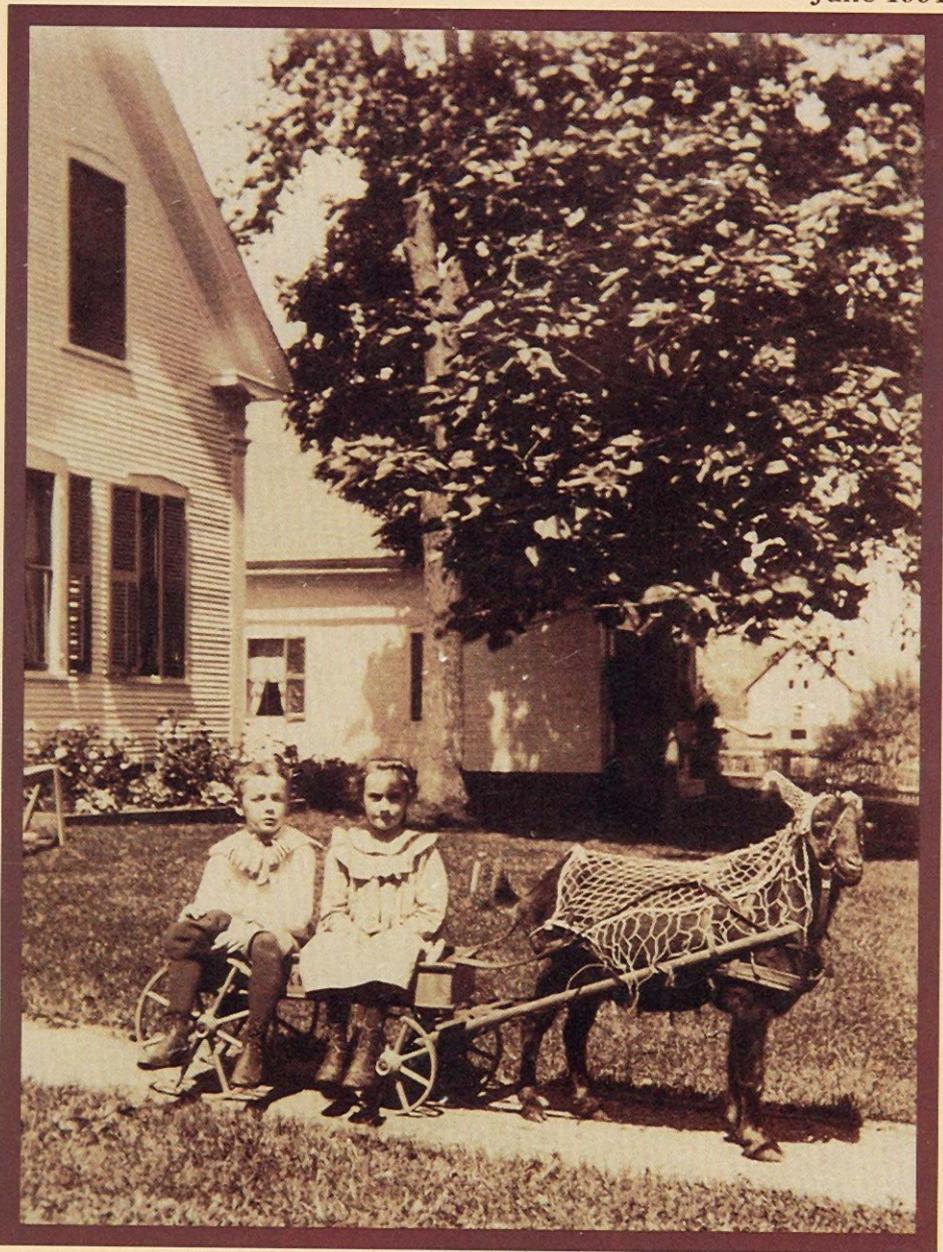


Official Telephone Directory

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Celebrating Vermont's Bicentennial, 1791-1991

Serving The Valley

Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Co., Inc.

Waitsfield, Vermont 05673-0009

As a special tribute to the Vermont State Bi-Centennial Celebration, the Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company has compiled a commemorative historical section for the 1991 telephone directory. Many hours of preparation went into this special edition and we hope that you will find it informative and entertaining.

In 1979, we published a similar telephone book to honor the 75th year of business for the Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company. Through the years, folks have hung onto these books and requests for additional copies continued long after our supply was depleted. Should you desire additional copies of the 1991 edition, we invite you to pick them up at our Business Office, Waitsfield Cable, or our numerous directory racks in business and store locations throughout the Valley.

Special thanks go out to the many people who authored the histories in this section and loaned us their treasured pictures. As you read these histories, please be sure to notice the credits after each section. Without the help of these generous people, this project would not have been possible.

In the course of reading this historical section, other events and recollections may come to mind. Likewise, you may be able to provide further detail on the people and locations pictured in this collection. The Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company, through our interest in the Valley's heritage, wishes to continue compiling historical documentation. We encourage you to share your thoughts, ideas and comments with us.

 **HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY VERMONT!!** 



IN THE BEGINNING

Of the Valley towns — Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield and Warren — Moretown was the only one not chartered during the period between 1777 and 1791 when Vermont was an Independent Republic.

Though not settled until 1793, Moretown, along with townships taking up most of the land along the Winooski River from Berlin to Lake Champlain, was chartered in 1763 by Governor Benning Wentworth as one of the New Hampshire Grants.

Long before Vermont's independence was declared, a controversy existed (one which undoubtedly had a great bearing on its declaration) between New Hampshire and New York.

New Hampshire was claiming the land to Lake Champlain and the Hudson River while New York was claiming the land to the Connecticut River.

Although the Crown issued a restraining order to both until the boundary dispute could be settled, both New Hampshire's Governor Wentworth and New York's Governor Dunmore (and later governors) continued to make grants in the disputed territory, frequently overlapping.

Though the overlapping didn't occur in Moretown, Governor Dunmore did grant lands in Middlesex which were granted by Wentworth at the time he granted Moretown.

If the Moretown proprietors knew about this it could have created some uneasiness about the security of their own investments.

The controversy never was settled before the Colonies declared their independence from England in 1776.

The following year, 1777, Vermont declared itself an Independent Republic, claiming the land in the disputed territory, much of which was still ungranted.

As an independent state, with no support from the colonies, it was confronted with the monumental task of supporting its own government and, of paramount importance, supporting its own militia to protect its vulnerable Lake Champlain border from invasion by the British.

As one resource the state began chartering townships on unallocated land, usually to an individual and his associates (known as proprietors) who purchased their rights or who, in many cases, were given rights in payment of their war services.

But in the anxiety to convert land to money the state didn't overlook the all important factors of education and religion. In addition to the proprietors, five public rights were to be included in the allocation of lots. One was for the use or benefit of a seminary or college within the state; one for the use of the country grammar schools throughout the state; one for the use and benefit of the first settled Minister of the Gospel forever; one for the use of the ministry to be improved for that purpose as the inhabitants "Shall from time to time agree;" one for the support and benefit of an English school or schools in town.

The lands drawn to these rights were subject to an annual rent to be paid to the particular right instead of a tax paid to the town. Unfortunately, the rents were set early in the town organization and, for some reason, could not be increased. The rents for Fayston's public rights ranged from \$2.00 to \$9.00.

It should be noted that the New Hampshire Grant charters also included public rights for similar purposes. The right that Vermont allocated to the ministry was, under the New Hampshire Grants, a glebe to the Church of England (the Episcopal Church). Vermont, to encourage a resident preacher, added the right for the first settled minister.

The New Hampshire Grant rent was often payable in produce. One lease land lot called for an annual rent of 40 barley corns.

It wasn't until about 1790 (though it had been agitated for years) that towns were permitted (by act of legislature) to levy a tax on the assessed valuation.

Besides needing money, the new republic needed leverage to convince the Continental Congress it was worthy of being admitted to the union as a separate state.

One criterion was to be able to show that the land was being settled and the population increasing.

To insure early settlement the charters specifically stated that each proprietor should plant and cultivate a specified number of acres, usually 5, and build a house not less than 18 feet square on the floor or have one family settled on each right or share within a specified time frame. Failing this, the share would be forfeited and returned to the state.

In the earlier charters the time frame was usually 3 or 4 years. However, due to the war, it was impossible to complete the surveys and by February of 1782 when Fayston and Waitsfield were chartered, the specified time frame was altered to read "within the time limited by law."

Perhaps such a law was never passed because there is no evidence that unsettled lands reverted to the state. Certainly, many of the rights never had a house built on the land. In fact, it is questionable whether some of the proprietors ever saw their land.

Until the towns were organized as a municipal entity, taxes were levied by the state. Many of the proprietors did lose their land for failure to pay the taxes rather than for failure to comply with the charter requirement for settling and developing.

Indicative of the faith people had in the state is the large number of people who became proprietors in several townships.

These people were by no means limited to people already living in Vermont. From the time independence was declared, the Allen brothers, particularly Ira, (after brother Ethan was imprisoned in England), were going back and forth to Philadelphia in their effort to convince the Continental Congress to admit Vermont to the Union. They carried and distributed hand bills extolling the excellence of the available Vermont lands.

Indeed, the variety of our state addresses on the deeds to the early proprietors show considerable resemblance to the variety on deeds being currently filed.

The number of proprietors in each town varied; 64 in Fayston, 68 in Warren, 70 in Waitsfield.

The size of the lots also varied; 110 acres in Fayston, 200 in Warren, 150 in Waitsfield.

The surveys for the lotting, though apparently fairly accurate in the valley towns, often left something to be desired. In some cases, they were probably paper surveys. In others, the instruments may have been inadequate, or as has been alleged, the combination of hot sun and hard cider interfered.

What determined the particular lot each proprietor was to get? They literally "drew lots." A block of lots, the number of lots equal to the number of proprietors plus the five public lots, was set off and the lots drawn. The first drawing became the first division. Successive blocks and successive drawings constituted the successive divisions.

Supposedly, each township contained six square miles or 23,040 square acres. The size of the lots and the number of proprietors determined the number of divisions.

In some cases the lotting and divisions were not completed and such undivided lands became the undivided rights of all the proprietors.

Naturally, such chance drawings resulted in some getting the "short end." Following the drawings there was considerable swapping or buying, either to get better lands or to get adjacent lots.

During the unsettled period of the Revolution, Vermont managed to keep the British at bay. One strategy involved Ira Allen's secret meetings and letters with British officials in Canada in which he made it known that Vermont might consider remaining with the crown. All the time, efforts were being made to gain acceptance in the Union.

Some historians believe that, in fact, Allen's intention was serious rather than a ploy to stall the British, though he was exonerated after his maneuver was discovered.

Among the stumbling blocks creating the resistance of Congress to admit Vermont were New Hampshire's and New York's insistence that the territory should be a part of their own state. The southern states objected because Vermont would be an anti-slave state and the addition of an anti-slave state would shift the balance of vote.

Finally, in 1791, Vermont was admitted to the Union as the 14th state though it did have to pay the State of New York a considerable sum to clear the overlapping grants.

With the security of a "man with a country" the state and the valley towns began to develop rapidly.

Contributed by Reba Hall

VERMONT BIDS TO JOIN THE UNION

 eeting in October of 1779 the Vermont General Assembly decided to launch a lobbying effort to convince the new American nation that it should be admitted to the Union. The Assembly appointed a committee to formulate a plan to "defend against the neighboring states" and commissioned Ethan Allen to attend the next session of Congress to vindicate Vermont's right to independence.

Congress turned a deaf ear to Vermont's appeals and in June 1780 resolved that

the proceedings of Vermont were “highly unwarrantable and subversive of the peace and welfare of the United States; and that they be strictly required to forbear from any acts of authority civil and military over those of the people who profess allegiance to another state.”

Upon receiving this Congressional resolution, Governor Chittenden wrote Congress on July 25, 1780 that if Vermont received no satisfaction from Congress, Vermonters would have no “motive to continue hostilities with Great Britain and maintain an important frontier for the benefit of the United States, and for no other reward than ... being enslaved by them.”

In September 1780 Congress again took up the Vermont question. Stephan Bradley and Ethan Allen were permitted to be in attendance, but not as representatives of Vermont with legislative authority. When Bradley and Allen realized that Congress would not recognize Vermont as a party to the dispute, they withdrew from the hearing and a few days later sent a protest letter to Congress saying that if that body did not change its policy toward Vermont, Vermont was “ready to appeal to God and the world to say who must be accountable for the awful consequences that may ensue.”

On July 18, 1781, Governor Chittenden issued a proclamation recognizing the fourteen New York towns and charged that New York had been deficient in protecting the citizens of the New York towns from “the ravages of the common enemy.”

GREATER VERMONT

Reenly disappointed that its bid to join the Union was rejected by Congress, Vermont embarked upon a policy of expansion. If other states made claims upon Vermont, Vermont would make claims upon other states. Although the union between Vermont and the sixteen New Hampshire towns had been dissolved in 1779, many New Hampshire towns still preferred annexation to Vermont. As a result of this interest, forty-three towns on both sides of the Connecticut River met on January 16 at Charlestown, New Hampshire. Most of the delegates preferred a union with Vermont. In February 1781, the Vermont General Assembly, sitting at Windsor, was informed “that the convention of the New Hampshire towns was desirous of being united with Vermont in one separate independent government upon such principles as should be mutually thought most equitable and beneficial.” Shortly thereafter the General Assembly admitted thirty-five New Hampshire towns and laid “a jurisdictional claim” to a large part of New Hampshire.

PETITION BY NEW YORK TOWNS

While Vermont’s General Assembly was admitting New Hampshire towns, it received petitions from several New York towns that desired to join Vermont. Petitioners from Cambridge and Canton complained that “the government of New York have neglected guarding our northern frontier.” Petitioners from Granville stated that “ever since the year 1777 we have been left without any provision for defense.” In April 1781 the Vermont Assembly voted to accept the New York towns, the affirmative vote consisting of forty-one Vermont towns and seven

New Hampshire towns. The negative vote consisted of twenty-seven New Hampshire towns and only twelve Vermont towns. The New Hampshire towns and eastern Vermont towns voted against the annexation of New York towns because they feared the eastern side of the state would lose political influence in the Assembly and statewide offices. Admission of the New York towns meant that towns west of the Green Mountains would not be outvoted by those to the east in the General Assembly.

The Vermont General Assembly referred to the New York townships as the western district. Five New York towns, including Hoosic, Cambridge and Saratoga East, were annexed to Bennington County; nine New York towns including Black Creek, North and South Granville, Fort Edwards, Kingsbury and White Creek became part of Rutland Counties.

In November Of 1781 Governor Chittenden wrote General Washington that the neighboring states of New Hampshire, New York and Massachusetts "have severally laid claims, in part or in whole, to the State, and ... have used every art which they could devise to divide her citizens, to set Congress against her, and finally to overturn the government and share its territory among them. The repeated applications of this State to the Congress of the United States, to be admitted into the Federal Union with them upon the liberal principles of paying a just proportion of the expenses of the war with Great Britain have been rejected."

General Washington replied to Chittenden, in January of 1782, "It appears, therefore, to me, that the dispute of the boundary, is the only one that exists, and that being removed, all other difficulties would be removed also ... You have nothing to do but withdraw your jurisdiction to the confines of your own limits, and obtain an acknowledgement of independence and sovereignty ... for so much territory as does not interfere with the ancient established bounds of New York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts."

In January of 1782 New Hampshire's chief executive, Weare, gave "Vermonters forty days to leave the East Union or acknowledge the jurisdiction of New Hampshire." To protect the west side of the state, the New Hampshire Legislature authorized a force of one thousand men. At the same time fighting almost approaching a civil war broke out in the western district between New Yorkers and Vermonters.

 On February 22, 1782, the Vermont General Assembly formally gave up its claims to territory in New Hampshire and New York. Samuel Williams described the breakup of the Eastern Union with New Hampshire towns and the Western Union with the New York towns this way: "Thus was dissolved a union which had been constantly acquiring numbers, extent, popularity and power, from its first formation: which, it was generally believed, had prevented the division of Vermont by New Hampshire and New York; and which if it had been continued, would probably have extended much further into those states. It was not without a struggle, that the measure could be effected; and it was not without resentment, that the members from the towns in New Hampshire and New York, found themselves excluded from a seat or a vote in the assembly."

Having taken General Washington's advice by complying with the conditions, Vermont in April of 1782 applied for admission as a state in the federal union. Once again Congress turned down Vermont's request. This rejection was not well received in Vermont. Governor Chittenden, in a long letter to the president of Congress, said in part: "How inconsistent then, is it in Congress, to assume the same arbitrary stretch of prerogative over Vermont, for which they waged war against Great Britain? Is the liberty and natural rights of mankind a mere bubble, and the sport of state politicians?"

General Washington thought there might have to be a military showdown between Congress and Vermont. In a letter to a member of Congress in February 1783 Washington wrote: "The country is very mountainous ... and extremely strong. The inhabitants, for the most part, are a hardy race, composed of that kind of people who are best calculated for soldiers; in truth, who are soldiers." On several occasions the State of New York had asked Congress to send troops into Vermont to regain New York territory. In April of 1784, Governor Chittenden warned Congress "that Vermont does not wish to enter into a war with the State of New York, but that she will act on the defensive and expects that Congress and the twelve states will observe a strict neutrality and let the contending states settle their own controversy."

In May of 1784, Congress made one last attempt with its first Constitution, known as the Articles of Confederation, to admit Vermont into the Union, an act favored by a majority of states. The necessary votes were not obtained. Admission was opposed by New York along with the southern states.

THE VERMONT-KENTUCKY COMPROMISE

In 1787, New York began to reexamine its Vermont policy. Alexander Hamilton, a member of the New York Assembly, introduced a bill that called for the recognition of the independence of Vermont. Speaking on behalf of this bill before the New York Assembly, Hamilton expressed concern that "without any relative importance in the union, irritated by neglect or stimulated by revenge," Vermont might form a Canadian connection.

At the time there was a debate as to whether the capital of the new nation would be located in New York or Philadelphia, and Hamilton realized that if Vermont were admitted to the Union, her vote would be most important. He also realized it was important that a northern free state be admitted to offset two southern slave states, Kentucky and Tennessee, which would soon join the Union. To Nathaniel Chipman, Alexander Hamilton wrote, "one of the first subjects of deliberation with the new Congress will be the independence of Kentucky, for which the southern states will be anxious. The northern will be glad to send a counterpoise in Vermont." Of the first thirteen original states seven were northern and six southern. The one-state northern edge was maintained when Vermont was admitted in 1791 and Kentucky in 1792. The admission of Tennessee in 1796 created a balance of northern and southern states which was maintained until 1848 when each section could claim fifteen states.

New York and Vermont agreed to negotiate the differences between conflicting land claims. In the summer of 1789, as a result of negotiations, Vermont agreed to

pay New York \$30,000 compensation while New York gave up her Vermont land claims. Vermont's next step in the process of admission to the Union was to ratify the new United States Constitution. In January 1791, a convention authorized by the Vermont General Assembly met in Bennington to consider ratification. One of the delegates to the convention, Supreme Court Judge Nathaniel Chipman, said Vermont was too small in relation to a new powerful union to remain independent. "Whenever our interests clash with those of the union, it requires very little political sagacity to foretell that every sacrifice must be made on our part ... United we become great, from the reflected greatness of the empire with which we unite." The United States Constitution was ratified one hundred and five to four by Vermont. The adoption was favorably received throughout the nation. In Albany, New York, the event was celebrated by a parade and a fourteen-gun salute.

By Act of Congress on March 4, 1791, Vermont was admitted to the Union as the fourteenth state, the first state to join the union. The Congressional Act declared "that on the 4th day of March 1791, the said State, by the name and style of the State of Vermont, shall be received into this Union as a new and entire member of the United States of America." A few days later, a large gathering of citizens in Rutland celebrated this event. Sixteen toasts were drunk, including some of the following: "The union of Vermont with the United States — may it flourish like our pines and continue unshaken as our mountains." "May we never experience a less happy moment than the present under the federal government." "May the Vermonters become as eminent in the acts of peace as they have been glorious in those of war."

Vermont's evolution from the New Hampshire grants to independence and then admission to the the Union was difficult. The great controversy with New York might never have taken place if that state had been content to claim the territory west of the Connecticut rather than regranteeing land and evicting the settlers of the New Hampshire grants. Congress did procrastinate in acting upon Vermont's application for admission into the Union, but to have admitted Vermont during the war would have alienated New York, one of the most powerful states in the Confederation. New York's attitude changed when it perceived that Vermont's admission would help balance the admission of the new State of Kentucky and improve New York City's chances of becoming a permanent capital. In 1791 the State of Vermont was ready to begin anew as a member of the Union.

Contributed by Senator William Doyle

FAYSTON, VERMONT

1782 to Present

 The view from Center Fayston, overlooking Waitsfield Village, the Northfield Mountains, and the Green Mountain range to Killington, was breathtaking.

Enthusing about it to Sam Strong, an octogenarian whose North Ireland antecedents settled on the farm that remained in the family for nearly a century and a quarter, he responded philosophically. "That's what all them new people comin' here say. I tell' em the view never picked many stones or hoed many weeds out o' the 'tater patch."

Said (though not verified) to have the highest average elevation of any town in

Vermont, Fayston's topography — mountainous at worst, hilly at best and, with few exceptions, nearly everywhere rock-ribbed and thin-soiled — has dictated its destiny.

The mountains along the western boundary (the boundary lies generally along the ridge) were too rugged to be adaptable to little other than lumbering and that often precarious.

Some will remember the days when a teamster would get off and walk to lighten the load for a burdened team struggling up a steep incline. They will chuckle over the late Merlin Ward's yarning that whenever the company moved a lumber camp in Fayston, the hills were so steep that even the bedbugs had to get off and walk.

The east-west ridge running generally between Bragg Hill and Center Fayston divides the town geographically and, sometimes, the town's loyalties.

It seems likely that this dividing ridge was largely the reason why a village of any size never developed. It was convenient for those south of the ridge to gravitate to Waitsfield for business and social activities; for those north of the ridge, particularly those along and north of Shepard Brook, to Moretown; for those in Center Fayston either village was equally convenient.

Though chartered only two days later (February 27, 1782) than Waitsfield, its settlement and subsequent organization as a municipal entity lagged.

Its first settler, Lynde Wait, who married the daughter of Waitsfield's General Wait, settled on Bragg Hill in 1798 on the farm now owned by the Vasseurs.

The apparent arch rivalry (sometimes even seeming to approach arch enmity) between Fayston and Waitsfield seems to have developed early for reasons long since forgotten if, in fact, they were ever known.

After several years of agitating for it, at a town meeting in January, 1804, Waitsfield finally succeeded in getting an affirmative vote, by the close margin of 41 to 39, to join the Proprietors of Fayston to petition the General Assembly to have Fayston annexed to Waitsfield.

Unfortunately, Fayston's Proprietors' records have never come to light so we have *no documentation as to why it never came about.* So we speculate. Did the Fayston Proprietors nix the idea, or were the opposing factors in Waitsfield so strong, as evidenced by the close vote, that the matter was never pursued?

At any rate, Fayston was organized as a municipal entity the following year (August 6, 1805).

By 1810 the population had increased to 149 from the 18 in 1800.

Children were taught in private homes until the first school house was built in 1811 near the present Vasseur farm. It was contracted for the stupendous sum of \$159.75, paid for by private subscription.

Contrast that to our present elementary school, voted in 1962 at a cost of \$50,000, the money to be raised by bond issue.

Worthy of note! The latter was the first school in the state to be built under an all woman school board. Kudos to Erlene Bragg, Augusta Graves, Hanne Williams!

Perhaps more startling than the contrast in cost is the similarity in the number of students in each. During the first term of school held in the first schoolhouse in the winter of 1812 there were 25 scholars. The elementary census of 1962 was only 24.

As more settlers arrived the town was set off into districts, each district being responsible for its own management and expenses.

In 1844 the town was educating 262 pupils in district schools, staggering, considering that the 1978 census for elementary and Harwood combined was only 167.

One must bear in mind that not all the scholars were children. Many newly arrived Irish immigrants, particularly young men, some in their twenties, were eager for the education they had been denied in their homeland. It was quipped, however, that perhaps the school marm was a greater attraction than the learning.

By 1860 there were 10 districts. Additionally, those scholars living along the Fayston-Waitsfield line were attending the nearest Waitsfield district, one of which was at the present location of "The Den" in Irasville.

From soon after the Civil War the population began to decline. By the turn of the century the district system had been abandoned though some of the district schoolhouses continued in use, the last two being the one in North Fayston opposite the cemetery and the one on Route 17 now occupied by Burley Associates. Finally, only the one on Route 17 remained in use.

Operating costs of the first school were paid for solely by a tax on the list, "to be paid by grain or flax."

By 1819, in addition to the tax "to be paid in wheat, to be delivered at the school," each family was to board the master in proportion to the number of scholars it sent; also provide 2/3 cords of wood per scholar. In lieu of supplying the wood, it could pay at the rate of \$1.00 per cord.

About 40 years later the system of providing wood and the school master's (by then, more often the school mistress's) board and room was abandoned in favor of procurement by bid.

Apparently bidding competition was keen if we are to believe Emily Eaton (and who would have doubted her?) that her Great-Grandfather Griggs, living on Bragg Hill, was anxious to "bid off" the "school marm" because she could help with the milking.

Fayston owes much of its early settlement and subsequent development to Ireland's repression of its people and its great potato famine. (It leads one to wonder if the Irish sought it out because it appeared to be good potato country or if it became good potato country because the Irish knew how to raise them. 19,297 bushels of Irish potatoes were raised in 1860).

Each 10 year census, beginning in 1830, showed an increasing number of Irish settlers, both Protestant and Catholic.



he completion of the Central Vermont Railway well may have been the catalyst that pushed the town to its one time peak population of 800 in 1860.

When the railroad line being built from the north joined that being built from the south in Northfield, the laborers, many of them Irish, were thrown out of work. Though not documented, it is reasonable to guess that the population increase between 1850 and 1860, well over 100, was partially attributable to the unemployed seeking their fortune over the Northfield Mountains.

The 1860 census showed that better than one-third of the heads of household, either the man or his wife, or both, were born in Ireland. This does not take into consideration the many second generation Irish living in town.

Used to hard work, willing to work hard, happily with their improved living standards, grateful for the educational opportunities denied them on the old sod, they were slower to take up with the "Go West, young man, go West" challenge.

While the population decreased, the number of farms continued to increase into the 1880's.

Lumbering was also a flourishing business. A 1891 map attests to its significance showing 7 mills and a cooper shop (all water powered, of course).

It is to a logging incident that the "Battleground" is attributed to have acquired its name.*

A certain father gave his under-age son permission to "get out" some logs and keep the profits.

The young man cut and skidded the logs to a clearing on Mill Brook and sold them to one mill for cash.

Papa felt the boy had "been taken" so he sold the same logs to another mill for a better price.

The son's purchaser got wind of the father's deal and wasn't about to lose out on his own shrewd bargain so he planned to out-smart the other by drawing out the logs very early in the morning.

What he didn't know, but everyone else in the neighborhood did, was that his competitor had the same idea.

Now, in an excitement starved community, long before the days of television, a live late-late show was worth every effort. So in the wee hours of a cold winter's night a goodly number congregated in the clearing to watch an anticipated fight-to-the-finish between the two mill owners.

To the disappointment of the assembled thrill seekers, he (the son's buyer) didn't arrive until about 4:00 o'clock, only to find himself the outsmarted one. His protagonist had just moved out with the logs. So no fight ensued.

However, ever after, the clearing was known as the "Battleground," a name perpetuated by the peaceful condominium complex built on the site of the battle that wasn't.

A less colorful explanation of the source of the name, but one that certainly has come basis in fact, is that the clearing used to be used as the town muster ground.

Some distance below the Battleground is Pigeon Hollow.** This section received its name from the fact that in the year 1849 a great number of blue pigeons, a type now almost extinct, nested there. They were so numerous that the branches of trees were bowed down from the weight of the birds. When word got around, people came from even as far as Montpelier (no little jaunt in those days) to shoot them. So many were killed that by the end of the summer they had been practically obliterated.

Gradually lumbering began to decline, partly because the best of the timberland had been stripped.

* Courtesy of Betty Joslin, to whom the story was told by the Grand-Niece of the outsmarted lumberman.

** Courtesy of Betty Joslin.

Even earlier, the farms, inadequate for more than subsistence living and entirely unsuited to the coming age of mechanization, began to disappear. From the turn of the century on, farm after farm was abandoned, the greatest exodus between 1920 and 1930 when the town lost 116 of its inhabitants.

By 1960 the town reached its lowest ebb population—with only 158 inhabitants. In thirty years time, however, the growth has spurred to 846 a new all time high.

Very likely a significant factor in the continued decline of the town's economy was the lack of electricity. Though Waitsfield got power around 1913 and the lines were extended through Warren Village in 1922, bringing power into Fayston didn't appear to be financially attractive.

With the abandonment of farms and the disappearance of sawmills the outlook for the town was dubious.

Dubious, that is, until shortly after World War II, when the late Roland Palmedo, aeroplane scouting the length of the Green Mountains, translated the steep terrain of Stark Mountain as exciting "vertical drop" and recognized it as eminently suitable for a ski area.

Suddenly the utility companies took interest. In about 1946, according to an executive of one of the companies, Green Mountain Power and Washington Electric Co-op. began racing each other up the valley. This is not entirely correct, Washington Electric was racing over Fayston Mountain from War Hill in Duxbury, coming into Fayston in the vicinity of Col. Buck's property.

Jobs were available, new blood was lured, land, heretofore scarcely worth its taxes, became an investors' boon.

Now the town's destiny had come full circle. Born in land speculation—with one possible exception, none of the original proprietors who purchased rights when the town was chartered ever settled their land—land speculation experienced a rebirth.

In the early 1960's the late Walton Elliott recognized Mt. Ellen's potential for another ski area.

More recently, the Sugarbush Valley Corporation found Glen Ellen an attractive extension of its own enterprise and acquired it.

While the names of the prime movers in the development of Mad River Glen and Glen Ellen are significant in the regeneration of the town, one must not overlook the contributions of the townspeople whether as part of the labor force or the dedicated public servants who have worked diligently to guide the town through its growing pains.

They are to be congratulated on their efforts to coordinate the burgeoning growth with the retention of the quality of life that is attracting people. Nor should one overlook that these people are building on a foundation laid by earlier dedicated citizens and public servants who, in their own time, were confronted with and solved staggering problems.

During the early years of settlement, a rumor persisted that the Spanish Legions had buried treasure in Fayston at a fork on Shepard Brook.

In 1814, Arad Sherman, who owned land on Shepard Brook, had faith in the rumor. With his witch hazel divining rod he scouted the stream and, indeed,

pinpointed what he was convinced was the exact spot.

In true buried treasure code, certain digging regulations must be adhered to. It must be done in the dead of night and no word spoken lest the lode disappear forever.

Legend doesn't recount Arad's confidants. It only recounts that after hours of speechless digging and probing, the iron bar of one of the helpers clinked against metal. In his excitement he shouted that he had struck it. With that, there was a great clanging and rattling of metal and upheaval of the earth. Then the churning earth swallowed the chest, taking with it the iron bar.

The tale recounts the awesome terror of the participants but no account survives of any later attempts to retrieve the illusive treasure.*

The possibility that the Spanish Legions did hide treasure in the Fayston Hills cannot be discounted unequivocally. What safer place to conceal booty than along the wilderness path that followed Shepard Brook for several miles and crossed through Huntington Gap making a relatively obscure portage between the waterways of Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River?

Or one could conjecture that the legend was allegorical, waiting only for alchemists such as Roland Palmedo and Walton Elliott to turn the winter snow into mountain gold.

Contributed by Reba Hall

MORETOWN, VERMONT

1763 to Present



little West of center in Washington County, Vermont, lies the village of Moretown. The township is bounded on the north by the Winooski River — which separates Moretown from Middlesex and Waterbury, on the east by Berlin, on the south by parts of Northfield and Waitsfield, and on the west by Duxbury.

Moretown Village is in the southwest corner of the township where the Mad River enters the town from Waitsfield and flows in a northeasterly direction to join the Winooski River in Middlesex. Usually, the Mad River flows gently and steadily for nine miles or so to nourish the farm land of the Valley. However, on occasions it has risen to disastrous flood levels — as recorded in 1830 and 1927 — when families abandoned their homes to run up into the hills.

The township was chartered on June 7, 1763, by Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire. The original grant contained six square miles and had 23,040 acres. Ebenezer Hazeltine cleared a site in 1790 about one and one-half miles from the Duxbury line. This spot is on what is now known as the “Rockbridge” section of Moretown near Route 2. Apparently settlement had begun there before 1790, because Hazeltine found that Seth Munson was already living there. And prior to Munson's residence in Moretown, the Indians had evidently used this area, since excavations after that time have unearthed arrowheads and stone hatchets. This, then, is where Moretown began. A convenient location close to the Winooski River, early settlers could carry their produce of grain and their lumber by an easy water course (with the exception of Bolton Falls) to Burlington, avoiding a rough road to Montpelier.

**Courtesy of Betty Joslin, who discovered the account in Hemingway's Vermont Historical Gazetteer.*

For the next two years the town grew rapidly. Records show that on March 9, 1792, Joseph Hazeltine, Seth Munson, David Parcher and Ebenezer Hazeltine petitioned Richard Holden, a justice of the peace at Waterbury, to call a meeting of the voters of Moretown to elect Town Officers. Daniel Parcher was elected Moderator with Seth Munson as Town Clerk; Joseph Hazeltine, Daniel Parcher, and John Heaton—Selectmen; Phillip Bartlett—Treasurer; John Heaton and Ebenezer Hazeltine—Listers; and Joseph Parcher as Highway Surveyor. Six voters chose Luther Mosley as the town's first representative to the State Legislature. Until 1832 Town Meetings were held on the "Common" when a "yes/no" vote confirmed the building of the Village Town Hall.

Moretown's population grew and spread to the other sections of town, declined during the first seven decades of this century when it again began to see a steady influx of new residents. In 1840 the population was 1,128; rising to 1,263 in 1880. In 1920 it had declined to 930; 1940 to 375, and in 1975 climbed to 949, with the 1990 census showing 1,415 citizens.

During the mid-nineteenth century, when Moretown's population was at its peak, there were a large number of business enterprises. Water-powered mills such as a gristmill in Moretown Village; a sawmill built by Charles Howe; a lumber and clapboard mill in the Middlesex area operated by Orville Richardson; a sawmill/butter tub factory and a cider mill in the Jones Brook area were functioning. There was "The Carriage and Undertaking Shop" of Lovejoy & Towle in Moretown Village in 1850. The forerunner of the Ward Lumber Company Mills was the Hiram O. Ward Box Factory and Grist Mill at Moretown Village on the Mad River. The only remaining mill today is still in operation. The Clapboard Mill, owned by the Ward family, is on the original Ward Mill site. Although the entire Ward Lumber Company Mill operation was sold in 1969, the clapboard mill was later reinstated to the family. Today, the Industrial Park and Palisades Landfill, on U. S. Route 2, contribute to Moretown's commercial activities, as do Pulmac Ventures and Moretown Hydro Energy plant on Route 100 B.



history of Moretown would not be complete without reference to several doctors who contributed greatly to the growth and welfare of the town. The first was Dr. Stephen Pierce who was skillful and kind. He was followed by Dr. Lester Kingsley who settled in town in 1827. Dr. Kingsley was elected Town Clerk in March 1832 and held the position until his death in 1881. He also served as Postmaster from 1837 and represented Moretown in the Legislature in 1841-42. Dr. James Haylett, born in North Hero in 1844, followed Dr. Kingsley, coming to Moretown in 1869. Elected to represent Moretown in the Legislature in 1886, like Dr. Kingsley, he was chosen Town Clerk in 1888.

The first religious society organized in Moretown was a Congregational Church, with Deacon Nathan Benton and Philemon Ashley prominent early members. A schoolhouse was their first meeting place; they later moved to the Village Town Hall. However, about 1836 to 1840 the Congregationalists merged with the Church at Duxbury.

The Methodist-Episcopal Church is located in the Village of Moretown, with

Reverend Amasa Cale probably the first pastor. Under the Barre circuit Joshua Luce settled in town in 1809 and started a Methodist Class. The first meetinghouse was built on the Common in 1832, but in 1853 the present Methodist Church was built in the Village. At the time, the Church was built to seat 250 people. The grounds and all other Church property were valued at \$4,000 with 62 members.

Father Jeremiah O'Callaghan is said to have been the first resident Catholic Priest in Vermont and was the first Priest to officiate in Moretown. Today, if you were to leave Moretown Village on the road to Northfield and venture onto South Hill Road you will still find a "burying ground" which was donated in 1853 to the Catholic Society along with the former church site, by Colonel Miller of Montpelier and Frank and Peter Lee. This area was the prime site for a Catholic Church. South Hill is also known as Paddy Hill because of the settlement of large Irish farm families who lived there.

Prior to 1860, the Mission had been visited by the Reverend Fathers O'Callaghan, Daly, Droley, Maloney, and Coopman. But in 1860 Reverend Z. Duron built the present Catholic edifice for a membership of 50, many of whom were farmers. The Church grew and for many years served the entire Mad River Valley—Moretown, part of Middlesex, Duxbury, Fayston, Waitsfield, and Warren. A third place of worship, the Church of the Crucified One, opened for services in 1984, following countless hours of work by the church members.

The schools of Moretown have figured prominently in the development of the town. The first school was in the Duxbury corner area where Ebenezer Hazeltine made his "pitch" in 1790. In fact, the records show there were several generations of "Hazeltine" teachers as well as pupils. This first school was one of eight grades, taught by one teacher. This system continued until 1960 when all the Elementary schools were discontinued except for the one in Moretown Village. All pupils were transported to school where six teachers taught the eight grades. Prior to this the Village School had two rooms and two teachers for the eight grades for several years.

In 1888 Moretown had eleven school districts and supported twelve schools, taught by one male and twenty females. The salary paid was \$6.67 a week for the male, and \$4.31 for the females. The total spent for all school purposes was \$1,571.31 for an enrollment of 226. (Seven of the town's scholars were enrolled in private schools).

During the late nineteenth century pupils who chose to attend Secondary or High Schools, were supported by Moretown at the high school of their choice. The budget for Moretown's secondary education at that time was less than \$100 per year. When Harwood Union High School was built in Duxbury in 1965 it was supported by Waterbury, Waitsfield, Fayston, Duxbury, Moretown and Warren.

A significant change has been seen in the elementary school enrollment and the number of students we send to Harwood Union Junior-Senior High School. In 1981 the elementary school had 124 full-time students and 178 in 1990. Moretown sent 92 students to Harwood Union in 1981 and 107 in 1990. As the student enrollment increases, so does the financial obligation. Moretown's education costs have gone

from \$503,372 in 1981 to \$1,081,820 in 1990. Two mobile classrooms were added to the elementary school to provide necessary rooms.

Earlier reference was made that Doctors Kingsley and Haylett had served as Town Clerks. Mr. Herbert Ward was the last gentleman to fill that post with ladies succeeding him ever since. The Town Clerk's position has been proudly met by Mrs. Addie Fulton, Mrs. Florence Ward and for 34 years by Mrs. Bernadette Ferris. In 1990, Mrs. Ferris retired to be followed by her sister-in-law, Mrs. Eunice Ferris. In 1956 the present Town Clerk's office was built in the center of the Village. It became the "hub" of municipal activity. Twenty years ago saw it primarily as a storing place for vital statistics, but today there are meetings of the Selectmen and Zoning, Adjustment Appraisal, Road and School Boards—the whole government bit, including disposition of Federal grants.

In December, 1948, a new venture began in the Mad River Valley that had an unprecedented impact on Moretown. In 1947 Governor Gibson was interested in skiing for Vermont. He, and a Mr. Cook of Brattleboro called at the home of Mr. Burton S. Ward, President of the Ward Lumber Company in Moretown and discussed the feasibility of establishing Mad River Glen Ski Area on land owned by the Ward Lumber Company. The land was sold for a minimal sum. As a note of interest, Mrs. Merlin Ward was the 1947 Representative to the Vermont Legislature, and that year saw the passage of legislation enabling a dream of a handful of people— Mad River Glen Ski Area—to become a reality.

This was a beginning of a change in the economic pattern of Moretown. Homes opened for "guests," restaurants were established, young people found employment and traffic increased. The impact of this change continues today.

However, to the visitor or those of us who merely pass through Moretown on our way to the Capitol district, this quiet country village seems to have retained its charm of yesteryear. Although the ski areas are visible if you look hard enough from the right spot on a clear winter's day, Moretown appears to have escaped the bustle that any weekend in snow season brings to the Valley's other villages.

From 1763 to 1991 Moretown has seen unpretentious progress. Moretown residents still possess the Yankee resolution brought to the fork of the Mad and Winooski Rivers 228 years ago by those two sturdy pioneers, Seth Munson and Ebenezer Hazeltine.

Contributed by Bernadette Ferris, Ina Goodyear, Norma Kingsbury, Mary Reagan, Aline Ward

WAITSFIELD, VERMONT

1782 to Present

Waitsfield, Vermont received its Charter on February 25, 1782 from the Governor, Council and General Assembly of the State of Vermont, which was, at that time an independent Republic. Nine years later, March 4, 1791, Vermont was the first State to be admitted to the Union. It was only following the close of the American Revolution that the settlement of Vermont really began. The Charter for the Town of Waitsfield was issued to the Hon. Roger Enos, Col. Benjamin Wait & Company to the number of 70, with the first permanent settlement being made in 1789 by General Wait and his family.

I am not certain that I am worthy of the task assigned me, namely that of trying to crowd most 200 years into a few pages. However, in doing so, I hope I may excite and interest our many newer citizens into reading and perhaps buying a copy of the History of Waitsfield, Vermont, 1782 to 1908 with family genealogies by M.B. Jones. Naturally, this book has to be a source for much information that will be contained in the few pages that I will be putting together. Also, as a source of material, we have used the *Vermont Historical Magazine with an Article by the Rev. P.B. Fiske dealing with the early History of Waitsfield*. The Rev. Fiske especially gives credit to Jennison Jones Esq. who died in 1852, for having in his lifetime prepared valuable data on the early history of the Town. The writer's family, like the Joneses came early to Waitsfield. The Joslins first settled in Weathersfield, Vermont in 1781 and came to Waitsfield about 1797. If my first attempt at writing a few pages of history is not a success, it is not because my roots are not here.

By the 1880's, the population of Waitsfield was nearly 1,000. Twenty years ago, the population of Waitsfield was around 650, by 1980 it had risen to 1300 and the 1990 Census lists a current population base of 1,422.

When the Town was surveyed out by William Strong in 1788, the year before Gen. Wait and his family settled the town, the township was supposed to contain 23,000 odd acres. Between 1822 and 1846 tiers of lots lying on the east side of the town from the top of the mountains easterly, were annexed to Northfield and this diminished the area of Waitsfield to some 15,540 acres. As Waitsfield was growing, it was evident that the persons residing on these lots and their business matters could be more conveniently transacted at Northfield Village than at any point in Waitsfield.

 The Mad River enters Waitsfield from Warren, flows entirely across the town, close to its western boundary and parallel with it and enters the Winooski River in the Town of Moretown. There are four main tributaries to the Mad River in the Town of Waitsfield, Mill Brook from South Fayston and Sheppard's Brook from North Fayston and what is known as Fay's Brook in the old days, entering the Mad River at Madbush Chalet and Pine Brook, a mile or so north of Waitsfield Village.

The first Freeman's Meeting was held in September of 1795 and there were 27 legal voters in the town and they elected Gen. Wait to represent the town in the Legislature. The first Church, Congregational, was organized June 27, 1796.

As previously alluded to, by the 1880's the population of Waitsfield was between 900 and 1,000 persons and it was supporting six schools and in 1888 it had two male and 13 female teachers who were paid an average salary of \$7.08 for males and \$7.31 for females. The total number of scholars in attendance in that year was 218.

As early as 1802, there were four school districts and 201 pupils. The number of districts had grown to seven by 1822 with 316 pupils. These districts declined as well as pupils when the east side of the mountain was annexed to Northfield. Also during these early years, students from Fayston attended schools in Waitsfield which were more convenient to them. During all of these years the Town of Waitsfield had some of the same problems that it had experienced in more recent times, namely, with buildings falling into disrepair and sessions being held in temporary quarters. It was also common in those early years for Summer Sessions of school to be held for the

benefit of women and children. The building known as the Old High School Building which today houses condominium units, was constructed in 1847. It was enlarged in the 1920's and appears today as it did then. The Committee in charge of building this school was directed to build it of brick, provided that the brick could be obtained for \$3.00 per thousand, however, the building was constructed as a 2-story wooden structure with a belfry and as Mr. Jones records in his *History Of Waitsfield*, the brick maker evidently was not in the market at the price of \$3.00 a thousand for brick.

Waitsfield became the commercial center for both Waitsfield and the adjoining Town of Fayston. The nearest railroad was at Middlesex and by the 1880's a daily stage ran between Waitsfield and Middlesex. The Village contained about a dozen merchants, a hotel, a grist and sawmill, three church buildings by this time, the *Congregational Church*, the *Methodist Church* and the *Universalist Church*, a good School System, three Doctors, one Lawyer and a Photographer and many mechanics. The population of the Village was supposed to be around 250 and Irasville had a population of around 125 people with a Shingle Mill and a Sawmill, a store and a Blacksmith Shop. There were thriving sawmill's and clapboard mills turning out many hundreds of thousands of clapboards and shingles and hundreds of thousands of feet of lumber, also a buttertub shop in Waitsfield Village.

In the early days, there were tanneries and for some years, a considerable quantity of leather was turned out and, at one time a starch factory was operated in the town and a carriage shop.

ne only has to view the buildings and meadow lands, both in the Valley and the Waitsfield Common Area to know that agriculture was one of the dominant occupations of Waitsfield from its early settlement and even to its present time. Sheep raising in Vermont was encouraged and a Taxpayer was entitled to a deduction for each sheep which he owned and was shorn by him between May 10 and June 20. There was an annual drive when the herds were driven many miles to market. The Town Records disclose that at about 1803 there were nearly 700 sheep and some 165 cows in the Town and less than 25 years later, the number of sheep was over 3200 and there were over 550 cows. Sheep raising eventually declined very rapidly and by 1908, there were only 113 sheep in the Town and over 1800 cows. At one time the raising of Morgan Horses was a large part of the agricultural business in the Town of Waitsfield.

he observance of the Sabbath with formal religious services was begun in 1793 under the direction of John Barnard, a Deacon in the Shelburne Church (Massachusetts) from which town he came and for the next 100 years, the Town supported many religious societies and built many churches. The ecclesiastical life of Waitsfield is an important part of its history during that time and many prominent Clergymen served the Community and the Community had many of its prominent citizens ordained as Ministers who went far from the Town as well as persons who served as Missionaries. The site of the first Church (Congregational) was what is now known as Waitsfield Common and it was then near the center of the Township. Ezra Jones gave five acres on condition that, "if the Town should move the

Church from that place" the property would revert to his Estate. There were four additional acres which were a part of the Church Property and when the Meetinghouse was moved to the Village, the five acres donated by Ezra Jones reverted to his heirs. The remaining four acres is what is still the Common. It is interesting to note that all the Voters in the Town under the old Law then existing in Vermont were automatically Members of this Society unless they filed with the Town Clerk the Declaration, "that they did not agree in religious opinion with the majority of the Society." At that time, the State and the Church were closely interwoven, however, this law was repealed in 1807.

The second building of the Congregational Society was erected on the site so the present cemetery at the top of what we call Mill Hill (on the right) before the junction of the East Warren and the Waitsfield Common Roads. The Committee took title to a parcel of six acres of land in 1845 and a part of the land being later used as a cemetery. There was much opposition to the removal of the Church from the Common to the Mill Hill site and not until 1846 did the Congregational Society vote to occupy the new Meetinghouse when ready. This Church continued at this site until 1875 when the beautiful, distinctively New England Congregational Church was constructed on the Main Street of Waitsfield.

The Methodist Society was formally organized in 1822 and they had a Church in Irasville erected by 1833 and that Church was later remodeled in 1852. That Church is now the shop know as The Store. A new Church was erected on the westerly side of the Main Street in Waitsfield Village and this burned in 1894 and a third Church was built about the same year. That Church now has craft shops and apartments.

The Universalist Society came into being in 1830 after the dismissal of the Rev. Amaria Chandler from his Pastorate of the Congregational Church. There were a number of prominent men of the Town who entertained liberal doctrinal views who organized this Society.

The Union Meetinghouse Society was formed in 1835 and their Church was built the following year. This was a brick Meetinghouse and its use was discontinued and the building was sold in 1903 to the Independent Order of Oddfellows. The Baptist Society existed for a time, being first organized in 1835 and there was a Protestant Episcopal Church beginning in 1853 and the Wesleyan Methodist also organized in 1853.

In the Writer's childhood, there were two active Churches, the Methodist Church and the Congregational Church. The Catholic people of the Community attended Church Services at St. Patrick's Church in Moretown until the building of Our Lady of the Snows Church which serves all of the communities of Mad River Valley. The only Protestant Church presently in Waitsfield is the Federated Church which occupies the Congregational Church erected in 1875 as earlier mentioned.

The ecclesiastical history of Waitsfield is most interesting. The early Settlers held strong religious beliefs. Up until 1807, as earlier stated, the Religious Societies and, particularly, the Congregational Church, was supported by taxation of the people. When this Law was repealed, there was a reorganization of the Congregational Society.

Waitsfield, from its settlement has taken pride in the maintenance of its burial

grounds or cemeteries. The first one was opened where the First Congregational Church was built on the Common, the Meadow Cemetery which is located in back of the Waitsfield Fire Department Building is where Gen. Wait and members of his family are buried. Anyone passing through Waitsfield on Route 100 is familiar with the Irasville Cemetery and the land for this was acquired in 1847. The so-called Village Cemetery is, as mentioned before, at the top of Mill Hill and was the site of the second Congregational Church.

Early in the history of the Town a Masonic Order was formed and a Charter was issued October 6, 1817 and, like all Masonic Orders at this time, the one in Waitsfield became inactive due to the anti-Masonic agitation of those times, and for more than 30 years, there was no Masonic Organization formally identified with the Town. In 1867, Mad River Lodge #77 was organized by Masons residing in Waitsfield and Moretown. However, not until 1882 was the Lodge moved to Waitsfield by Order of the Grand Lodge and from that time it maintained Lodge Rooms in what was known as the Belden Block and in the early 20's the Order purchased the brick building it now occupies directly across the street from the Joslin Memorial Library. It should be pointed out that this building is the oldest structure in the State of Vermont that was erected as a commercial building with particularly styled windows which you find on the ground floor of this building. The building was constructed in 1835.

The I.O.O.F. was organized in 1883 and included residents of the Towns of Mad River Valley. Later, Warren formed its own Order. The Odd Fellows Organization had, from 1895 to 1902, what were called "Commodious Rooms" in the Norton Block. This Block was on Main Street between the Congregational Church and the intersection of Bridge Street, so-called. The building burned in 1902 and then the Odd Fellows moved to the Union Meetinghouse where they still have their Lodge Rooms. The first floor of this Odd Fellows Building was utilized as a Public Hall and many public functions were held in this building, including High School Class Night Exercises and Graduation. Exercises as well as School Plays and other shows that came to Town such as the Nelly Gill Players. Today the tradition continues as home to the Valley Players.

Waitsfield's first Post Office was opened in 1818 and two trips a week were made to Montpelier to take the outgoing mail and to bring back the incoming mail. This did not become daily until 1864 and by 1899, it was twice a day and by 1903, the Rural Free Delivery Service was instituted. Sometime after 1880, a telephone line was run from the Montpelier Exchange to Warren. This was by popular subscription and in 1900 a local exchange was started, covering Waitsfield and Fayston with a direct toll line to all parts of the country and this voluntary association was incorporated in 1905 with the name of the Waitsfield and Fayston Telephone Company.

Early in the history of Waitsfield, freight trips were run to places as far away as Boston by 4, 6 and 8-horse teams and the products produced through agriculture and manufacturing were exchanged for the products of the merchants of the big city. There was an attempt to open a railroad through the Mad River Valley, but Town

Meetings turned down the necessary financial assistance.

I must come back to education in Waitsfield. By the early 1900's Waitsfield was operating a four-year High School. About the time of World War I, under the leadership of George Wallis, all the District Schools in Waitsfield were then brought into one School Building, the Old High School Building in Waitsfield Village. This building was refurbished and enlarged at that time. My recollection from hearing this chapter of our History discussed, (consolidation of our district schools), was most hotly contested. Mr. Wallis prevailed and Waitsfield operated an exceptionally good High School up until the time of the formation of Harwood Union. Over those years many young men and women, graduating from Waitsfields' High School went out in the World as their forebears had done, serving in the Ministry, Medicine, Law, Engineering and many of the Sciences. These men and women became heads of Departments in prominent schools and colleges, including the IVY League Schools. Mr. Wallis' dream and his high school certainly paid off for many of the boys and girls of Waitsfield.

As we draw near the close of this brief History, reference must be made to the proud Military Record of the Town of Waitsfield. Thirty-two men, who made Waitsfield their home and are now buried within the borders of the Town served in some capacity in the American Revolution. Many of these men were old neighbors and companions in Arms with Gen. Wait. In his former home, Gen. Wait was a leader and here he was a leader as the Town's first Selectman, first Representative in the General Assembly, his premises housed the first church services and provided the first schools. There are descendants still living in Waitsfield of Samuel Barnard, Joseph Joslin and Jonathan Palmer, names appearing on the Revolutionary War Monument.

It was customary in those early days to maintain local Militia companies and one was organized early in Waitsfield. The War of 1812 was not popular and feeling in Waitsfield was pretty evenly divided. Apparently the War of 1812 was not popular with most of New England.

The Civil War, where more American lives were lost than any other War in the history of America, called into service one-tenth of the Town's population and ten gave up their lives on the battlefields of the South and ten more died of sickness and many others bore scars received in battle. In 1907 the Town erected a monument in memory of the Boys In Blue; 90 in number, their names appear on this monument on the Main Street of Waitsfield. Since that time, again on the Main Street of Waitsfield, between the Library and the Congregational Church, have been erected two monuments to honor the living and dead who marched off in defense of their Country in World War I (39 served, 3 died in combat) and in World War II, (91 served, 5 died in combat). On the occasion of the Bi-Centennial of the United States, a monument was erected again on the Main Street between the Library and the Church in honor of the men who served in the Korean and Vietnamese Wars, listing those who were so fortunate to return as well as those who laid down their lives. (Korean War 28 served) (Vietnam War, 53 served, 2 died in combat).

By the 1900's farming was changing in Waitsfield. Sheep raising had gone and

dairy farming was predominant. At that time creameries were established and even local skimming stations. The making of butter and packaging in tubs and shipping to the City Markets went out of vogue also and whole milk was being trucked out of the valley for processing at Waterbury and later, at other points for shipment as whole milk to the City Markets. The Sugar Maker was putting his syrup in large drums for sale to the Cary Maple Sugar Company and other concerns in Vermont if the farmer did not have a private market for maple syrup. Many of the sugar places were sold for lumber, particularly in the late 20's and early 30's.

Today, the number of Sugarmakers and milk producers, in Waitsfield, are few, however the skill and pride found in these operations are still very much alive and well. One of these farms is operated by Elwin Neill, Sr. and Elwin Neill, Jr. and they were honored as the "Vermont Dairyman Of The Year" in 1982.

By the late 30's or early 40's, Waitsfield was a quiet Village and farming community. We had only the Federated Church, three or four stores, the Joslin Library, the second oldest Covered Bridge in the State and there was not a single restaurant and you only went out to eat in Town if you attended a chicken pie supper or a Social sponsored by the Church or one of the Town's various organizations. Then came the Mad River Glen Ski Area in Fayston, followed a few years later by the Sugarbush Ski Area and then Glen Ellen which is now known as Sugarbush North. Commercial activity mushroomed in the Community and Irasville became the location of Shopping Centers which you all know as the Village Square and Mad River Green and also Fiddler's Green.

Dr. Quinby had come to Waitsfield to retire and ski and ended up as the Town's first Doctor in many years, working night and day caring for local people and serving the Ski Areas. Today we continue to have full-time services offered by Dr. Francis Cook, of the Mad River Valley Health Center. In addition an exceptional, highly trained, all volunteer ambulance squad brings much needed emergency services to our citizens. As a side note our volunteer fire department was specially recognized and honored by Governor Kunin for its heroic response to a tanker fire.

Growth of business through the years has encompassed all the amenities of a larger population, ranging from hardware stores, gift and clothing stores, ski shops, banks, grocery and convenience stores, a pharmacy, travel agencies and a theater to restaurants, bakeries, realtors, insurance agencies, legal offices, country inns and even a canoe manufacturer. The list could go on ... as many businesses as there are, there are a melting pot of residents who believe in the future of our town.

In August of 1989, Waitsfield celebrated its Bicentennial with a parade and Senator Patrick Leahy as the speaker of the day, a restoration concert at the Round Barn, a commemoration service at the Federated Church, a house and garden tour and exhibit on the Town's history at the Valley Player's theater which drew over 600 visitors. New granite post and link fences were installed at the Irasville Cemetery and the Congregational Cemetery at the top of Mill Hill. Our characteristic New England Congregational Church (home of the Federated Church of Waitsfield) had restored the pew numbers and a framed legend appears on the back wall of the sanctuary showing the names of the original pew holders. A Bicentennial souvenir book was

printed and two new signs at the entrances to the Village were installed.

As this area continues to grow, may we always be mindful of the proud tradition of our heritage and the quality of life we enjoy here. 1989 marked the memorable occasion of Waitsfield's Bi-Centennial celebration. From one Grand Old Lady to another, Happy Birthday Vermont!

Contributed by Fletcher Joslin

WARREN, VERMONT

1789 to the Present



settlement in Central Vermont honored the first American killed at Bunker Hill by naming their town in his memory. Dr. Joseph Warren was that man. As a prominent figure in New England, Dr. Warren was President Protempore of the Provincial Congress and Major General of the Militia. However, merely giving a name to a place did not make it the home many of us know as Warren, Vermont.

Warren, the home town, began with a land grant on November 9, 1780. After struggling for nine years for the fee needed for the Charter, the Honorable John Thorp and his sixty-seven associates found the 16,660 acres they had acquired were less than what was needed to incorporate the town. Warren's Gore, located to the North in what was then Essex County and comprising nearly 6,000 acres was included. Finally on October 20, 1789, the town of Warren, Vermont, was chartered. Thirty-five years later another four tier of lots from the town of Lincoln were added. Today, Warren is comprised of a total of 27,390 acres.

Stipulations on the use and development of land is not a modern innovation. Even then many conditions were put before the land owner. If the proprietor or his "heirs or assigns" did not build a house and plant and cultivate five acres of the land or have each family settle on a certain tract of land within a given period of time, his land would be returned to the state and regranted.

Shares in the town were also granted for public use. Grants for country grammar schools, minister of the Gospel, support of the ministry, an English school and a college were awarded. Middlebury College received this grant.

Vermonters are know for their pioneer stock. Warren's earliest settlers were certainly unafraid of the wilderness they would now encounter in forging their homes from this backwoods existence. And they set to work.

The land was cleared, houses built, crops planted and their farms took shape. The men hunted and fished, planted corn, potatoes and hardy vegetables, and raised cattle and other farm animals. Sweetners for these foods were obtained as honey from "bee trees" and syrup made from maple sap. This Spring rite began then as the settlers boiled sap outdoors in large iron kettles over an open fire.

Indoors, the women worked to the light of candles, pine knots, and the light of their fireplaces. They baked in brick or stone ovens. Butter was made from the cream skimmed from milk and cheese from the buttermilk. These hardy souls spun their wool and flax to make cloth and fashioned their family's clothing from these homemade fabrics and the leather obtained from the man's latest hunt.

Now that they were staying alive these pioneers could turn their thoughts to their neighbors, the town, and its growth and development.

Early town records include the purchase of land by Asahel Young, a famous bear hunter. He built a log cabin on land owned by Eldridge Hanks and a gristmill near what later became Warren Village. The first recorded birth was a daughter born to Ruel and Olive Sherman on October 17, 1797. Warren's first, second-generation male was Lucius Leavitt, born on March 5, 1798, to Mr. and Mrs. Seth Leavitt. The town's first recorded death was that of Olive Sherman.

The hub of early Warren was in the eastern part of town during the years 1798 to 1824. The best farm land was here and the raising of stock and the grass to feed the animals made this an agricultural area. Because the Indians used the River, settlers felt this was the best location to found their small hamlet.

Although the pace of home building is not what we see today, there was growth in East Warren. The first frame house was on Judge Ephem's farm at the north end of the Post Road, just south of the Waitsfield-Warren line. At the south end of the Post Road, in 1812 a two-story house was built on J.W. Eldridge's farm. (This spot is now the entrance to the Prickley Mountain Road.) One hundred twenty-nine years later this home was destroyed by fire. It had been used as a farm home, a tavern and a Post Office with James Eldridge as the unofficial postmaster for the first twenty-two years of the settlement. Henry Mills, who lived near what is now Alpine Village, was the sawyer who cut most of the lumber for these early homes.

East Warren having been established, the next areas to develop were along the Mad River and the land on the western side of the Valley. The first and second homes in Warren Village were built by Daniel Ralph and Richard Sterling respectively. Dams and mills appeared and the services to supply the local manufacturers and residents developed. The Village Common and Cemetery were laid out in 1826 and three years later the brick Schoolhouse was built. In the span of twenty years Warren Village was settled.

With all this having been accomplished, the State Legislature now decided that Warren should be annexed to Washington County, having formerly been incorporated in Addison County.

During these formative years social life was limited to "Raisings," town meetings and church activities. Friends and neighbors would gather to raise a barn or house, set by the winters supply of firewood, saw lumber, husk corn or tie a quilt. The neighbor ladies would prepare food, and music for dancing was furnished by local players.

The first town meeting was held on September 20, 1798, with Samuel Lard elected as town clerk, and Ruel Sherman, Joseph Raymond and Seth Leavett as selectmen. Twelve men took the Freeman's Oath on September 2, 1800, at the first Freeman's Meeting. These meetings continued in the homes of selectmen until 1812. Until their discontinuance in 1872, they were held at the Red Schoolhouse in East Warren or the Brick School in Warren Village.

By this time the population had grown to the point where holding public meetings in citizens' homes was an impossibility. The building of a town hall was

approved by vote. Ed Cardell donated just enough land on which a town hall could be erected. In December, 1872, the town hall was completed for a cost of \$2,777.50

While their parents attended Town Meetings, the small children were "baby-set" at the Village School. Although the women could not vote, they listened from one side of the room while the men transacted the town's business. The Church ladies served meals which gave everyone the opportunity to get reacquainted with friends and neighbors.

Both the times and the Warren Town Hall have changed. Women, now allowed the vote, also entered town government as treasure, town clerk, school director, auditor, lister and even penetrated the ranks of "selectmen." For more than one hundred years the Town Hall has remained Warren's social center for many activities including the Grange and Odd Fellow Lodge meetings. Also a favorite dancing spot for young and old, with music furnished by local musicians, both round and square dancing are still popular. Over the years it has been modernized to include a central heating system and insulation with a dining room and lavatory facilities adding to the comforts.

The homes of Joseph Eldridge and James Richardson held the worship services until the Methodist Church was built during 1833 and 1834. The church was erected at the four-corners on the Old Stage Coach Road, in the heart of the early trading center of Warren. It was adjacent to a cemetery lot of one and one-half acres purchased in 1805 for \$30.00. The lumber for the beams was drawn by ox cart from Ripton and the pews were transported from Middlebury. These sturdy box pews, which seated fifty people, were the last standing remains of a church which saw over one hundred years of worship followed by fifteen years of being left to God's elements. Pastor Pearl Daniels held the last service in 1928.

The Free Will Baptists, the Universalists, the Congregationalists, and the Methodists together built the Warren River Meetinghouse. In 1838, the organization was formed, and covenants adopted and signed after a council was appointed. Prior to this each denomination held meetings according to the number of pews each owned. The church later became the United Church of Warren.

Until the 1930's there were resident pastors who lived in the Parsonage just south of the Town Hall. They were real members of the community, visiting homes throughout the area, ministering to their parishioners and providing a link needed in the social structure of such a rural area. This era ended for a while when the United Church of Warren began sharing the services of a minister with the Waitsfield Church. Once again, a resident pastor serves the Warren United Church.

Another change in country life came when Warren's resident doctor left the area and Dr. Shaw of Waitsfield covered the entire Valley. His patients had a great deal of confidence in this "Country Doctor." He visited the sick at all hours of the day or night and, when not making house calls, he was always available.

he Postal Service was the main link with the outside world through the closest rail connection in Roxbury. From 1828 to 1907, two Warren post offices received mail from carriers on foot, horseback or team driven. It came about three times a week until 1880 when it arrived daily. Gladys Bissell was the last driver to make the route by car. After that, mail arrived via Middlesex, then Montpelier, by

Star Route Delivery. Today, we either await the daily visit of Anson Hamel, who carries the mail to our rural boxes or make a friendly visit to the Post Office to chat with neighbors and catch up on the latest Valley happenings. It seems that although the mail service has improved, not much has changed its social value over the years.

Until 1805, when construction of a school was elected, education was conducted in private homes. A schoolhouse at Four Corners was built to house the town's two districts. In 1823 two more schools were added, one north of the Corner and one in the Village. 1829 saw the construction of a brick schoolhouse in Warren Village on the south side of the Common. Then, in 1867, a wooden construction replaced the old brick schoolhouse. Now a residence, the schoolhouse at South Corner, built in 1888, was called the "high school" because of its elevation. With only six districts left, in 1914 a Union School System was adopted.

The one-room schoolhouse had disappeared, with two rooms grouping the students together by grades. Five years after the adoption of the Union School System, a three-room method was established. The Village School had a Primary department with grades one and two, the Lower department with grades three, four and five, and the Upper department with grades six, seven and eight.

In 1822 eighty-three "scholars" (students from age four to eighteen) attended the "Corner" school and seventy-six attended "South" school. Only about two-thirds of the total children in Warren attended the Summer and Winter terms. Enrollment grew to more than three hundred scholars in 1845. The children of the now fourteen districts were scattered all through town.

The administration of the Warren school system has changed over the years. The first teachers received \$1.00 to \$2.75 per week plus room and board at the homes of their students. This "tuition" was based on the number of children attending school from each family. This practice continued until 1885 when the residents voted for town-owned and maintained schoolhouses, and paid school teachers. But the parents still had to furnish their children's supplies for the next ten years, after which time they were provided by the town.

More recent years saw many improvements to the Warren Village school. With the drilling of a well, running water eliminated the need for the student's individual drinking cup and, more importantly, the outhouse. Huddling around the old wood stove on cold winter days was no longer necessary after the new heating plant was installed. By 1960, all students were transported to the village school. Hot lunches were served and most students remained at school for the entire day. The old bell that used to call the students to school at eight forty-five and twelve forty-five and at recess no longer rang from the belfry.

Enrollment increased over the next ten years to the point when a new school was built on Brooks Field. High school students from Warren and Waitsfield who were previously attending Waitsfield and Montpelier High Schools, were joined by the seventh and eighth graders at the new Harwood Union High School in Duxbury. A bussing network had been established to pick up and deliver both elementary and high school students on a schedule which suited the families, the teachers, and the administration.

Early settlers such as Bradley, Shepherd, Hanks, Fuller, Mills and Stetson gave their names to many of Warren's brooks and streams. Some were named for their source, like Lincoln, with Clay Brook being derived from its type of soil and the Mad River being aptly coined for its temperament.

The roads took on their names in the same way. In later years changes came about as new people settled here. Two prime examples are the Clay Brook Road which became Sugarbush Access Road and DeFreest Road which is now the Airport Road.

As a note of interest to today's conservationists, the present Route 100 was widened only after a bitter dispute. The environmental protection advocates of the day were quite concerned that the widening of the highway would spoil a scenic drive. However, after it was widened, no longer did one have to wait at a turn-out for an oncoming vehicle to pass!

All goods were imported into the Valley. After being delivered by rail to Roxbury, a seven mule haul over the mountain had to be made. When deliveries were coming from the Middlesex depot, an exhausting journey had to be made through the entire length of the Valley.

It was not surprising that there was much excitement in 1875 concerning a proposed railroad through Warren. At a special town meeting residents voted to spend \$22,402.24 as subscription to capitol stock in the Green Mountain Railroad Company. Although G.W. Cardell, Jonas Sargent and Philander Riford were chosen as commissioners, the road was surveyed, and a cost estimate was made, the project was dropped.

Twenty years later, on December 28, 1895, another town meeting was called. A new prospect for rail service through Warren gave the voters hope once more. But again, nothing else was done.

In 1910 it finally looked like Warren would get its rail service. A civil engineer of the Harrison Engineering company, assisted by a force of men, began surveying for a railroad between Montpelier and Rutland. The project, which would be a steam road of standard gage, had to be started by November 20, 1911. Although the survey itself cost \$10,000, the railroad was never built.

By 1889 the number of mills and businesses had reached its peak. Many carpenters, blacksmiths, boot and shoe dealers, trunk dealers, lumber dealers, an insurance agent, a clergyman, a dressmaker, a sleigh manufacturer and an undertaker were among the services offered.

The flood of 1927 brought an end to the water power era. The November flood took all four mill dams in the Village — the Stetson Mill, the Bradley Mill, the Grist Mill and the Old Plyn Parker Mill of 1777. The foundation of the Covered Bridge washed away, (later restored with a grant from the Vermont Legislature for the protection of local historic resources), every road was impassable, Warren Village was cut off at each end with bridges gone and the roads to Roxbury, Granville, Lincoln and Waitsfield were closed.

Prior to the flood, water-powered industry was at its height. Warren had sawmills, cider mills, clapboard mills, gristmills, lumber mills, and clothespin and butter

factories along the Mad River and the Lincoln, Stetson, Bradly, Clay and Freeman Brooks. Then, only two remained.

In 1949 the H.W. Brooks Mill in the Village and the Bowen & Hunter Bobbin Mill at the south end of town were in operation. The H.W. Brooks Mill was originally the site of a tannery and had been operated in 1884 as a tool shop making the tools for lumbermen, such as edge tools, axes and slide ox yokes.

The Brooks Mill burned in 1918. After Henry Brooks rebuilt the structure, there was a time when twenty-five men were employed at the mill. One night, during the 1940's, it burned again, taking with it four houses across the river. Although it was again restored and modernized, it never became an enterprising business after that. Business at the Brooks Mill was discontinued in the 1950's.

The old Bowen & Hunter Mill, originally built by Erastus Butterfield in 1879, was also plagued by fires. It burned down in the early 1930's while owned by Parker and Ford, and was rebuilt on a "shoestring." However, before it was completed, it burned again. Once more it was overhauled and ran as a business for over twenty-five years. It was later purchased by David Sellers, but the ill-fated building was damaged by fire another time. In 1974 the Bowen & Hunter Mill became known as "The Bobbin Mill" under a co-op plan with Northwind Power, Vermont Iron Stove Works—makers of "The Elm," and Dirt Road—makers of wooden folding furniture.

During the late 1800's the dairy industry grew. The creamery business, started in East Warren, moved to the Village. Prior to the introduction of DeLaval separators, milk was transported to the creamery to be separated from the cream. After that each farmer had the facility to separate the milk at the farm and then send the cream to the center to be made into butter. After the Hood Milk Company started buying fluid milk for shipment to Boston, it was picked up by their trucks at distribution points. Later, it was picked up at each farm and eventually the farmer stored it in steel bulk tanks that could be connected to the steel tank trucks and hauled directly from the farm under refrigeration.

oung people left the farms to seek life away from rural areas. Stetson Hollow, South Hollow, West Hill and Grand Hollow all began to be overgrown with brush and forests and by 1950, the only farm in operation in Lincoln Gap (South Hollow) was Frank Hartshorn's, and that was on a small scale. By 1970, only Rupert Blair and George Elliot in East Warren and David DeFreest to the Northwest were the only active dairy farmers left in Warren.

Sugaring also, a big Spring operation, followed the path taken by the dairy industry. From boiling sap outdoors over an open fire, new methods moved it inside to a sugarhouse. Nearly every farm had a sugarhouse, sugaring being one way to get needed cash. Old ways of packaging syrup stored it in 55-gallon drums and ten pound pails of sugar. In the sugarhouse, an arch, fed by wood, boiled the sap in special pans to a specified density. It was then graded by color and flavor. Next it was packed in metal or even plastic containers and sold directly to the customers.

The advent of man-made power to Warren brought some wonderful conveniences. The first street lights in the village were gas lights. Later came electric ones which required manual setting each night and morning. Power for these was

supplied by the hydro dams in Moretown and Middlesex. The Thayer Dam “in recent years used as a swimming area by Valley residents and vacationers) was once the property of William Carleton. It was sold with the understanding that it would be used for hydro power, but it never served this purpose. It was a number of years before the residents south of Warren Village had electricity in their homes.

Prior to 1908, telephone service came over Roxbury Mountain to Wyd McClaffin’s at its base, with telephone poles along the road to Granville. As late as the 1950’s only two lines—installed along Route 100—served all of Warren. At that time every phone rang when someone was called and every subscriber could pick up his phone and listen to the conversation on the line. For instance, the person with Number 33 was to answer three long and three short rings. Later, as more lines were available, this changed. Construction started in 1961 for the change to a dial system. Eight-party lines—or eight subscribers to one line—were the most modern facilities available. It was an important day when the Waitsfield and Fayston Telephone Company made this installation, with a new central office in Waitsfield.

Lincoln Gap was slated for a ski area. Construction was ready to begin. But due to a serious lack of snow that year the corporation’s plans were changed. What would have become Warren’s first resort was moved to Fayston, and Mad River Glen ski Area was built.

In 1958 the Sugarbush Corporation came to Lincoln Mountain with the longest and highest aerial car installation in the East. The town voted to exempt the corporation from paying taxes for five years.

The die had been cast. The sleepy agricultural community of Warren was to see unprecedented growth in the next twenty years. The *Grand List* in 1954 of \$4,593 rose in five years to \$66,219. The year 1958 saw a favorable vote, allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages. Tourism and all the related service industries was felt as a boon to some yet to others it was a threat to the old New England life-style.

New jobs were created for secretaries, housekeepers, waitresses, construction workers, designers and planners. In came lawyers, draftsmen, real estate brokers and small businesses. Other new jobs were directly involved in the ski industry itself, providing employment for instructors, lift operators, trail maintenance people and a host more.

Although many local people complained that their land was being ruined by the rush to develop it for the tourist industry, many were making money again by selling their land for the hotels, chalets, restaurants and other services needed by the skiers.

As Sugarbush became a year-round vacation land, the building quickly overflowed to all areas of the town. Second homes sprang up. Where once there was neglected farm land, houses with a new type of design appeared. David Sellers was one of the innovators. Dave had started a community in 1966 called Prickley Mountain at the south end of the Old Stage Coach Road. He and Bill Reinecke brought an entirely new type of architecture to the area. They attempted to find a present-day solution to structural and energy problems with solar heat and wind power. The Prickley Mountain development became a friendly little community with a common pond area and potluck suppers at the homes in the neighborhood.

Another new type of architecture became quite visible at the foot of the Sugarbush Ski Area. During one year seventy-two housing units—under one roof—evolved. The condominium concept was born in Warren. Middle Earth was one of these with sixty-six units on only sixteen acres of land. Clustering homes in one area helped, in some way, to limit over development in other areas of Warren. Because it has a common water system and a sewage plant, Sugarbush Village became the scene of most of this activity. More homes, lodges, eating places and sport centers have been built during recent years.

The Sugarbush Ski Area also expanded in the era of Roy Cohen. Glen Ellen, Fayston's second ski area, was purchased by the Cohen organization and renamed Sugarbush North. Since then, under ARA Services and currently, Claneil Enterprises, the dedication to quality skiing and responsible growth have remained key components in all planning.

The airport in East Warren, founded by Warren Ketcham in 1963, brought many private planes to the Valley. The sport of gliding developed there during the summer months with the airfield being used for cross-country skiing in the winter.

 Warren's most popular summer event is its Fourth of July celebration. The day starts with a parade of floats, music, individual and group participants. Following that, spectators and participants move to Brooks Recreation field for a host of activities throughout the afternoon and evening. Thousands of people from near and far enjoy the festivities. In recent years, the holiday also includes a Vermont Symphony Orchestra concert under the stars followed by fireworks from the slopes of Sugarbush, as well as a country air show at the Sugarbush-Warren Airport.

At eight o'clock on the evening of July 4, 1976, a time capsule was buried on the southeast corner of Warren's bandstand. The capsule, a gondola from Sugarbush Ski Area, will be buried for one hundred and twenty-five years. The Warren citizens who resurrect it in 2,100 A.D. will find the food, clothing, poetry and musical instruments of the day, a 1976 telephone directory, along with checks written "to whom it may concern", totaling approximately \$3,000,000. It will be interesting—to say the least—to see the reactions of those who open the time capsule.

Protection services were now in greater demand. The Warren Volunteer Fire Department needed more space. In 1978 an underground addition connecting to the original building was dedicated to John Snow. Chief Snow had served as Warren's fire chief for many years until his death in the line of duty. Clayton Neill organized the Warren Fire Department in 1947 and was its first chief.

All the bumps, bruises and broken bones that have come off ski slopes and off slippery roads—to name only two accident prone areas—have been remarkably cared for by the Mad River Ambulance Service. Not only do these two organizations work well together, they have helped protect Warren in innumerable ways.

With the increase in both permanent and vacation residents, many other changes came to Warren. The old Village Dam was rebuilt in 1978, providing water for fire protection and swimming. The land granted Middlebury College in the town's earliest days was acquired by the U.S. Forest Service which was combined with Ward

Lumber Company and Laird holdings to expand the National Forest. With the improvement of Warren's roads, a town garage was built. Act 250 was introduced and Warren again turned full circle to its beginnings when the state regulated land use and land development.

From 1798 through the next century and a half Warren was alive with the activities which expanded a promising agricultural village to a busy mill town. As new world developments drew its youth to foreign shores and city lights, both population and progress subsided in Warren. Quiet country life was the rule. When its natural resources were recognized as a potential for the recreational industry, Warren became the bustling town we see today.

The town has grown to 1,172 residents, the landscape has changed, new blood has arrived, but one can believe that Dr. Joseph Warren would be proud that his name has endured through nearly two centuries of the innovation and adaptation known to flow through Yankee veins.

Contributed by Katherine Carleton Hartshorn.

TELEPHONY AND THE WAITSFIELD-FAYSTON TELEPHONE CO.

1876

 ne hundred years ago on March 10, 1876, the first telephone call from Alexander Graham Bell to his assistant, Thomas Watson, while working on a voice transmission invention in another room, took place when Bell knocked over a jug of acidwater on his clothes and shouted, "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you."

1883

 he telephone was first exhibited later in 1876 at the Centennial Exposition in New York City where it was met with much amusement and was thought to be an impractical invention. However, the telephone system grew rapidly and by 1883 there were 125 competing companies. By 1915 there were more than 6,000 independent companies in America serving small towns and rural areas.

1900

 he Waitsfield and Fayston Telephone Company, an independent, was born early in the development of telephony. Four years after Bell's call, a telephone line was run by New England Tel. & Tel. Co. from Montpelier to Warren with popular subscription furnishing most of the funds. The one and only telephone in Waitsfield was in the general store owned by Jacob Boyce, now the Masonic Lodge. Anyone receiving or sending communications by phone did so at the store. About 1900 a local exchange was started and quickly grew to sizeable proportions covering the town of Waitsfield and the south portion of Fayston. From this time until the company's incorporation, it was under the supervision of Wesley McAllister who was succeeded by Fred Eaton. This was not their only source of employment; as stated in the History of Waitsfield, Mr. McAllister was a farmer and a manufacturer of lumber.

1904

In the year 1904, October 10, two of the town's most prominent citizens and subscribers to telephone service, Walter Jones and Ziba McAllister, purchased from the New England Tel. & Tel. Co. "All lines of telephone poles together with the wires thereon" in the towns of Waitsfield and Fayston. This followed their purchase on October 9, 1904, from E.W. Slayton and the Warren Telephone Company, their portion of the toll lines from Warren through Waitsfield to the Moretown town line. With these lines and poles as existing plant, Mr. Jones and Mr. McAllister together with twenty other Waitsfield businessmen petitioned the state legislature to incorporate the Waitsfield and Fayston Telephone Co. "for the purpose and with the right of acquiring, building, maintaining and operating telephone lines." The incorporation became effective on November 30, 1904.

1908

Watt B. Jones, brother of Walter Jones, living in Boston and a director of New England Tel. & Tel. Co., contacted a young man formerly of Moretown who was working for the New England Tel. & Tel. Co. and interested him in coming to Waitsfield to manage the newly-formed company. The young man mentioned was Alton Farr who built new lines, purchased the pole lines from the Warren Tel. Co., acquired lines into Moretown where they had their own central office, and by 1908 the company had grown considerably. Rates were \$1.50 per month with a \$.25 discount if the bill were paid on or before the fifteenth of the month. Phone bills were paid with cash, and sometimes with wood, wood ashes, maple syrup, native poles or farm produce.

1913

One of the great events of telephony occurred in 1913 when the independent companies were connected to the National Toll Network. For the first time it was possible to talk to any telephone customer in the country.

In the earlier days of telephony there was fierce competition in small towns between as many as four companies. To talk to everyone else in town it was necessary to have a telephone from each company. Telephone lines crossed and re-crossed each other. Connection between competing telephone companies was non-existent. Telephone companies realized that they were not providing good service and in 1896 began organizing associations to work together.

1918

On August 1, 1918, and on through World War I the telephone industry was taken over by the government and compensation received from the local postmaster. After the war the company was returned to original ownership.

During these early years, the central office of the Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company was returned to original ownership.

During these early years, the central office of the Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company was moved from building to building, the location depending upon the residence of the manager at the time. The switchboard, attended by one person,

provided service only during the work day. It was up to the housewife who attended it to "sandwich" her housework between calls. Twenty-four hour service was first given when it became necessary for the company to rent separate quarters. These quarters became the apartment for the two young ladies employed as "Central girls" at this time. Salary for the week was \$15.00.

1920

XXI Modes of transportation varied from foot or horse and buggy in the early days of the business to bicycle, motorcycle and Model T to the present modern equipment. At times it became necessary to hike cross lots on snowshoes. Subscribers still affectionately recall "Altee" Farr and his motorcycle bumping along on the dirt roads or backing up steep hills in the Model T. The slogan became more or less like the postal department, regardless of difficulties with transportation or weather the phone service must go on.

1924-27

X In the year 1924 Eunice Buzzell became the bride of Alton Farr and at this time became the bookkeeper and secretary. Mrs. Farr recalled that the flood of 1927 damaged and felled poles over the entire system. Complete service was not restored for a full week. Another flood in 1939 brought damage but was not so severe. Service has also been interrupted at times of heavy snowstorms.

1934

XXI Many changes took place as the "new infant" grew and matured. Probably the most significant change came in 1934 when Congress passed the Communications Act setting forth public policy goals and establishing the Federal Communications Commission.

State public utility commissions were formed to protect customers and telephone companies in all matters effecting intrastate service. Thus was born the regulated monopoly, legalizing the natural monopoly status and regulating rates.

The principle of a regulated utility is that in exchange for its monopoly status, service must be provided at reasonable cost to anyone who requests it. The company should be protected under good management and allowed a sufficient rate of return on the investment which attracts investors and allows for growth and the provision of new service.

One of the special services provided in the Valley was public notices. They were given between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. for a charge of \$1.00. These notices varied all the way from the announcement of a food sale to benefit the Ladies Home Circle to serving the needs of a town without a fire department. Urgent notices were differentiated by three rings, three times in succession instead of the two rings for the general notice. This was a service continued by the company until the fall of 1959 when the capacity of traffic rendered it impossible. The fire notice was continued until the system was converted to dial.

1940

The peak in the number of subscribers, until recently, occurred in 1930 with two hundred forty-six accounts and thirty-five lines. This was due to large logging operations in the town of Fayston. By 1940 there were one hundred ninety-six accounts distributed over the same number of lines.

Alton Farr was local representative and repairman for the Green Mountain Power Company as well as manager, president and chief stockholder of the telephone company. After his death in October, 1940, Mrs. Farr decided to continue the telephone company but felt it unwise to continue the service previously rendered to the power company. She thus became at that time one of the few lady utility managers in the United States.

1944-46

One of the hardest blows from which the company ever had to recover was the razing of the central office by fire in 1944. Seconds before the operator was driven from the building by flames, she was able to contact the New England Tel. & Tel. Co. which acquired an antique switchboard and installed it in an old building nearby. Temporary service was available within twenty-four hours. The operators remember this board with considerable fondness. Each drop was bell ended; there not being sufficient drops for the number of lines, several lines were wired to each drop. This created much confusion. Permanent service was delayed because war time rendered a new switchboard nearly impossible to acquire. The new location was at the present Universal Micro Systems site on the south side of the village square. A second fire in 1946 destroyed the work shop and nearly all of the equipment located in the basement of the Farr residence.

During the nineteen years in which Mrs. Farr served as manager it was frequently necessary for her to put on her wraps and locate trouble by herself. As one subscriber jokingly said "she has even been seen climbing poles"; this she denied, but she did admit to uncrossing wires with a pole, installing and removing phones and replacing batteries.

1961

During the summer and fall of 1961, major construction was undertaken for the conversion to dial. A cement block building was constructed and 35 miles of cable and rural distribution wire were installed. With the cutover to the dial system, the number of parties on a line was changed from as many as twenty-seven to not more than eight. Mileage outside the base rate area was charged on all but the eight party service.

1964

Continued growth and a third ski area, Glen Ellen, soon brought the system to near 100% full and by 1964, additional outside plant and central office facilities were required. A change to a one, two and four party system was found to be feasible which gained approval of the Vermont Public Service Board. Another 72 miles of cable and rural distribution wire were added.

1966

Keeping pace with the extensive growth in the valley, the company found the quarters for the business office in the home of the manager to be outgrown. During the summer of 1966, construction of the company's "first home" was started on the north side of Waitsfield village on a site which commands a view of the ski area. The business office and dial building constructed in 1961 were dedicated to Alton E. and Eunice B. Farr who had guided the company from its infancy through the magneto years.

1967

The next wrinkle in phone service for customers of the Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company was direct distance dialing which became effective June 4, 1967. Over the years "crank service" had been replaced by dialing, and "Anytown, U.S.A." became as close as a neighbor. The computer facilitated rating the long distance calls—once a monumental task the operator had to do by hand.

Again the company grew and added facilities to serve over 1,000 customers. This was brought about by area growth. With this construction program, a feasibility study showed a one-party system to be a possibility. An enthusiastic Vermont Public Service Board, Rural Electrification Administration, (the company's source of financing) and Board of Directors thus brought about the conversion of the first all one-party system in the state of Vermont. This eliminated the base rate area and zones for a flat rate of \$7.00 for residence and \$14.00 for business.

1968

In December of 1968, the age of the handwritten bill and the addressograph plate gave way to an IBM system in the company business office. Since then computers have made it possible to keep pace with developing technologies, allowing the company to better serve the customer.

1980—Present

In 1980, the Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company entered the new era of technology with the installation of a digital central office. Computer based switching provided touch tone dialing and custom calling services.

In the intervening years to the present, the Company has expanded into a "total telecommunications" environment, providing cable television, paging, voice mail, mobile radio and "dial tone" services from generic upgrades to the digital switch.

During the next few years, to the present, fiber optic cable will be installed. Engineering is taking place at the present time to replace the copper cables that were installed in 1961.

Mere voice transmission has been with us for over one hundred years. It is as important as the invention of the wheel. The potentials for the next one hundred years seem infinite and it is with these possibilities in mind that we at the Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company continue to bring state-of-the-art service to the Valley.

🌀 MAD RIVER GLEN - A SHORT HISTORY 🌀

The year was 1947. Mad River Glen, the first ski area in the valley, was scheduled to open with its mile-long single chair lift which would be only the second chair lift in Vermont. It was an area being developed by a group of skiers and investors headed by Roland Palmedo, a New York financial expert and ski pioneer. He and others of this group previously had been responsible for the Mt. Mansfield development in Stowe.

However, New England weather, being what it is, played one of its infamous tricks by dropping so much snow in November and December that work on the lift had to be abandoned.

Opening ceremonies were held at last in December, 1948, but then followed five years of less than average snowfall and the ski area along with the few lodge owners then in business struggled to survive. The outlook was made gloomier by the fact that the area was at the end of a dead-end dirt road which turned to five miles of mud whenever it thawed. This situation was rectified in 1957 by the completion of the McCullough Turnpike which opened an east-west route.

In the mid-fifties changes in the pattern of snowfall began to emerge. The next fifteen years then produced many consecutive seasons of consistently good to excellent skiing. The ski business at last gained a solid foothold.

During this period Mad River Glen built two double chair lifts and one T-bar. Trails to serve these lifts were completed and the Basebox was enlarged three times. A ski shop, nursery, a ski-patrol building, a garage and an on-the-mountain cafeteria were constructed. The parking lot was cleared shortly after the completion of the highway to accommodate the increasing business traffic.

This period also saw the growth of The Mad River Glen "Community". Building sites were sold for seventy private dwellings and six ski club lodges. A building consisting of six efficiency units also was built adjacent to the base area.

In 1972 the original corporation sold to a small group of investors which included Truxton Pratt, Jr. of Greenwich, Connecticut, a New York bank executive, and his wife, Betsy. They had been long-time property owners in Waitsfield. "Trux" had been a Mad River Ski Patroller and later a director of the original corporation.

The new corporation immediately replaced the T-bar with a double chairlift, remodeled the Basebox, build a new ski shop/office building and enlarged the garage. Subsequently the installation of a modest snowmaking system was started.

Truxton died after a lingering illness in 1975. Betsy Pratt, after acquiring other stock then became the principal stockholder. The next major move was the purchase of the Mad River Barn, one of the valley's first ski lodges. Now, as president of Mad River Corporation she takes an active role in the management of the Barn and ski area.

The single chairlift, now in its 43rd season of operation, is the last remaining lift of its kind in the country.

Contributed by Ken Quackenbush

🌀 SUGARBUSH SKI RESORT 🌀

Beginning in 1958, founders Damon Gadd and Jack Murphy developed and ran the mountain for 19 years. Gadd, a developer from New York and former

lodge owner who had skied in most of the major areas around the world, and Murphy, general manager of Mad River Ski Area for five years and one-time ski instructor at Sun Valley, conducted careful research of the mountainous region of Vermont, New York and New Hampshire before deciding that Lincoln Peak (Sugarbush South) would be the site for Sugarbush. Sugarbush opened with a gondola and a poma lift, 10 trails and a village of slopeside condominiums and restaurants.

Roy Cohen purchased Sugarbush from its founders in 1977. He invested millions of dollars in the area and purchased neighboring Glen Ellen Ski Area, making Sugarbush one of the largest ski areas in the country. Most real estate was developed during Roy's ownership.

From 1983–1986, ARA Services, a food supplier in Philadelphia, Pa., owned and oversaw operations of Sugarbush Resort. They continued a capital improvement program helping to maintain Sugarbush's position as one of the top ski areas in New England.

Since 1986, Claneil Enterprises, Inc., a private holding company in Philadelphia, Pa., has owned Sugarbush. Under Claneil's ownership, Sugarbush has seen major changes. The ski area has made concerted efforts to become a four-season destination resort, adding a wide variety of properties and services to enhance this area's year-round offerings. The mountain has also seen change under Claneil's ownership, including three new quad chairlifts (one high speed, two fixed grips), two renovated on-mountain warming houses and a commitment to provide daily activities and improved guest services.

Thirty-three years later, eighty trails and sixteen lifts on two mountains, bring Sugarbush up to its current level of skiing variety. The pattern of growth since 1958 continues to be reflected in current owner's mission statement which reads, "It is the objective of Claneil Enterprises, Inc. to establish Sugarbush Resort as a profitable, high quality, all-season resort, giving priority to the environment and natural beauty of its surroundings and the heritage of the valley towns and countryside, of which it is a part."

Contributed by Sally Bray

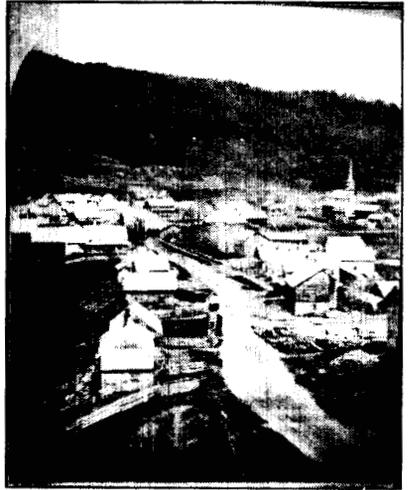
Our history in photographs...



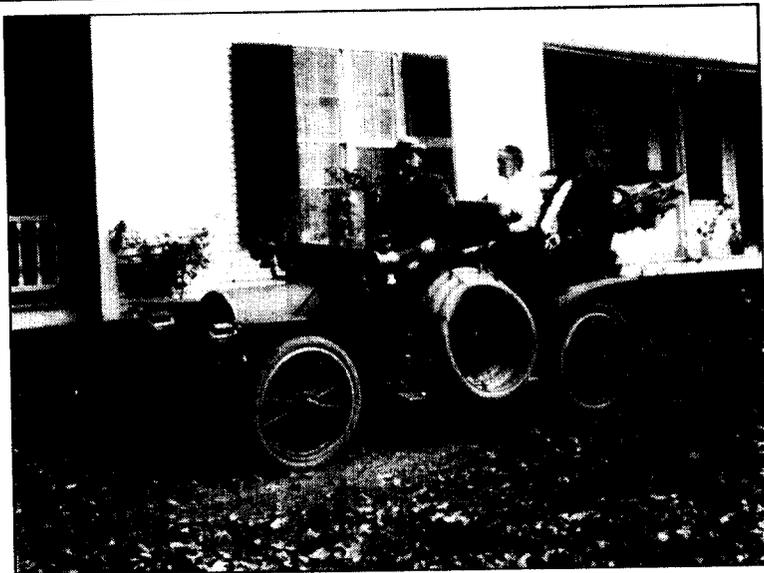
The General Wait House. Originally square and only one-story high, after his death it was moved to its present location at the North end of town, and a second story was added.



The former residence of Emily Eaton, present day location of All Things Bright and Beautiful.



View of Waitsfield Village from the vantage point of the former Second Congregational Church. Note the absence of the present day Waitsfield Federated Church.



The proud owners of Waitsfield's first automobile.



Nurse for children of Matt Jones, Vice President of New England Telephone. He summered with his brother, Walter Jones.



Construction of the former dam above the Waitsfield covered bridge in 1830. The water from this dam powered the lumber mill behind the present Miramar Ski club.



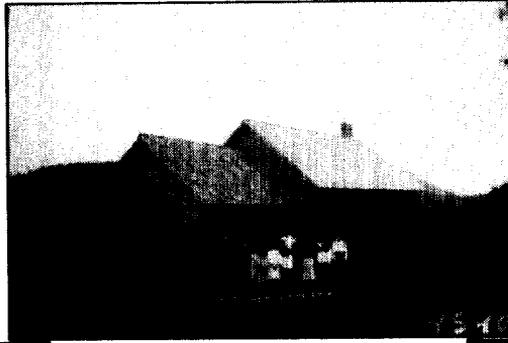
Do you recognize Alden Bettis as the driver of this milk truck? This Warren Company was one of the several that served Valley farms.



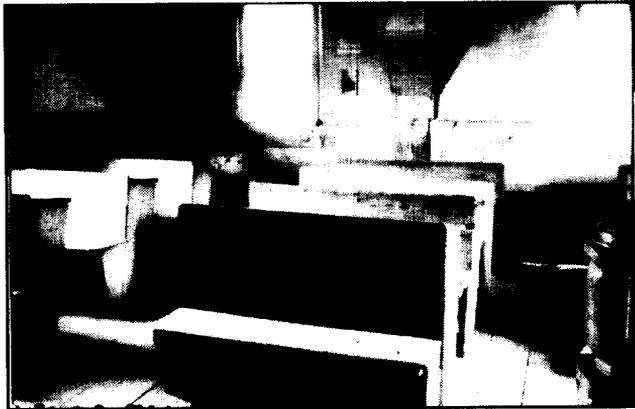
Speech of John Sentor at a gathering in Waren Village. In the background are the Lyford Hotel and the Roy Long Store (now the Warren Store).



Route 100 at the former Vaughn Estes house, currently the Wilder Farm Inn.



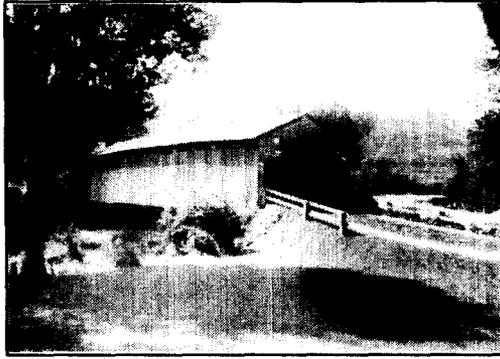
One of the Valley's early school houses,
serving local farm children.



Interior of a former Valley
one-room school house.



Riding in style at the turn of the century.



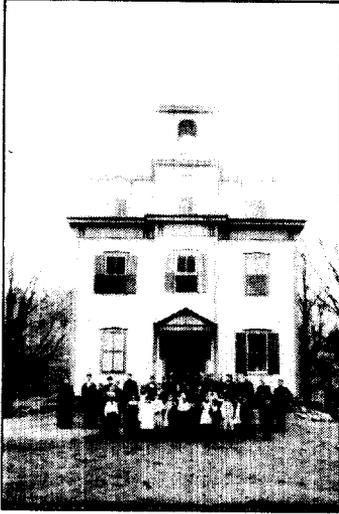
One of the oldest covered bridges in Vermont is located in Waitsfield (1833).



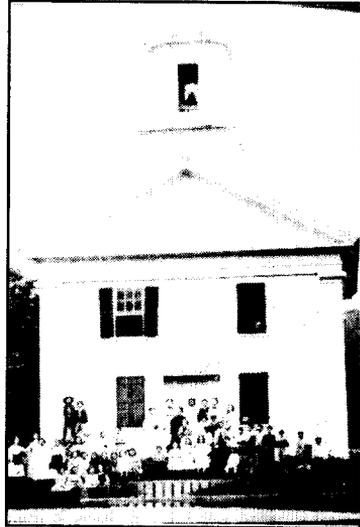
This covered bridge crossed Mill Brook at the current Rt. 100 location where the Austin Black Sheep Farm and the Eagles Condominiums are now located.



The village creamery (circa 1893) served local farmers until the introduction of the milk truck. The first Waitsfield High School basketball games were played on the upper floor with no room for spectators.



The original Waitsfield High School (1848). The front was added near the end of the 19th century. This was the Valley's high school until 1966 when Harwood Union opened.



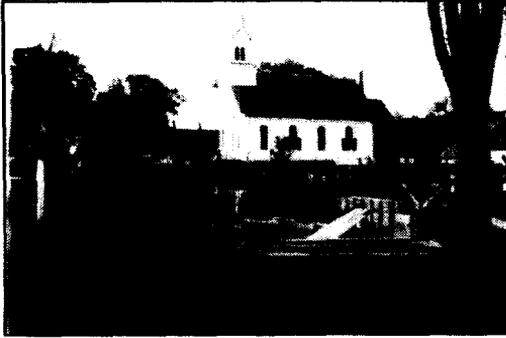
An early Warren Village class picture.



The Second Congregation Meeting House was built in 1846. It was constructed near the cemetery which is located just through the Waitsfield covered bridge.



Believed to be the one-time Waitsfield Band; can anyone identify the structure?



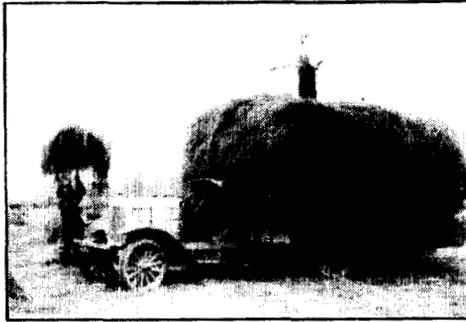
Construction begins for the Joslin Memorial Library.



The Free Will Baptists, the Universalists
the Congregationalists and the Methodists built the Warren
River Meetinghouse, today's Warren United Church.



A snowy view down
"North Main St."—Waitsfield.



Haying "modern" style,
with Herb Smith at the wheel



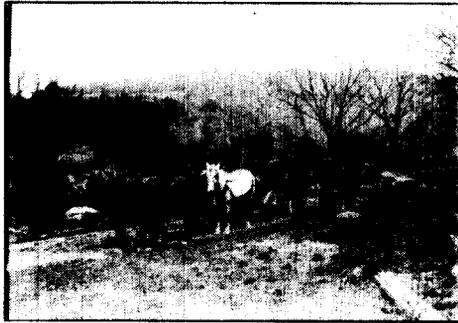
Early Valley maple sugar operation.



Cutting ice from the old cove above the former
Waitsfield dam—Far left: Herb Smith.



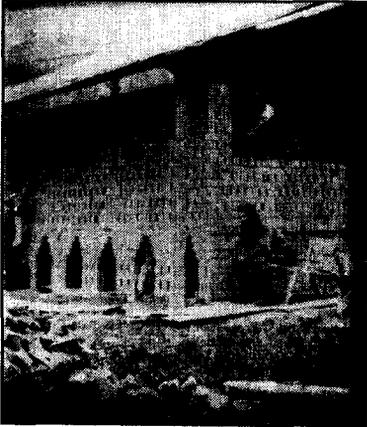
Ox team and cart behind the horse shed and
Waitsfield-Federated Church.



The Fayston road crew includes the driver—Robert Livingston,
machine-operator Win Dana and standing, (left to right) are Pine
Dana, Arthur Livingston and “rambling Sam”.



Horse team bringing the
Civil War Monument into Waitsfield.



Joseph Green's
brickyard Mill
Hill-Waitsfield.



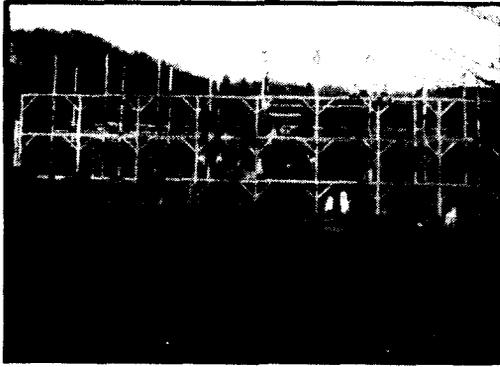
Emery Summerville's barber
shop under the telephone
office which was located next
to the Moriarty building
in Waittsfield.



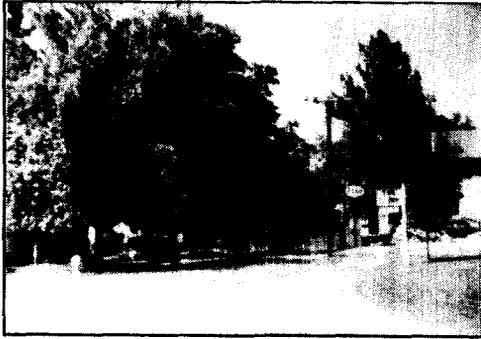
Predecessor to the
chainsaw, an early
two horse power wood
sawing operation.



Early 1900's in
Moretown Village.



Barn raising, believed to be in Fayston.



View of Warren Village in an earlier era.



Previously a livery stable and a funeral parlor, this is now the home of Howard Ferris in Moretown.



A view in Moretown of the
common road.



Moretown—along route 100B,
looking south.



Moretown village—before
100B was paved.

THE WAITSFIELD & FAYSTON TELEPHONE CO.

Waitsfield, Vermont

October 31, 1928.

To the Patrons of the Waitsfield & Fayston Telephone Company.

The following rates will go into effect December 1st, 1928.

15 Party or more Residence.....	\$2.00	15 Party or more Business.....	2.50
6 Party Residence.....	2.25 within 2 miles central office.		
6 Party Business.....	2.75 within 2 miles central office.		
Private line Residence.....	2.75 within 1 mile central office.		
Private line Business.....	3.25 within 1 mile central office.		

An additional charge of \$2.25 per month will be made for desk telephones or hand sets.

Extension bell, per month.....	\$.15	Initial installation.....	3.50
Loud extension bell, per month.....	.25	Moves not to exceed.....	3.50

Mileage will be charged at the rate of \$.45 per mile or fraction thereof in excess of 1 mile for private line service, \$.25 per $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in excess of two miles for six party line service.

A discount of \$.25 for each telephone other than extension telephone will be allowed if bill is paid on or before the 15th of the month in which the bill comes due.

A charge of \$.95 per call will be made for use of local lines by a non subscriber, which shall be collected and reported to the operator by the station from which such calls are made.

For any complete failure of service continued more than twenty-four hours and brought to the notice of the Company in writing within five days the Company will make a pro rata abatement of charge.

The right is reserved to require a reasonable notice of the subscriber's desire to terminate the service.

Where two families desire the use of one telephone, 1-3 of the rate applicable to that telephone will be charged in addition to the regular rate and the additional patron shall be entitled to a separate listing in the directory.

Credit will be extended to patrons with satisfactory rating, not to exceed 60 days.

The Company reserves the right to require payment in advance where a new pole line has been constructed for their accommodation.

The Company reserves the right to refuse service to patrons who willfully interfere with the service of other patrons, either by listening to their conversations or otherwise causing annoyance of any sort.

A patron may use the line for a period of five consecutive minutes after which if requested by the operator or patrons, he shall give up his right to the line to the party requesting it.

The right is reserved to terminate the service of a party line subscriber where it appears that his use of the service excludes reasonable use by other parties on the same line.

The business rate entitles the patron, his agents and employees to the Company's regular service, but the service of the patron's agents and employees will be limited to the patron's business.

The resident rate entitles the patron and members of his household to all service subject to the rules of the Company.

The Company will build and maintain $\frac{1}{8}$ mile of spur line for the accommodation of a patron. All construction necessary to provide service to a single party in excess of $\frac{1}{8}$ mile, the patron shall assume the entire cost and the patron shall own the line as his property, assuming all liability and taxes on account of said ownership. Notice of such desire for ownership shall be made in writing to the Company before construction is begun.

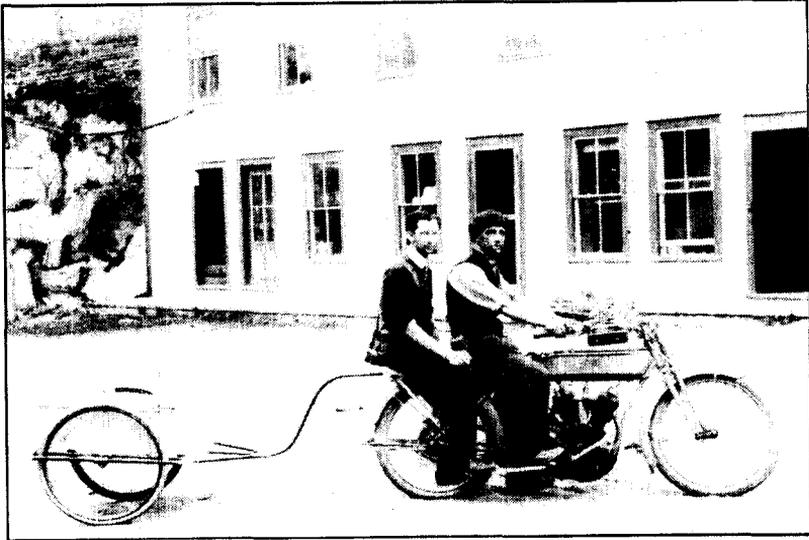
All construction owned by a patron shall be subject to the approval of the Company and the Company shall reserve the right to discontinue such line if the patron fails to maintain his line in a manner which will not impair the service of the other patrons on the line.

The Company will continue its fire alarm service for which no charge will be made, but no guarantee is made and no responsibility assumed in cases of a failure of such service.

Public notices will be accepted for delivery between the hours of 9 A. M. and 4 P. M. for which a charge will be made of \$1.00 for 20 words. Each additional word will be charged at the rate of \$.05.

The Company reserves the right to refuse local service unless the patron passes his call by number.

ALTON E. FARR, General Manager.



The preferred mode of transportation on "trouble calls" for Alton Farr was the motorcycle in 1920. He owned three during his career as President and Manager of the Waitsfield-Fayston Tel. Co. The building in the background was to the left of the former Valley Paint Store. This building was the location for the telephone company switchboard. The building burned in 1944.



Aftermath of the 1944 Central office fire.



Following the fire which destroyed the central office in 1944, New England Tel. Co. installed this bellended board. Service was restored within a few hours. Operators at the board were Elizabeth Long and Marguerite Moriarty. Miss Moriarty was the operator on duty the night of the fire. She jumped out the second story window onto a ledge as flames engulfed the switchboard.



Eunice Farr, mother of Eleanor Haskin, became a member of an elite sorority of women telephone company managers for 20 years following the death of Alton Farr. She was as adept at shooting troubles as she was keeping the books and operating the switchboard.

 **FIRSTS IN THE NATION**  he First....

- State admitted to the Union after the ratification of the Constitution was Vermont on March 4, 1791.
- Constitution to outlaw slavery was Vermont's in 1777.
- Constitution to abolish the requirement that voters must be property owners was Vermont's in 1777.
- Beneficiary of monthly Social Security payments was Ida M. Fuller of Ludlow who received check #00-000-001 for \$22.54, January 31, 1940.
- U. S. Patent, signed by George Washington, was issued in 1790 to Samuel Hopkins of Pittsford for making potash out of wood ashes.
- Postage stamp used in America was made in Brattleboro in 1846.
- Woman elected Lieutenant Governor was Consuelo N. Bailey, elected in 1954.
- American medal in Olympic nordic skiing event was won by Bill Koch of Guilford in 1976.
- Revolutionary soldier to shed British blood at the battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775 was Solomon Brown in New Haven, who thus fired the first effective shot in the Revolutionary War.
- Stars and Stripes to lead American armed forces on land was the Bennington Flag used at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777.
- State to offer troops in the Civil War was Vermont.
- United States Ambassador to the United Nations was Warren R. Austin of Burlington. Before that, Austin was a United States Senator.
- Person to cross the entire United States by automobile was Dr. H. Nelson Jackson, a Burlington physician, who started out from Burlington in 1902.
- State absentee voting law was enacted in 1896 by Vermont.

- Agricultural society for dairymen, the Vermont Dairy Association, was organized in 1869 in Montpelier.

- Electric railway, printing press, piano and motor were built by Thomas Davenport of Brandon. He was also the editor of the first electrical journal.

- Boy Scout Club was organized in Barre in 1909 by William F. Milne, a Scottish immigrant.

- Head Start Program, used to prepare disadvantaged preschool children for elementary school, was started in East Fairfield with 12 children.

- Marble quarry was started at East Dorset in 1785 by Isaac Underhill.

- School for higher education of women was established by Emma Willard at Middlebury in 1814.

- Steel carpenter's square was invented by Silas Hawes of Shaftsbury in 1814.

- Sandpaper was invented by Issac Fisher at Springfield in 1834.

- Laughing gas was discovered by Gardner Colton of Georgia. Horace Wells of White River Junction was the first person to use laughing gas as an anesthetic for pulling teeth in 1844.

- Toy carts, violin cases and guitar cases sold in America were invented by Joel A. H. Ellis of Springfield in the the mid 1800's. Ellis also invented doll carriages and jointed dolls.

- Chairlift was used on Mt. Mansfield in 1840.

- U. S. Congressman elected who had served time in jail was Matthew Lyon of Vermont. Jailed under the terms of the Alien and Sedition Acts, later declared unconstitutional, Lyon was reelected to Congress while still in jail.

- Flat turret lathe, a basic industrial tool, was invented in 1891 by James Hartness of Springfield.

- Seeding machine patent was issued to Eliakim Spooner in 1799.

- Platform scale was built by Thaddeus Fairbanks at St. Johnsbury in 1830.

- Morgan Horse, owned by Justin Morgan, was brought to Randolph in 1792.
- American Morgan Horse register published in Middlebury in 1892, establishing the first American breed of horses.
- Morgan Horse Club founded in 1909 at White River Junction.
- Normal school exclusively for the preparation of teachers was established by S. R. Hall in 1823 in Concord. Hall also wrote the first textbook on teaching and was the first person to use the blackboard in the classroom.
- Constitution to provide for a system of public school education was Vermont's in 1777.
- Pulp paper mill was established in 1869 by William A. Russell in Bellows Falls. Russell later became the first president of the International Paper Company.
- Ski tow was operated in Woodstock on Clinton Gilbert's farm in 1934.
- Horse farm operated by the United States government was established in 1907 at Middlebury.
- Wind turbine used to generate power for an alternating power system, was operated at Grandpa's Knob in Castleton in 1941.
- Educational society was established in Pawlet in 1804.
- Marble-cutting saw was invented by Hiram Kimball of Stockbridge in 1837.
- Fishing spoon lure was invented in 1830 by Julio Buel of Castleton.
- Private military college was established at Norwich in 1819 by Capt. Alden Partridge. At that time, it offered the first Civil Engineering course. The college was later moved to Northfield.
- Olympic gold medals in skiing awarded to a woman were won by Andrea Mead of Rutland in 1952.
- Copper cents minted by a state were authorized by the Vermont General Assembly in 1785 and made by Reuben Harmon, Jr. at Rupert.

- Successful photographs and measurements of snowflakes and raindrops were made by Wilson A. "Snowflake" Bentley.
- Steam-heated factory was the Burlington Woolen Company in 1846.
- State symphony orchestra was organized in 1935, with Alan Carter of Rutland as its conductor.
- Globe factory was established in 1813 by James Wilson of Bradford for the manufacture of geographic globes. Wilson made the first artificial globe in America in 1799.
- Copper mine was opened in Strafford in 1793.
- State anti-sit-down-strike legislation was enacted in 1937.
- Air Traffic Regulations course was set up in 1934 at Norwich University in Northfield.
- Agricultural land grant college act, proposed by Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont, was signed by President Lincoln in 1862.
- American gold medal in the Olympic three-day individual equestrian event was won by Tad Coffin of Strafford in 1976.
- 300-mile endurance horse race was from Burlington, Vermont to Camp Devens, Massachusetts, in 1919.

Contributed by the Vermont Travel Division