SARAH CARPENTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library was given to the town by Leonard E. Carpenter in memory of his mother, Sarah Degree Carpenter. Cornerstone ceremonies on August 24, 1946 were conducted by Patriot Lodge, F. & A.M. The dedication was on Mother's Day, May 11, 1947. The library was build under the supervision of Henry N. Labell. Helen V. Labell was librarian until 1958, being succeeded by Elizabeth L. Lantman. [*Susan J. Barden is the current librarian; 1996 to present – HHS*]



Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library – 1947-1997



map of numbered town roads as referred to in the Chittenden County Directory, 1882

**Recollections
of
Hinesburg
Vermont
in the
Eighteen Eighties
and Nineties**

Essays by
Leonard E. Carpenter

1962



Original scrapbook at
Carpenter Carse Library,
Hinesburg, Vermont

WINTER MORNING

*A kerosene
lantern is
lighted, and out
through a shed
to the barn to
hay and grain
the horses and
cows, and milk
the latter.*

The gong on the big nickel-plated alarm clock exploded early, arousing the household.

Out of a warm bed, onto a cold floor, and dressing quickly by lamplight.

A kerosene lantern is lighted, and out through a shed to the barn to hay and grain the horses and cows, and milk the latter.

Back in the kitchen for a wash-up at the sink. Papers have been placed in the cook-stove, then kindling and kerosene. When the fire burns well, stove-wood is added.

Soon the teakettle steams; the old-fashioned coffee pot begins to throw off its aroma. Sausage, or some other kind of meat, brought frozen from the storeroom soon begins to sizzle in the frying pan, adding its aroma to that of the coffee. Oatmeal and eggs are cooking. This, with bread or toast constituted the breakfast. At times a saucer of home-canned fruit was added to the menu.

After breakfast the pigs and hens were fed, all of the stock watered, the horses curried and brushed, then other light chores, such as filling the wood-box and stove reservoir, until the first-bell rang at the school house; then a quick clean-up and a rush to school at nine o'clock.

CHRISTMAS IN HINESBURG, VERMONT

IN THE 1880s

There were three churches in the village, the Congregational, Methodist and Baptist. They alternated in having the community Christmas tree.

The youngsters in the town, a month or so before Christmas, began to improve their manners, were more polite and helpful, and did errands and chores more cheerfully. They were looking forward to the coming of Santa Claus and the Christmas tree in the church.

In the meantime Grandmas were busy knitting socks, mittens, tippets (now mufflers) and toques to place on the tree.

Home-made sleds were made, to which the village blacksmith attached iron runners, usually free of charge. Barrel-stave skis were made at home, also toboggans. Jumpers were made by fastening a seat to a wooden runner somewhat like a present day ski. On warm days the sun melted the snow, which froze over at night making a crust that would hold up anyone wishing for a ride on the hillsides the next morning. For this activity boys wore leggings made of thick heavy cloth extending up to their knees; feet were enclosed in rubbers.

At the church, lighted with kerosene lamps, a tree reaching to the ceiling was set up and trimmed. While wax candles were used on the tree there were no fires of any consequence. Tinsel was made by stringing popcorn; also popcorn balls were made for decorations.

Presents for young and old were marked and brought to the church. Children, while anxious to hear their own names called, were helpful in delivering presents to their elders when their names were called out.

After the Christmas festivities were over the youngsters seemed to carry on for a while their good manners and helpfulness, patiently waiting for the next Christmas tree in the church.

WHAT WAS WORN

Dress shirts with detachable collars and cuffs were worn by men. The entire shirt was heavily starched, and referred to as "hard-boiled."

Shirts were usually made with the sleeves too long for the average man, requiring elastic arm bands.

Pajamas were not known. The long night shirts were made of a white material.

Some overcoats were no longer than present-day suit coats.

Men wore congress shoes, the kind with no buttons or laces, instead, wide elastic inserts on each side. Some of the older men continued to wear leather boots made to order by the local shoemaker.

The predominating dress-up hat for adult males was the black derby, wedding suits, usually the best ever bought up to the time of the ceremony, were extra good, and lasted as a Sunday-go-to-meeting suit for many years, sometimes being used as a burial suit.

Practically all shoes were black, and Bixby's blacking was used for shining them. The proper amount of saliva had to be used to make the blacking usable. Boys wore high button shoes, also women. There was a button-hook or two in every home.

Knee-length skirts were worn by boys, sometimes until the first year of school, when knee pants were donned. It was a great day for youngsters when they were about fourteen years old and got their first pair of long pants. The prize of a young boy was a pair of red-topped leather boots with copper plates on the toes. In winter thick cloth leggings and low rubbers were worn; also tippetts (mufflers), wristers, mittens and stockings, all of wool, and knitted by Grandma.

In every family the oldest boy got the new suits that were later cut down and passed on to his younger brothers as hand-me-downs.

There was a mud-scraper, and a boot-jack (for removing boots) on every back porch.

Women's best hats were trimmed with ostrich feathers; sometimes with birds. Hats having white or black ostrich feathers were spectacular. Women carried fur muffs in cold weather, wore bustles, and of course, whalebone corsets.

Coon-skin overcoats were to be seen frequently. Some lucky boys were given these coats by Montreal relatives. If the weather was extremely cold a wide belt was buckled around the waist.

Fleece-lined underclothes, full length, were worn in cold weather, and were itchy if the weather suddenly turned warm. Feather beds were comfortable on cold nights, but were stuffy in warm weather.

Dress shirts with detachable collars and cuffs were worn by men. The entire shirt was heavily starched, and referred to as "hard-boiled."

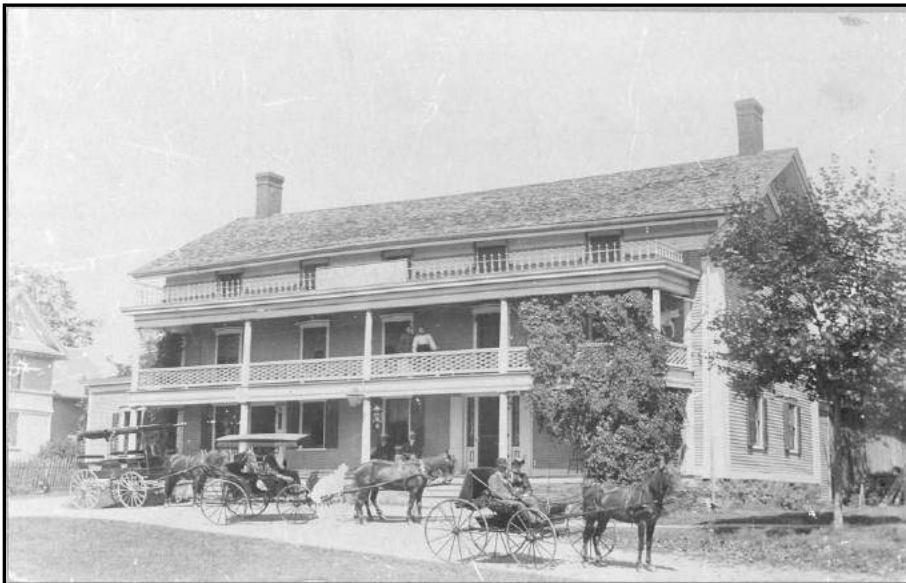
LIFE IN A SMALL-TOWN HOTEL

(1896-98)

HINESBURG, VERMONT

The hotel (now the Lantman General Store) was, and is, a three-story building with a basement. In the first floor was the hotel office, a small bar, kitchen, storeroom, dining room, sitting room, parlor and one bed room. There were a dozen bedrooms in the second floor, and a ball room occupied the whole of the third floor. Adjoining the office was an annex containing a pool table. One or two card tables were in the office, where "Pedro" or Perriwinkle was played "for the cigars."

The barn, sheds and ice house enclosed a large yard in which was a well-water pump; this and a rain-water cistern under the kitchen sink was the water supply for the hotel.



Like all hotels of this time a livery stable was maintained. Several horses, two cows, a number of hens and pigs were kept. The horses were curried and brushed every morning; the horse and cow barns cleaned out daily; the cows milked and all the animals watered and fed at the proper time.

The wagons were washed in a gravel-bottom brook just outside the village, and were always kept dusted. Harness equipment was washed and soaped when necessary.

The wagons were stored away in the fall when snow came, and the sleighs taken out of storage. In the spring this operation was reversed. The wagons were greased regularly. To do this the wheels were jacked up and removed, the axles wiped clean and new grease applied. The leather washer was inspected, replaced if worn, and the wheel put back on and bolted.

The livery rigs were rented to responsible persons for pleasure rides and business trips. The rate was usually \$1.50 per day for a single rig, and \$2.00 if two horses were used.

Traveling salesmen, every three or four weeks, would be brought to the hotel by out-of-town liverymen, who would then return to their towns. The salesmen would call on the local merchants with his wares. The following morning he would be driven to Huntington, Hanksville, Starksboro and Monkton, calling on merchants along the way, the trip ending late that night

at the hotel. The following morning the salesman would be driven to the railroad station at either Richmond or Shelburne.

The hotel rates for room and three meals was \$2.50 per day.

Kerosene lamps were used in every room in the hotel; lanterns were carried for use in the barn, sheds and cellar. These were kept filled and the wicks trimmed until used up, when new wicks were installed. The chimneys were cleaned of soot arising from wicks improperly trimmed.

In the fall several barrels of apples were stored in the cellar. The cost was not over \$1.50 per barrel for the finest fruit. Potatoes and other vegetables were stored in bins. In the spring they were sprouted until used up. A barrel of cider was put in the cellar in the fall and allowed to harden until it became vinegar.

Fruits and vegetables were canned; catsup and jellies made each year. Strawberries were picked in the meadows; red and black raspberries and black longberries gathered in the hill pastures were either canned, preserved, made into shortcakes, or eaten fresh with cream and sugar.

Milk, fresh from the cows, was placed in pans on the pantry shelves. When cream developed, a "skimmer" was used to remove it.

During the winter, pigs were butchered; a side or two of beef bought; sausage and lard made, all of which was frozen, to be used as needed. Hams and bacon cured in the smoke-house. Dried beef was made by hanging a slab over the kitchen stove. A large crock of corned-beef was brined every year.

Chickens were hatched and allowed to grow into hens and roosters. When chicken was on the menu they were decapitated on a wooden block in the yard, soaked in boiling water, picked, pinfeathered and allowed to cool before cooking. Fricassee was the usual way of cooking. Preparing as broilers was not practiced at that time.

Back of the barn was a large vegetable garden which was kept well fertilized with cow manure. It was ploughed, harrowed and seeds planted. Weeding and cultivating went on during the season. Horseradish was dug from a spot near the garden.

Fields were rented each year for hay and oats. The hay was cut and hauled to the hotel barn. The oats were cut and thrashed at the hotel barn; the oats used for feed, the straw for horse and cow bedding.

When ice was of proper thickness on the pond reservoir it was cut and hauled to the ice house and packed in sawdust.

Every fall the cellar walls were banked for cold weather. Stakes were driven into the ground about one foot from the wall, and boards laid up. Sawdust was drawn from a sawmill and packed in, to stay until it was removed in the spring.

During the winter, firewood timber was hauled from the surrounding hills, and slabs were drawn from a saw mill to the hotel yard. There it was sawed to cook-stove length, then split and wheelbarrowed into the woodshed and piled.

*The hotel rates
for room and
three meals
was \$2.50
per day.*

Ashes had to be kept removed from the several wood and coal stoves, and the stoves kept in proper operation. The wood-boxes were kept filled, and a hod-ful of coal beside each stove.

Wood ashes were put in barrels, and water run through to make lye. This with animal fats made soft soap, used mainly for the weekly washing. Two washtubs, one for washing, the other for rinsing and the wringer, were used. Washboards were always necessary. The hired girl, did this work. Her pay was \$2.50 per week, with room and board included.

When housecleaning time came in spring, rugs and carpets were thrown over a clothes line and the dust removed with a carpet beater. In taking up carpets a tack puller was used. Loose straw under the carpets was removed and replaced with a fresh supply. In replacing carpets a stretcher was used. For routine cleaning of carpets a broom was used, which would remove only a part of the dirt, the rest going through the carpet to the floor, to remain until the annual spring cleaning.

In summer, cloth screens were tacked over the windows; however, hordes of flies did get into the rooms. Sticky, and poison flypaper was used, the latter in a dish of water. Poison dust was also used as a spray. "Shoo-flies" were made by cutting paper flour sacks into strips and tacked to sticks. One of these in each hand would "shoo" the flies toward the door which would be opened by another person, and some of the flies driven outdoors.

The two outhouses were cleaned out every fall and spring. This was an odorous job, and the less said about it was the better.

In winter, coal was hauled from Burlington. On arrival in the city for a load, the horses were stabled and the rounds made buying supplies for the hotel. The noon meal was usually at the Star Restaurant on Church Street, for .25 (cents), or if .50 (cents) were available, at the VanNess House. A ton of coal would be loaded, the other supplies added, and the load completed with cases of two-percent beer, as it was then called. The beer sold for ten cents per bottle, or three for a quarter. One local man had a job where he was paid one silver dollar for each day's work. Each dollar was spent for twelve bottles of beer.

The two outhouses were cleaned out every fall and spring. This was an odorous job, and the less said about it was the better.

Every "morning after" the hotel office and bar were in an untidy condition. The floor was swept, and frequently mopped, the cuspidors taken into the yard and cleaned. Beer glasses were rinsed as thoroughly as possible under conditions as they were.

Crank turning was a considerable part of the chores. Every Sunday morning a gallon of heavy cream was brought from the creamery for making ice cream. The proper mixture was made in the can; the ice crushed in a burlap bag and mixed with rock salt and packed around the can; then crank turning began and continued as long as possible, or until the ice cream was "done."

The crank of the well pump was turned every time a pail of water was drawn for the horses, cows, wash-bowl tank, and for drinking water. Water for the kitchen stove reservoir, washing dishes and clothes was drawn from the rain-water cistern.

The Monday morning washing called for crank-turning of the wringer attached to one of the wash tubs.

(From the stove reservoir came the water for the several Saturday night baths in front of the kitchen stove.)

The grindstone was cranked while knives, axes and other tools were sharpened.

When sausage was made after the pigs had been butchered, the meat was ground in a sausage grinder. This was hard turning.

Every winter the horses were clipped. The clippers were either on a standard, or suspended from the ceiling. A steady turn had to be maintained to do a good clipping job.

It was a pleasure for youngsters to turn the crank on the coffee mill for the grocer when three pounds of coffee were bought for a dollar, the standard price for good coffee at that time.

So much for crank turning.

Public dances were held at the hotel on Thanksgiving, New Years, and Washington's Birthday. Dancers would come from adjoining towns, and with those from Hinesburg would total about 100 couples, the capacity of the hall.

It was a difficult job taking care of the horses and wagons, or sleighs. Extra stalls were made in the sheds, and nearby barns used. Once in a while the wrong rig would be given to a couple when they left for home, and driven several miles in the opposite direction. This mistake would have to be corrected the following day. The couple, victims of the mistake, were sleepy and perhaps "in love" and did not notice that they were driving the wrong horse.

Dancing would begin at nine o'clock. At midnight supper was served and dancing resumed at one, continuing until four o'clock. At dance suppers, oranges, celery, olives, oysters and other delicacies were part of the menu. They were not served so freely at other times.

When a Burlington orchestra furnished the dance music the entire bill was \$2.00 per couple. If a local orchestra was used the bill was \$1.50.

The orchestra consisted of the violin, clarinet, cornet and bass-fiddle. The latter was usually played by the caller, or prompter, for square dances.

Two men were named "Hall Directors." Their duties were to see that the sets were formed for the square dances, and to keep the program going on time and in order. Also, there were two men on the "Committee of Introduction;" They saw that everyone became acquainted.

The usual dance program was made up of the Quadrille, Fisher's Hornpipe, Irish Washerwoman, Portland Fancy, Lancers, Schottische, Virginia Reel, Waltz, Twostep and Polka. Square dance sets formed at the sound of the cornet. Home Sweet Home, the last waltz, found everyone "going strong" after six hours of dancing.

There was much to do in the operation of a small-town hotel in the 1890s. Luckily there were no distractions such as Radio, Television, Movies, and Automobiles.

*Public dances
were held at
the hotel on
Thanksgiving,
New Years, and
Washington's
Birthday.*

THE HINESBURG

SILVER CORNET BAND

The band consisted of about twenty members. Edgar L. Degree was the leader. The members were: Daniel Patrick, Guy Carpenter, Ernest Partch, Earl Brownson and Erle Mead, cornets; Waldo Davis and Leon Eddy, baritones; Frank Patrick, bass; Frank Post, David Patrick, Elon Martin, Charles Martin and Fay Kenyon, altos; Noble Love and John Hart, trombones; Harry Page and Willie Martin, clarinets; Leonard Carpenter, euphonium; Clark Pierce, trap drum; Rufus Patrick, bass drum. The band had been organized several years previously with John S. Patrick as leader.

On Saturday nights during the winter, practicing was done in the town hall, then located just south of the Baptist (now the United) Church. Girls from the town would dance during the practice sessions.



The band furnished music for the Fourth of July and Memorial Day ceremonies, and for other occasions. There were concerts in the bandstand in front of the Academy (now the site of the Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library) during the summer months. For several years the band furnished the music at the Waterbury Fair. One year it went to St. Albans to play at a Saint John's Day celebration. During winters towns nearby were visited for concerts.

When enough money had been raised for uniforms, a

salesman came to town and measured the players for uniforms of Union blue cloth, very heavy and uncomfortable in warm weather. Confederate grey would have been more appropriate for the dusty conditions of the roads, but was passed up for patriotic reasons. Several members were growing boys and before long had uncomfortably outgrown their uniforms.

On Memorial Day the band assembled at the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) hall (now H&M Auto Supply) where they were decorated with boquets, and led the parade to the cemetery, followed by uniformed Civil War Veterans and Sons of Veterans, and others. After the graves had been decorated the paraders marched back to the village, their blue uniforms thoroughly saturated with dust.

The Fourth of July celebrations were colorful affairs held near the bandstand. It was one of the times when pink lemonade and bananas were available. The speaker of the day held forth with a

patriotic address, which with the band music seemed to satisfy the assembly of townspeople and visitors.

At one time, Professor Russell, a minister, and an expert on the cornet was the leader of the band. Under his leadership several Sousa marches were ordered and “mastered.” Among them, Manhattan Beach, High School Cadets, Washington Post, King Cotton and Liberty Bell. The Poet and Peasant Overture was struggled with until it could be rendered without stopping. A practice session for it was held one afternoon at Hinesburg Pond Near the cottage where Professor Russell spent his summers into the 1950s.

One time, Bill Andrews, who had a bicycle shop near the present day creamery, arranged for the band to make a recording. The selection chosen was the General Nelson A. Miles march. The members did their best but the record did not turn out very well.

The band served a useful purpose. Without it the town would have suffered in comparison with other towns having bands. It was a wholesome enterprise for young men in the town.

MUSICAL MEMORIES

Every winter the University of Vermont Glee Club came out from Burlington and gave concerts in the Baptist Church.

The first phonograph to be heard in the town was set up in the hotel office. It was hand-cranked and had ear phones. Listeners paid five cents per record. Later a machine with a spring wind was operated in Steve Ploof’s barber shop. Records by Pat Gilmore’s band were featured.

There were a few organs and pianos in homes. Youngsters who had been persuaded to take lessons had ingenious excuses to avoid practicing.

The Silver Cornet Band was the goal of musically inclined youngsters. Some started by helping the bass drummer carry the drum, or played the cymbals – then on to an instrument.

Every year during the holiday season a cantata was given in the Congregational Church. The chorus was conducted by Elon O. Martin.

The Methodist Church choir, conducted by Cicero G. Peck, using a pencil for a baton. The Baptist Church choir, among it, Martha Reed, soprano; Harmon Beecher, basso.

The lusty singing of old-time hymns at Sunday and Wednesday night prayer meetings.

Boys looked forward and hoped to be given a mouth organ (Harmonica) at Christmas.

CONCERT BY THE HINESBURG CORNET BAND,
THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 26, 1896,
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY, RICHMOND, VT.

PROGRAM

Manhattan Beach March,	Sousa
Vandalia Waltz,	Keller
Medley, War Songs,	McCosh
Salute to Burlington March,	Sherman
Pride of the Ball Waltz,	Verner
Washington Post March,	Sousa
Intermission of Five Minutes	
I Don't Want to Play In Your Yard Waltz,	Beyer
Grand Religious Fantasia,	Rollinson
Draper Hall March,	Orth
Medley Overture, Jolly Student,	Ferrazzi
The Honeymoon March,	Weigand
A Milk White Flag Overture,	Stahl
*	*
*	*

As a B-Flat cornetist (the only survivor of the band) I remember this concert of 67 years ago.

There was considerable snow at the time. About 20 of us rode from Hinesburg to Richmond in a two-horse-drawn sled. The weather was mild, there being a drizzle on the way to Richmond. The Buffalo robes used were soaked. The horses were stabled; the sled left out to the weather. The concert was rendered, during which the weather turned freezing cold. The robes were frozen solid and were of no use to us on the return ride. So far as is known there were no serious after-effects from the ride.

There are no available records of what the band was paid, or what the Universalist Society charged the audience for tickets. The band could not have been overpaid, or the audience undercharged.

THE THEATRE

Traveling troupes of players periodically came to town and presented their plays in the G.A.R. (now H&M Auto Supply) Hall.

Arriving early in the day they would engage boys to go about the town shouting "Come one, come all to the G.A.R. Hall tonight" and give the name of the show. Most of the shows were melodramatic. In the cast were the usual "villian" and "innocent maiden."

There were hisses when the maiden was not treated right. The leading man showed his displeasure if he thought his efforts were not properly appreciated.

The capacity of the hall was taxed by the audience, and the next show eagerly anticipated.

REVIVALS

At times during the year, religious revivalists would make their annual visit to conduct their campaign for repenters. Some of the better grade would hold their meetings in a church; others would use school houses.

They would board around with families, and at times when collections were not good their board bills could not be paid when they left town.

There were a few town characters who were consistently "converted" during every campaign. They usually fell back into their old ways when the revivalist left town. On his return the following year they were again ready to hit the trail.

WHITTLIN'

A character or two in the town, usually well along in years, were inveterate whittlers. They whittled wherever they happened to be, sometimes on the veranda of their homes, or at the store listening to gossip and arguments in which they seldom took part, being too busy with their "whittling."

They used a straight-grained soft-wood stick and a sharp knife. They were expert at whittling off narrow strips that would curl and drop to the floor, forming a steadily increasing heap of shavings.

When the stick had been pared down to the limit the shavings were gathered up and taken home to start the kitchen stove the next morning.

Aaron Wortheim brought in carloads of Illinois workhorses to sell to farmers. One day while showing his horses to a prospective buyer one of the horses had partly backed out of the stall. Aaron gave it a shove, and a curse. The horse kicked, breaking Aaron's jaw. He died a short time later. Moral: don't swear at a horse.

Western unbroken broncos were also brought to town. Youngsters took many a fall before these horses were broken to saddle.

When other methods failed, colts were broken to harness by tying the halter rope to the colt's tail so that head and tail would almost meet. It was then started spinning around until it fell from dizziness.

When clipping horses that were hard to control, a loop of heavy cord attached to a stick was twisted around the upper lip.

During the mud season horse's tails had to be tied. The hair was divided into a solid knot and tied in place with a heavy string.

Croupering a horse was an operation where one was in a good position to be kicked. Some horses would stiffen their tails against their body making the job difficult.

Trinket, a bay mare liked to eat her straw bedding. With her hind feet she would shove the straw up to where she could eat it. When sawdust or shavings were thrown into her stall for bedding she would try to kick the thrower.

Bonner, a bay gelding, was a grain bolter, consequently his ribs showed. To slow him up, small stones were mixed in with the grain.

Kitty, the family pet, was a small black mare with white hind ankles that were cocked. She was a fine saddle horse. Living to be nearly thirty years old she was finally put away and buried in a pasture grave.

Minnie, a rangy bay mare, was long-strided and of a nervous sort. At the first touch of the currycomb on her belly she kicked.

Daisy Shinville was so named because being formerly owned by a man of that name. She was a sway-backed horse, but an unusually good saddle horse.

A horse stable in winter when the nags were munching their hay and grain – their tails switching at nothing – their contented movements – the stable aroma – all made for a comfortable place.

To be a good horse trader one had to know how to tell the age of a horse by its teeth. Also to judge whether it had heaves, splints, spavins or other defects.

Horse traders used every trick possible to work off their horse on the other fellow, and had to be just as sharp in seeing that the horse they were trading for had no hidden defects. Anything discovered, on either side, changed the basis of the trade. Horse traders always bragged about the time when they made a good trade, but never mentioned the times when they were beaten.



left to right: Ralph Harvey, Marjorie Cassidy, May Murray (on bike), Ruth Patrick, Ruth Burritt

Sports and recreation in the 1880s and 1890s were varied, and had to be synchronized so as not to interfere with the daily chores. All diversions were interesting, and most were inexpensive.

A baseball team was sponsored by a summer resident, Arthur Hosford, who came from his home in Massachusetts to Hinesburg each year. He brought several fine horses, with wagons and harness equipment to match. His home was directly across the street from the present park. Mr. and Mrs. Hosford, out for a ride, being driven by the groom, attracted attention from local residents. To fill out his team he secured players from other towns at times. There was intense rivalry between his team and that of Bristol. Another team made up of younger home-town boys played regularly.

High-school boys played a modified game of football, using an inflated pig's bladder for the ball.

"Fox and Hounds" was played on moonlit nights in the fall. Two youngsters (foxes) with a supply of small pieces of paper were given a few minutes start and at a given distance would throw out the paper as they went along. The chasers (hounds) scattered to pick up the "scent"

A bob-sled (then called traverses) run began from the rear of the building directly north of the present library to the street, then turning left into the Charlotte road.

Hockey of that time was called "Shinny." A sapling with a curved root made a good shinny stick. The LaPlotte River invariably overflowed every fall, and when frozen over, the snow, if any, was shoveled off, and a rink for pleasure skating and shinny was made to order.

Every winter a toboggan slide was built, starting from the top of the rear end of the Academy (present site of the Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library). The run of the slide extended almost to the brook west of the village. Those who could not afford to buy a toboggan went to Daniel Patrick's sawmill for enough thin slats for the width of the toboggan. The slats were fastened together with cleats, one end of the slats steamed and bent to the shape of a toboggan and fastened to the front cleat, then allowed to dry. Grain bags stuffed with shavings were used for cushions.

"Jumpers" were made with a board about two feet long, four inches wide and three-quarters of an inch thick. One end was steamed and bent to the proper curved shape, then fastened securely and allowed to dry. A 2 x 4 upright was attached to the base for a seat, and braced on each side. Going down hill on snow the rider grasps the sides of the seat with both hands, and balances by holding the legs outward.

Home-made skis were made of barrel staves. The best skiing was on hillsides having a strong crust; a condition more prevalent then than now.

Until a "store" sled could be afforded it was made at home, with runners installed by a blacksmith. With a running start the lads would jump on the sled "belly-bunt" and race down the hill. To slide in the "side-saddle" position a leather steering boot was made by a harness maker. It was covered with metal rivets to prevent wear of the leather. The rider put the boot on his right foot, and with his left hip and leg on the sled he steered by dragging the booted right foot.

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Hand-made snowplows for sidewalks were drawn by hand in the village. (Snow rollers, drawn by horses, were used to pack the snow down on the roads. At intervals in the roads “thank-you-marms” or “kee-hoos” would develop. Sleighs dropping in and out of the holes gave riders a shaking up.)

A good fish pole could be made by cutting a small swamp cedar about one inch in diameter at the base. The branches were trimmed off and the pole fastened against ridge-pole boards on a roof to keep it straight while drying. When dry the bark was peeled off and the result was a first-class fish pole.

Stilts were made by fastening cleats on two poles at the desired distance from the ground.

Fish spears were made from a metal pipe. The blacksmith would fashion the spear head into three prongs, usually, and it would be attached to a long pole.

Willow whistles were made in the spring when sap was in the trees. A mouthpiece was made on a smooth branch. Holes were cut in the bark, which was removed by wetting and pounding. The wood was hollowed out and the bark replaced.

Muskrats were shot with a rifle as they swam along with only their noses out of water. They were also trapped along the brook. The traps were baited with red-skinned apples on a stick suspended over the traps in runs where the rats left the brook. The rounds were made just before dawn to collect the traps. The skins were stretched over pelt-shaped shingles and allowed to dry. In late spring they were sold to dealers for ten, fifteen or twenty cents, according to size and quality.

Trout, in the hill brooks, bass and perch, in the ponds, and bullheads and suckers in the meadow brooks were caught in season. Night fishing for eels was frowned upon by parents because an expedition of this kind lasted most of the night.

In the spring when pickerel were spawning in runs off the brook they were shot with large caliber rifles and with shotguns loaded with slugs and heavy charges of powder. The shot had to be aimed under the fish at an angle depending on the distance. The guns, because of the extra charge of powder, “kicked” and as the fish were only stunned it was sometimes difficult getting them out of the water.

Grey squirrel hunting time was, as now, in the fall. The most likely place for hunting rabbits would be in a swamp after it had frozen over. Partridges were hunted, and considerable time was spent trying to find foxes.

On “Fast Day” (Good Friday) there was a tacit understanding with owners of hens that eggs to a reasonable number could be had from their hen houses. The eggs were taken to a hillside cleft in rocks, where eggs were eaten to the limit of digestive capacities.

During the green corn season cornfields were raided and the ears stuffed into the legs of overalls which were tied at the bottom. Salt and butter were taken into the woods where the corn was roasted on pointed sticks over a fire.

Fish spears were made from a metal pipe. The blacksmith would fashion the spear head into three prongs, usually, and it would be attached to a long pole.

The year's supply of butternuts was gathered in grain bags and dragged home, dried on the attic floor and later cracked on an old flat-iron with a dent in its flat surface, held inverted between the knees.

There was the usual picnics at the pond, and dancing in the town hall and in nearby towns, both in halls and on open-air platforms. The big yearly events were the County Fair, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, the Circus, all held in Burlington. Also the Sunday school excursions on either the steamer Chateaugay, Reindeer or Vermont, to Ausable Chasm, or the old forts Crown Point and Ticonderoga.

When money was scarce for fireworks on the Fourth of July, holes were bored in large chunks of firewood too tough to be split with an axe. Powder was packed in and a fuse inserted. By this process noise was economically made and at the same time the year's wood-splitting was completed.

On their birthdays every boy was supposed to get a paddling with a barrel stave; one for each year, and one to grow on.

During the Spanish-American War in 1898 the Burlington Free Press issued a special Sunday edition. The papers were brought from the train at Shelburne and sold around the town in Hinesburg, and to farmers lined up at the creamery with their milk. The price was ten cents. The Utica Globe, a paper with sensational news was a popular publication in the town.

Roller skating in Sanctuary's Hall (now Woodman's Hall) was a popular indoor sport.

Having their shoes spit upon was a custom boys could not evade when wearing a new pair.

The lucky youngsters who owned a bicycle anxiously watched the disappearing snow in spring for the first patch of dry ground on the sidewalks and roads. At times bicycle races were held on the race track located just north of the village. At one time there was a high-wheeled bicycle in the town. Headers were taken trying to master it.

Sunday afternoon and evening buggy rides were on the recreation list. The horse, harness and buggy were slicked up, and a laprobe provided for protection from dust. The rides were leisurely with no traffic congestion. On cold rides in winter heated soapstones or bricks were used for foot protection. On a buggy ride in the rain a "rubber boot" blanket was fastened over the dashboard, on which, at night, was also attached a lantern. The lad who had a rubber-tired buggy, or a sleigh with a top, was most popular with the girls.

The Silver Cornet Band was an important part of the town's activities. As boys grew up they aspired to become members of it.

If the price of tickets was on hand; if a horse, a buggy or a sleigh, and a girl were available, the theatre in Burlington was the big objective.

During the winter "Kitchen Tunks" were held in farmhouses having large kitchens. The dancers arrived, found a place to stable their horses and prepared for the dance. The kitchen had been cleared and a chair placed on the sink for the "fiddler" who was also the "caller" for the square dances. A lunch would be provided. The usual contribution was not over a dollar per couple.

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Regardless of the foregoing, the wood-boxes had to be kept filled, the cows milked, the horses curried and brushed, the stables kept clean, all the animals fed and watered at the proper times, and other odd chores done. The responsibility of these chores probably developed in youngsters a sense of responsibility that carried on into later life.

PEDDLERS

THE JEWISH PACK PEDDLER made periodic visits through the neighborhood on foot, carrying a pack on his back. For an interested customer he would unroll the pack and spread out his wares consisting of needles, thread, buttons, pins, and many other household necessities. When his entire stock had been displayed and every possible sale made he would carefully roll the pack into its original condition and trudge along to his next customer.

THE TIN-PEDDLER appeared with a horse-drawn cart loaded with all kinds of household tinware and utensils. His sales were sometimes made on a barter basis if his customer had anything to trade, such as butter or eggs.

THE HULLED-CORN PEDDLER brought his product (sometimes called samp) in milk cans loaded on his horse-drawn cart. It was sold by the quart, and eaten out of bowls, usually with milk and sugar.

THE FISH-PEDDLER was not a consistent caller, but at times came on Thursdays. Driving along the road he would, on approaching a house, blow a tin horn and call out, "fresh fish."

THE MEAT-PEDDLER loaded his meat cart and called house-to-house in the town. The meat was weighed on steelyards. A weekly trip was made to Burlington, peddling on the way and in the city.

THE MERCHANDISE PEDDLER was sent out through northern Vermont by Farrell Brothers, of Swanton. A large yellow van drawn by a pair of sturdy horses, was loaded with general merchandise such as clothing and furnishings. Trips were made once a month.

THE TOWN AGENT

Adelord Jodoin and Phelps Murphy, at different times, were authorized by law as town agents. Spirituous liquors were bought in barrels and stored in the cellar of the agent and dispensed on prescriptions issued by doctors.

It was said that many a lame back, real or imaginary, brought forth a prescription. The complaints usually returned at regular intervals.

THE HINESBURG MAIL CARRIER

At five o'clock P. M. the stage arrived daily from Burlington with the mail. Guy Boynton, the postmaster would "put it up" in the boxes, open the delivery door and call out, "mail's up," and hand it out to those waiting in line.

The mail for Mechanicsville and Rhode Island Corners was delivered on foot by Oscar Palmer, the R. F. D. of his time.

Oscar was a small, wiry Civil War veteran. He started from the postoffice shortly after five o'clock every week day. His gait was about half way between a fast walk and a dog-trot. In all seasons he made the rounds on time.

He usually came to the village early in the afternoon for a card game at the hotel until mail time. He was considered to be an extra good player of "Pedro" or "Periwinkle."

His language was crisp and to the point, and tinged with profanity. He had a way of swearing that did not sound as blasphemous as the blustery kind of others.

Oscar always donned his Civil War uniform and marched with the Grand Army of the Republic veterans in the Memorial Day parade to the cemetery.

Because of his faithful services he was well liked by the families on his route. When he died they arranged for a good funeral. The funeral director evidently did not share this respect for Oscar and did a careless job in preparing him for burial. At the funeral Oscar's friends wanted to see the body; the director did not want them to have this last look. They persisted and were not satisfied with what they saw and compelled the director to re-do the job in a way that would befit a gentleman – Oscar Palmer, The Mail Carrier.

ELECTION CAMPAIGNS OF THE 1880S

Vermont (and Hinesburg) were more predominately Republican, and many contests were between members of that party.

Town Meetings (March Meetings) were attended by a larger part of the townspeople, and electioneering for favorite candidates was more prevalent. A five-minute speech was considered a long one. The town hall, where meetings were held, was smaller than the present one. It was usually filled to the last seat.

The National Elections in November were taken more seriously, and more time given to the campaign. Torchlight parades were made up of marchers carrying flares of various kinds. Youngsters carried kerosene-soaked lighted ripe cattails. Older folks carried lanterns and containers holding kerosene lighted with heavy wicks.

A part of some parades, called "Horribles" consisted of a large wooden box mounted on a horse-drawn wagon. Notched 2x4s were drawn across the edges of the box to produce the noise. This was called a "Horse-fiddle."

The prevailing campaign song was:

Ice cream and sugared plums,
Good enough for Republicans,
Dead skunks and skinned rats,
Good enough for Democrats.

For a time after the elections were over, the results were rehashed around the stoves in the general stores.

THE SO-CALLED "GOOD-OLD-DAYS" OF THE 1880S

AND 1890S IN HINESBURG, WERE DAYS OF –

Celluloid collars. Detachable collars and cuffs.

Floor-length dresses, with more than one skirt.

Night-shirts – fleece-lined underclothes, and feather beds.

High button shoes on children and women. Congress (elastic sides) shoes on men who did not wear leather boots.

Corsets- bustles- muffs. Curling irons, heated on lamp chimneys. Flat irons heated on stoves.

A pump in the yard for drinking water. A rain-water cistern under the kitchen sink.

Kerosene lamps and lanterns.

Wood-burning kitchen and heating stoves.

The refrigerator – the dirt-bottom cellar.

Buggies with iron tires, and hard cushions.

Sticky and poison fly paper.

A two-holer in the back yard.

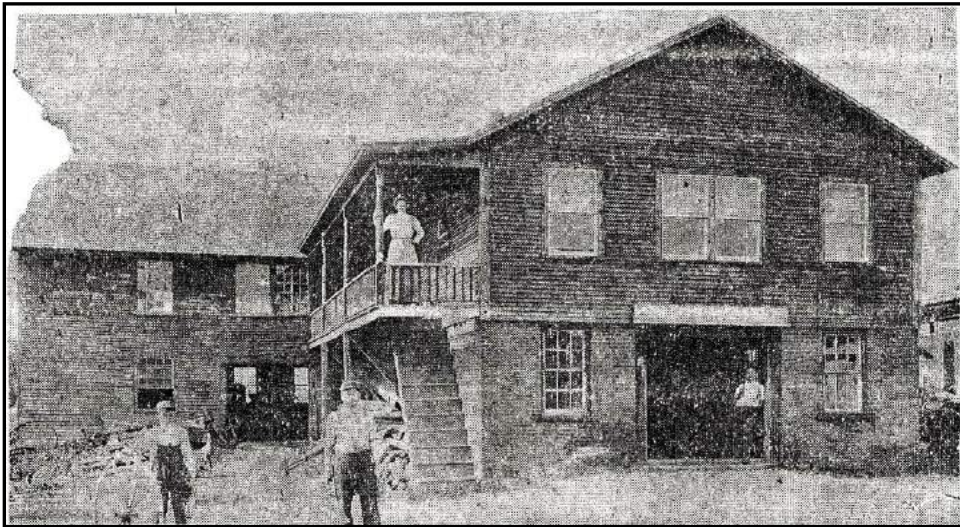
Washtub baths in the kitchen Saturday nights.

A washtub with hand wringer for the Monday morning wash. Soft soap.

THE CARRIAGE SHOP

About the year 1860 James Degree began manufacturing Concord buggies on Friendship Avenue in a shop where the Hart and Mead Garage is now located. These vehicles were noted for their wearing qualities and developed a reputation that carried their sales as far away as Australia. Sleighs were also built and general repair done.

On the death of James Degree in 1880, his son, Edgar L. and Elon O. Martin took over the business, the former in charge of the wood work, the latter the painting. Frank Flagg took care of the iron work. Isaac Sharon started working in the shop at one dollar per week and his board the first year. He studied nights, entered college and completed a medical education. For many years he was a successful doctor in Middlebury, Vermont.



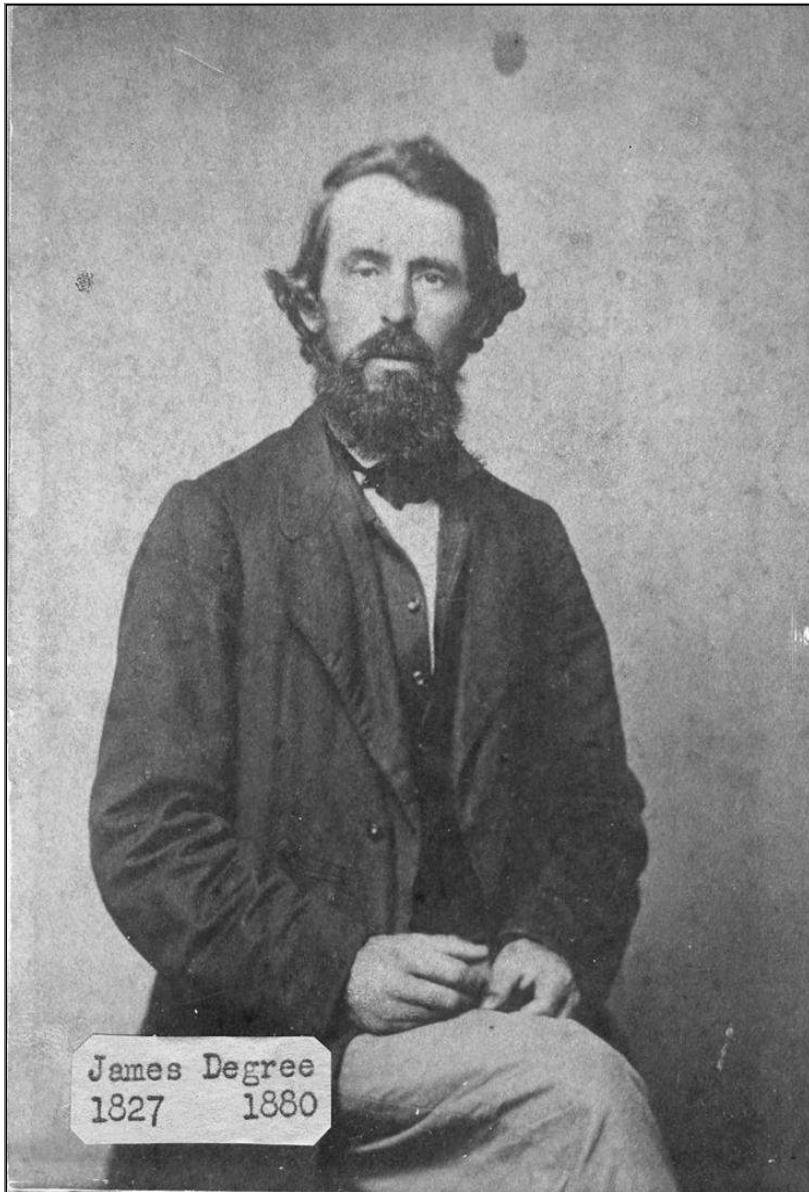
The buggies were built high, with a very low seat back. The axles did not have washers, consequently were noisy. The wearing qualities discounted the noise.

“Old Charlie,” (a horse) furnished the motor power, working in a treadmill machine that was efficient but noisy, but not more so than a gasoline engine installed later. It was hard to start and hard to keep going.

The shop was open six days per week from seven A.M. to six o’clock at night, with one hour off at noon.

In the shop at times when the machines were running the workers seemed to like to sing, although they were not heard. When the noise stopped, Edgar, (a tenor) would start a song; Elon, singing a rich alto, and Frank (a basso) would gather close and sing a song or two, then disperse to their respective stations. This was a grand custom that tended to keep men satisfied with their occupations.

When automobiles began to come on the scene business fell off and was discontinued. The Concord buggies never seemed to wear out, and some may be reposing in old barns at this time. (One was found on a farm in 1950 by a former worker in the shop.)



James Degree was Leonard Carpenter's grandfather. James' daughter, Sarah Degree Carpenter, was Leonard's mother and she was who he built and named the library for in the village, in 1947.

HINESBURG, VERMONT
CHRONOLOGICALLY

Compiled by
Leonard E. Carpenter [*additions by the HHS, 2012*]
1961

1762

June 24: The Charter for the town was granted by Governor Benning Wentworth, of New Hampshire.
July 26: The Grantees met at New Milford, Connecticut.

1763

February 18: The Charter was recorded by Abel Hine; for whom the town was named

1775

January 10: The Grantees voted to give Ethan Allen, and others, 400 acres of land in payment for building roads in the town.

1783

May 9: The Grantees held their last meeting in New Milford.

June 30: The Grantees met at the home of Abner Chaffee in Hinesburg (located on the west side of Main Street at the juncture of Friendship Avenue – *top of Silver St.*). They voted to rescind the offer given Ethan Allen, and others, because they did not build the roads.

1785

April 4: The first birth in the town of Hinesburg was that of Hine Meacham.

1786

* The only member of the original grantees to settle in the town was Andrew Burritt. His tract was in the south-western part of the township near where the Burritt families now live.

1787

March 18: The first Town Meeting was held in the house of Eliphaz Steele, who lived about one-half mile south of the village on the Monkton Road. The first Town Clerk was Elisha Barber; the first Town Representative, Lemuel Bostwick.

1788

* The first two-story house was built by Elijah Peck, on Main Street at the head of the Charlotte Road. It was the first tavern in the town. (Present site of the Lantman store.)

* The first doctor in the town was William B. Marsh, who began practice at the age of nineteen years.

1789

May 20: The Congregational Church was the first of that denomination in Chittenden County. It was organized by Rev. Nathan Perkins while on a horseback preaching tour through Vermont.

1790

* Nathan Leavenworth built a saw mill on Lewis Creek. [*just over the Charlotte town line – HHS*]

1791

* Lemuel Bostwick and Daniel Sherman built the first saw mill on Pond Brook.

1793

* Lemuel Bostwick built the first grist mill on Pond Brook.

1798

* Edmund and Orange Baldwin built the first saw mill on Baldwin's Brook, located about one-and-one-half miles south-east of the lower village [*Beecher Hill Rd. – HHS*].

1799

* The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized.

1803

* The first postoffice was established. Erastus Bostwick was postmaster.

1810

* The Hinesburg Literary Society and Library was organized.

* The first Congregational church building was erected. It was of wood construction. [*on land donated by Nathan Leavenworth, the south-east corner of the intersection of Silver St. and Rt. 116 – HHS*]

May 20: The Baptist Church was organized in the lower village.

1815

* The first school house was built, located near the present high school [*HCS White Building - HHS*]. It is now the Grange Hall. [*H&M Auto, across the street from its original site – HHS*] There are records indicating that a building located on the south-west corner of Main Street and the Charlotte Road may have been used as a school house.

- 1817
- December 18: A Free Will Baptist Church was organized at Rhode Island Corners. A church building was erected in 1859.
- 1818
- * Stephen Byington built a distillery on Pond Brook.
 - * Brigham Wright built the first cloth-dressing mill on Pond Brook.
- 1820
- * Jedediah Boynton and Mitchell Hinsdale built the canal from Pond Brook to the Lower Village.
 - * Frederick W. Baldwin built a tannery on Baldwin's Brook [*Beecher Hill Rd. – HHS*].
- 1824
- October 17: Hinesburg Academy (first known as Vermont Institute) was incorporated. The Academy building was erected on the present site of the Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library.
- 1825
- * Patriot Lodge, F&AM, No. 63, was formed. The present lodge, No 33, was organized in 1854.
 - * Nahum Peck became the first lawyer in the town.
- 1826
- * The Baptist Church building was erected. It is now occupied by the United Church.
- 1827
- * Alanson Lyon built the first wagon shop on Pond Brook.
- 1831
- * Lyman Huntington built the first ashery on Pond Brook.
- 1832
- * Murray and Patrick built a foundry on Pond Brook. The original building is now a part of the present Iroquois Mfg. C.
- 1837
- * The first Methodist Church building, a wood structure, was built [*at bend in Rt. 116. – HHS*]
- 1838
- * The Congregational Church, a brick building, was erected. It was later the Masonic Temple until it was destroyed by fire in 1950. [*it replaced the original wood structure – HHS*]
- 1840
- * The first Town Hall was built. It was located directly south of the present United Church.
- 1846
- * A Universalist Society was formed. No church was ever built, the members meeting in homes.
- 1848
- * A cheese-box factory was built on Pond Brook by Lorenzo Murray.
 - * Marcus Hull built a starch factory at the foot of Pond Brook.
- 1850
- * The population of the town was at an all-time high of 1854.
- 1855
- * Andrew Dow and Son built a woolen mill on Pond Brook
- 1858
- * The Methodist Church building, a brick structure, was built on the site of the present park. [*replacing the original wood structure, at the bend in Rt. 116; it burned down in 1936 – HHS*]
- 1860
- * Royal W. Post built a hotel on the site of the first two-story building in the town. It is now occupied by the Lantman store.
- 1863
- * Lorenzo Murray built a sap bucket and excelsior factory on Pond Brook.
- 1866
- * The Union Cheese Factory, the first in the town, was built by a stock company on the brook that crosses the road about one-quarter mile north of the lower village.
- 1867
- * Dow, Boynton and others built the dam that formed the Reservoir (Lower Pond)
- 1874
- * The Christian Advent Church was organized, the church building is now located second door north of the present town hall.
- 1893
- * A railroad was partly built from Burlington to Hinesburg before being discontinued.

1901

- * The present town hall was built. A library occupied one room in it. [*the building was completely renovated in 1992; the floor of the main hall was replaced with ash harvested from the Town Forest off Hayden Hill Rd. in 2007 – HHS*]

1915

- * The Congregational, Methodist and Baptist churches merged into the present United Church.
- * The present high-school was built [*the White Building – HHS*]

1925

- * The Iroquois Mfg. Co., was organized by Leland H. Lyman on the site of the David K. Patrick foundry on Pond Brook.

1942

- * The Economou Cheese Corporation was organized by Costas Economou at the foot of the Pond Brook canal in the lower village.

1944

- * Saint Jude's Parish was organized. The present church building was erected in 1948. [*and replaced in 1989 – HHS*]

1947

- * May 11: The Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library was dedicated. [*relocated in 1997 to a building donated by Henry Carse at Ballard Corners and renamed the Carpenter-Carse Library in 2002 – HHS*]

1952

- * The present Elementary School was built [*the wing to the east of the White Building – HHS*]

1954

- * The present Masonic Temple was built.

1956

- * A spring located about one-quarter mile west of the town hall was tapped to supply water to the hall and several nearby homes.

1956

- * An addition to the Elementary School was built [*behind White Building; currently music rooms. More additions built in 1969, 1987 & 1998 – HHS*]

1960

- * A postoffice was built on the Charlotte Road [*East of Green St; moved to Commerce St. 1985 – HHS*]

1961

- * The water system was extended to take care of all of the lower village [*municipal water system expanded, 1999 -HHS*]

1962

- * Hinesburg, chartered June 24, 1762, celebrated its Bicentenary on that date, 1962. Features were a parade in the forenoon, a baseball game in the afternoon, and an overflow dinner at night in the Masonic dining room, and the school auditorium.

CONTINUED (BY THE HHS)

1964

- * CVU built/opened

1967

- * Community Alliance Church organized in an A Frame building south of the village; present building on Pond Rd. erected and dedicated in 1984

1988

- * Commerce Park developed

1992

- * Geprags Park donated to the town by the Geprags family (the town began acquiring land on Hayden Hill Rd. in 1936 which became the Town Forest; the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest on Gilman Rd. was created in 2007)

2008

- * Saputo Cheese Factory burned and is closed

2004

- * NRG Systems opened new headquarters north of village

2012

- * Public bus service began

Leonard E. Carpenter

1882-1969



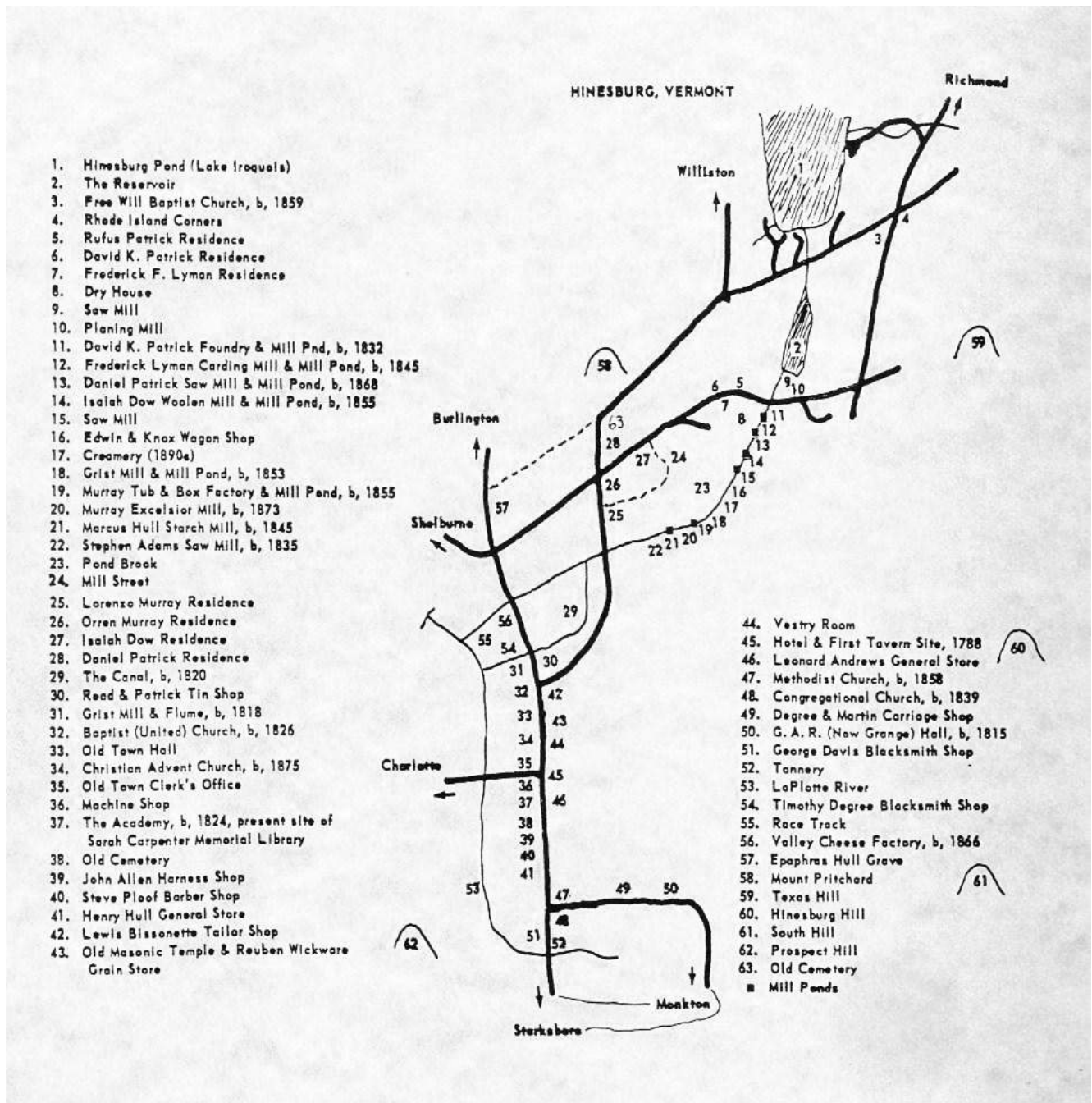
Leonard E. Carpenter was born in Hinesburg in 1882. His father was Clayton Carpenter, a butcher from Huntington. His mother was Sarah M. Degree, daughter of James Degree, of Hinesburg. After Clayton and Sarah married, in 1875, they moved into a house across the street from the Baptist Church (now United Church of Hinesburg), where Leonard was born and grew up. He graduated from Hinesburg High School in 1900. On May 12, 1900, his mother died of consumption. By 1904 Clayton Carpenter was remarried and living in Buffalo, NY, with Leonard living with him. Leonard Carpenter never married. He lived in the Buffalo and then Rochester, NY areas, working as a salesman, until his retirement, when he moved back to Vermont. While living in New York he would visit Vermont in the summers. He built the Sarah Carpenter Memorial Library on the site of the former Academy building, where he had gone to high school. The building was completed and dedicated on Mother's Day, May 11, 1947. Once back in Vermont for good he lived in Burlington and then at the Birchwood Nursing Home in Richmond, until his death in 1969. He is buried in the Hinesburg Village Cemetery.

*Leonard Carpenter's mother,
Sarah M. Degree Carpenter*



Graduating class of Hinesburg High School, 1900

(left to right) Frances Clark, Alice Landon, Leonard Carpenter, Carrie Clark, Thomas McKenzie, Mildred Partch, Mabel Bissonette, Mattie McKenzie, Harry Page, Homer Clark, Lulu Fletcher, Laura Ross, Fay Clark, Linnie Tucker



Map by Leonard Carpenter

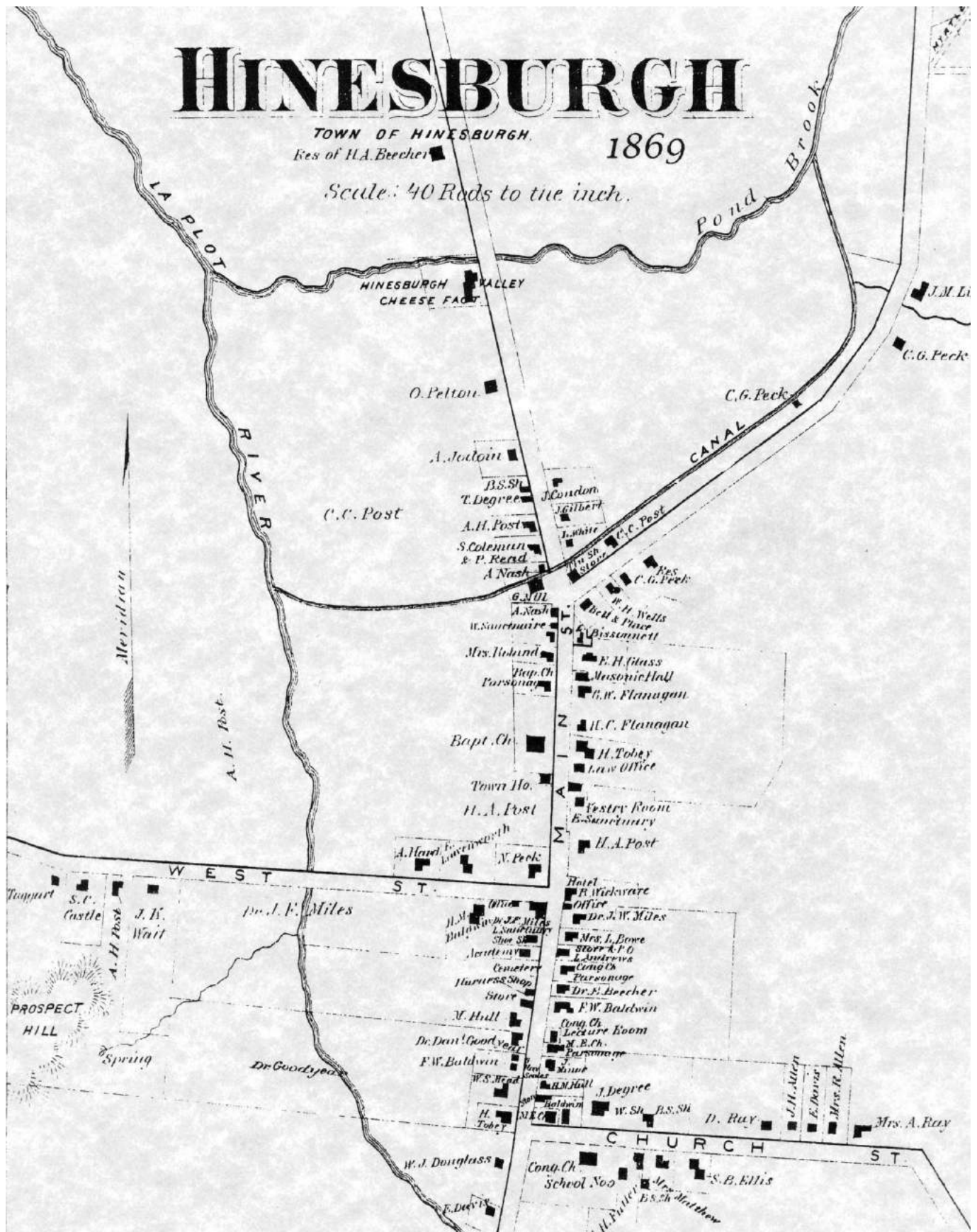
HINESBURGH

TOWN OF HINESBURGH.

Res of H.A. Beecher

1869

Scale: 40 Rods to the inch.

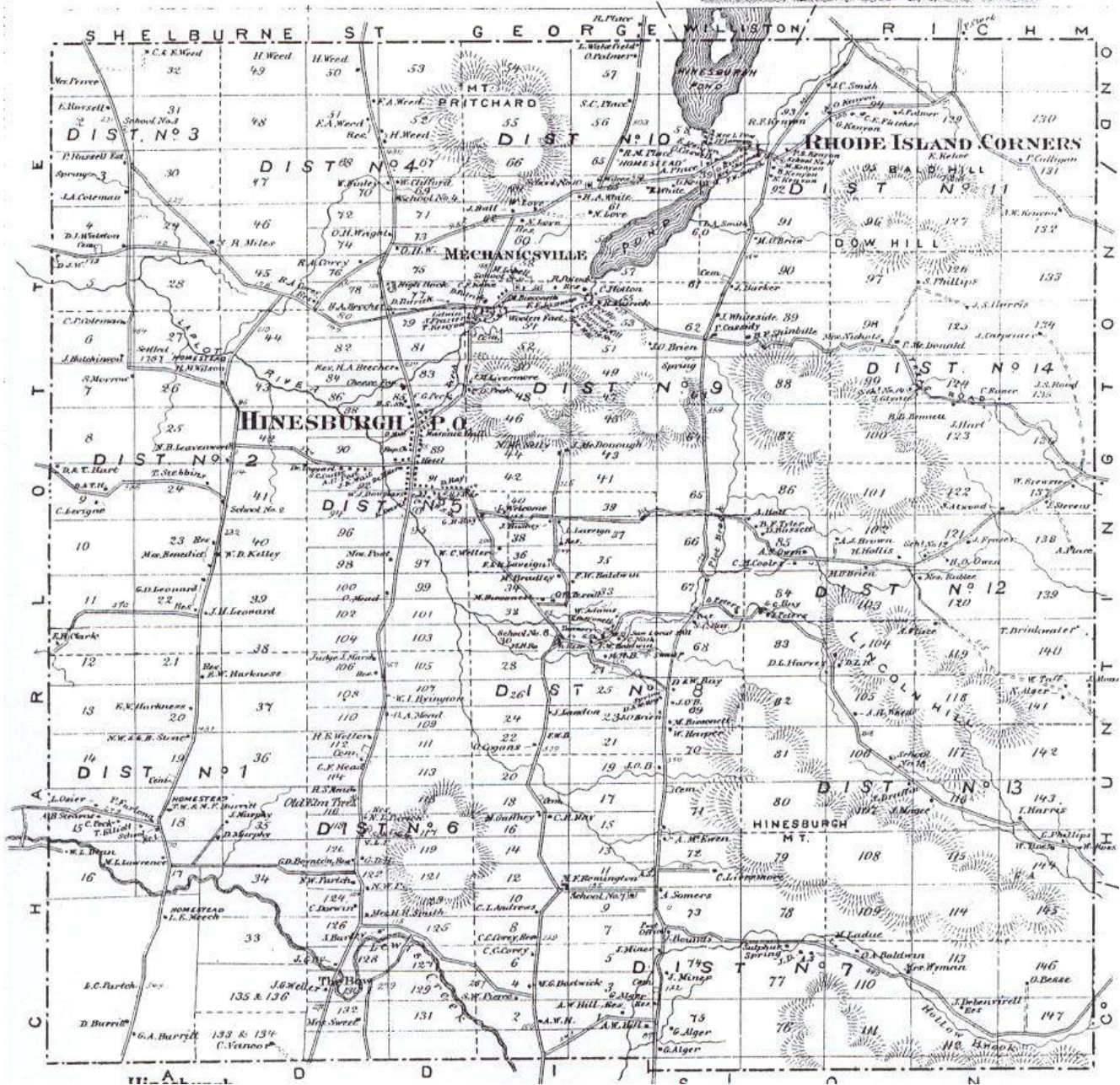


1869

Scale 1 1/2 inches to the mile

HINESBURGH

30



Hinesburgh, 1869 Beers map



Hinesburg, Vermont from the East