

VERMONT VIGNETTES.



STATE HOUSE AT MONTPELIER.

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

compiled by

BERNARD SANDERS.

ILLUSTRATED.

Introduction.

VERMONT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NATION'S Bicentennial observance is as spirited as any celebration in the land. Virtually every city and village will, in one way or another, join in America's exuberant march into a third century. Parks have been built, buildings restored, pageants planned — all inspired by the Bicentennial spirit sweeping the country. The high point of the observance will be living history — a fully-equipped steam excursion train which will take Vermonters and their guests through some of the Green Mountain state's most beautiful countryside — from Burlington to Bennington and Bellows Falls.

Yet strictly speaking, Vermont's share of the Bicentennial observance is more a symbolic association than a literal birthday celebration. It won't be until next year that Vermont can celebrate a Bicentennial that is truly its own. In the year 1777, the collection of disputed grants and unchartered wilderness (bordered by the Connecticut River and Lake Champlain on its east and west, Massachusetts and the Canadian border on its south and north) became the independent Republic of Vermont. Fourteen years later, in 1791, Vermont was admitted to the Union.

But it is a historic time, this period of Bicentennial commemoration. And Vermont can look back on 200 years which were occasionally remarkable in their innovation and leadership; years that saw sorrows in war and pride in independence; years that saw men and women rise to national prominence because of acts of courage or the rulings of destiny.

The following vignettes tell some of the stories of how Vermont came to be in these two hundred years — leading the nation sometimes, remaining judiciously behind in others, but always remaining true to a heritage whose cornerstone was liberty.



On July 8, 1777, in Windsor, Vermont, the men assembled at the tavern of Elijah West were completing the process of drawing up a constitution for the new Republic of Vermont. Among those gathered in the hall were Heman Allen, Joseph Fay, Reuben Jones and Thomas Chittenden — the four men who had recently returned from the Continental Congress in Philadelphia with informal assurances that if the new state formed a government it would be accepted into the Union.

Suddenly the meeting was interrupted by the sound of excited voices. Fort Ticonderoga, which two years before had been seized by Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys, had just fallen to the English and the retreating American forces were under attack at Hubbardton. The meeting almost broke up in disorder without completing its work when, suddenly, a thunderstorm burst forth with torrential fury. As the rain poured down, making travel impossible, the worried delegates continued their work and the constitution was completed.



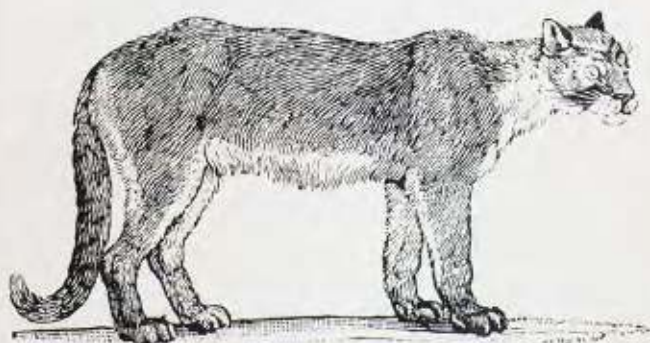
Justin Morrill, who served as a United States Representative and Senator from Vermont for 43 years — from 1855 to 1898 — was as responsible as any single individual for advancing the cause of higher education in America. In 1862 President Abraham Lincoln signed the "Morrill Land Grant College Act" which, through government aid, led directly to the establishment of our entire present system of state-supported agricultural, scientific and industrial schools of college rank. While in Washington, Justin Morrill was also active in seeing the Library of Congress established and the Washington Monument built.

Justin Morrill was born in Strafford, Vermont in 1810. His father was a blacksmith and the boy attended school until the age of 15. In 1854 Morrill was elected to the United States House of Representatives and continued representing Vermont in Washington until his death 43 years later.



Legend has it that maple syrup was first discovered by an Algonquin Indian who after stewing some meat in maple sap, found that the sap boiled down to a tasty syrup. White settlers learned of maple syrup from the Indians, and first made it for home use as a sweetener. Sugar harvesting was done in the early days with the use of oxen teams which would carry huge wooden gathering tanks of sap to wood fires — where the sap would be boiled down to sugar.

Maple Syrup in Vermont did not develop into much of a cash crop until methods of boiling and storage were developed which allowed more efficient operation and uniform grades of syrup. The sugarhouse, with its chimney-like evaporator, then became a legendary part of the Vermont landscape. Although maple syrup is only a small part of Vermont agriculture in terms of cash sales it has, in many ways, become one of the major symbols of the state.



The catamount, otherwise known as the panther or cougar, is part of Vermont legend and lore. Among its various claims to fame is the fact that it is the mascot of the University of Vermont. Its sleek profile was the inspiration for the name of Ethan Allen's favorite hangout — the Catamount Tavern in Bennington. Yet, with so much notoriety, few catamounts have actually been seen in Vermont. The big cat is not native to the state. Despite the many bounties which have been placed on it, only five — according to records — have been successfully hunted.

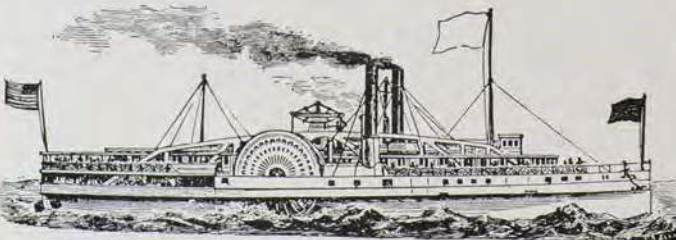
The actual catamount is often confused with the small-

er, short tailed bobcat or with the Canadian lynx. Their tracks and their general appearance may be similar to the catamount, but they are not the same animal. Vermont, it seems, has a great catamount tradition with very few native members of the species to show for it.



It was the Summer of 1883, and the workers of the copper mines in Vershire, Vermont were angry. The Ely mining company, their employer, had once again not paid them their wages — a total of some \$25,000 dollars. In retaliation, 300 of the workers secured arms, seized 150 kegs of powder, and threatened to blow up bridges and destroy the villages of Vershire and West Fairlee unless the money owed to them was paid the next day.

On July 6 Governor Barstow called out five companies of the National Guard to put down what was called an "Insurrection," and, within a short time, twelve leaders of the rebellion were arrested. Although Governor Barstow exacted a promise from the bankrupt company to pay whatever money they had left to the miners, many of the workers left town without receiving any of the wages owed them.



Samuel Morey of Fairlee, Vermont was one of the most creative American inventors of the 19th century. Although Robert Fulton has generally been credited with the invention of the steamboat, Morey successfully ran a steam-driven boat on the Connecticut River 13 years before Fulton's *Claremont* ran up the Hudson. Morey, who invited Fulton to examine his engine, died believing that

his invention had been stolen by Fulton — although later evidence indicates that Fulton drew upon a number of experimenters — including Morey.

In addition to his work on the steam engine, Morey was also far ahead of his time in 1826 when he invented an internal combustion engine — complete with carburetor. This invention of Morey's also went unrecognized — as the internal combustion engine was not put into practical use for another 75 years.

Samuel Morey died in 1842.



It was 1870 and the census that year stated that Vermont's human population was 330,000 people — just about the same as the number of cows and oxen in the state. There were 65,000 horses in Vermont that year, 580,000 sheep and 46,000 swine.

In 1870 lumber was the most valuable product of Vermont — and there were 656 lumber mills in the state. There were also 66 woolen factories, 86 tanneries and 64 establishments making cured leather.

Vermont farmers that year produced over 3 million pounds of wool, over 17 million pounds of butter, close to 5 million pounds of cheese, and almost 9 million pounds of maple sugar.

During the early 1900's, the industrial centers of Vermont, especially Barre and Rutland were part of the national movement for industrial unionization and were the state's centers for radical labor politics. By 1900, Barre was a strong union town, with 95 per cent of its wage earners members of union shops. Eugene Debs'

Socialist Party gained strength in Barre's Scottish and Italian communities, becoming a major party in the city and erecting a three-story meeting hall and cooperative which still stands today. Eugene Debs, himself, visited Barre in 1910.

The unions in Barre elected a Labor Party candidate, Richard Griggs, to the Legislature in 1910, a Socialist, James Lawson in 1916, and had two Socialist mayors, Robert Gordon in 1916 and Fred Suitor in 1929. Rutland also sent Labor Party candidates to the Legislature electing William Lawrence, a blacksmith in 1902 and George Smith, a printer, in 1904.



The United States of America has had 38 presidents — and two of them were born in the state of Vermont — Chester Arthur and Calvin Coolidge. Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States, was born on July 4, 1872, in Plymouth Notch, Vermont. Coolidge graduated from Amherst College and settled in Northampton, Massachusetts, where he practiced law and engaged in Republican Party politics.

In 1919 Coolidge, who was then Governor of Massachusetts, received national fame when he put down a policeman's strike in Boston. The following year he was elected Vice-President of the United States and became President when Warren G. Harding succumbed to illness. In 1924 Coolidge won re-election to the Presidency in a landslide victory.

Calvin Coolidge died in Northampton, Massachusetts on January 5, 1933, and is buried at the Coolidge Homestead in Plymouth Notch, Vermont.

A statewide prohibition law was passed in 1852, as the result of a strong and active Temperance Crusade in Vermont. An anonymous English visitor in 1873, described how Vermonters — who were so inclined — evaded the law. He wrote:

"The temperance laws of Vermont are very stringent and are therefore universally evaded. There is a bar, but the public is only in appearance barred out. The druggists sell spirits and wines as part of the medical pharmacopoeia; and a very large proportion of spirits used in respectable households is surreptitiously procured from the chemist's stores. The bottles in which the spirits are vended are medicine bottles, and the vendor wraps

them up thoroughly in paper, so that whether the article sold is an embrocation or black draught or Bourbon whiskey, it is not apparent to the neighbor's eye, rarely closed."

The political history of the State of Vermont, since the 1850's, has been overwhelmingly Republican. In 1936, for example, the Democratic candidate for President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, won reelection to his office in one of the greatest landslides in American political history. Only two states in America that year voted for the Republican Landon — the State of Maine and the State of Vermont.

It was not until the year 1964 that the voters of Vermont cast a majority of their votes for a Democratic candidate for President. In that year the Vermont electorate voted in large numbers for Lyndon B. Johnson, the Democrat, who was opposed by Senator Barry Goldwater, the Republican candidate.

Since 1856 the voters of Vermont have cast their electoral votes for the Republican candidate for President 28 times, and have voted for the Democratic candidate only once.



It was July 3, 1863, and the crucial Battle of Gettysburg was raging. General Lee, Commander of the Confederate armies, selected the elite divisions of Pickett and Pettigrew, with 16,000 men, to break the center of the Union lines. After a thunderous artillery duel, the Confederates charged. Pettigrew's men were driven back but Pickett's division, hitting the weakest spot in the line, broke

through and were followed by other Confederate troops.

At this key point in the battle, the Vermont brigade — under General George Stannard — charged the advancing Confederates on their right flank. The Vermont force, comprised of barely 2,000 men, caught the Southerners by surprise, and the effect was decisive. The Confederate troops, cut down by the sharpshooting Vermonters on their right, broke in disorder and surrendered by the hundreds. The Vermont Brigade was widely credited with playing a heroic and decisive role in this key battle of the Civil War.



While lying awake one night in 1830, Thaddeus Fairbanks of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, developed an idea for a platform scale which would make the weighing of large, bulky items quicker and simpler. Along with his two brothers, Erastus and Joseph, Fairbanks formed the E. T. Fairbanks Company of St. Johnsbury and, before long, the Fairbanks platform scale became known throughout the world.

The company developed a reputation for precision. When the city of Washington was threatened by Confederate troops during the Civil War, the U.S. Government's weight standards were transferred to St. Johnsbury for safekeeping.

One of Fairbanks's assistants, Charles Hosmer Morse, became a partner in the firm and reorganized it into the Fairbanks, Morse Company. Under Morse's leadership the company diversified its activities and began the production of pumps, generators, ball bearings and diesel engines.



ROYALTON RAID, 1780

The year was 1770 and the Green Mountain Boys helped lead the opposition to the rule of New York over what was then called the New Hampshire Grants and seven years later named Vermont.

In July 1771 the New York Sheriff with the Mayor of Albany and a large posse, came to the farm of James Breakenridge, which he held under New Hampshire title, in order to remove him from his land. But the Yorkers had a surprise awaiting them. Standing with Breakenridge, and determined that his property was not going to be given over to the Yorkers, were Ethan and Ira Allen, Remember Baker, Seth Warner, Robert Cochran, Peleg Sunderland, and some 90 other belligerent-looking settlers. The Sheriff and the Mayor assessed the situation before them and wisely retreated. James Breakenridge retained his farm and the Green Mountain Boys had won a major victory without firing a shot.



Early settlers of Vermont were not especially noted for their piety or religious attainments. In fact, it has been said that they were in the habit of using spirituous liquors rather freely — especially in the early 1800's — before the temperance movement increased its influence.

In those days there were some 200 distilleries in the state of Vermont. There were 30 of them in Chittenden County and in the town of Cabot in Washington County there were 12 distilleries in full scale operation.

It was not unknown in those days for even Ministers of the Gospel to take a glass of grog to assist them in their Sunday preaching — nor was it unknown for some parishioners to carry a flask of cider brandy into church to assist them in their hearing and understanding of the Holy Word.

It was the year 1855 and, in the little village of Plymouth, Vermont Matthew Kennedy spotted a gold nugget in a stream near Echo Lake. With that discovery the "Plymouth gold rush" was on and for a while it appeared that Plymouth, Vermont was about to become

the San Francisco of the East as gold seekers converged on the town.

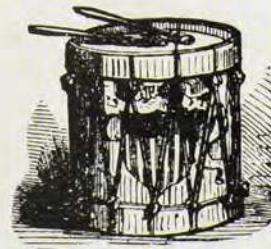
Most of the miners were individual operators, but some were more industrious, like the founders of the Rook Company which had the greatest commercial success with Plymouth gold mining. The company dug a 300 foot shaft into the hills, and within the first month mined \$13,000 worth of gold. The proprietors of the Rook Company invested \$1½ million in their mine until the vein ran out in the 1880's. A loner named Henry Fox then bought the mine for twelve thousand dollars hoping to make a go of it. He died a pauper.



Perhaps the most famous animal associated with the State of Vermont is the Morgan horse — named after Justin Morgan, who brought the original stallion to Vermont from Massachusetts in 1791.

The many fine and unusual characteristics of the original horse resulted in a new breed which traditionally could "outdraw, outrun and out-trot" any other horse. By the mid-1800's, the Morgan Horse had proven its many virtues and was in widespread use throughout the expanding nation. From the Morgan breed also came several others — American Saddlebred, Standardbred and the Tennessee Walking Horse. Today, the Morgan breed, still bearing the unique traits of its Vermont sire, is one of the favorite saddle, family and endurance horses in America.

In 1961 the Morgan horse was designated as the official state animal of Vermont.



The Spanish-American War of 1898 has been called by Vermonters, with some justification, the *Vermont-Spanish war*. The war's two greatest naval heroes, Commodore George Dewey and Captain Charles Clark

were both natives of Vermont. Dewey, who was born in Montpelier, commanded the fleet which sailed into Manila Bay and destroyed the Spanish fleet there. As a result of his action Dewey became one of the great American heroes of his time and received an unprecedented welcome in Washington when he returned — as well as a huge welcome in Montpelier.

Captain Charles Clark, who was born in Bradford, Vermont, also received great recognition for his part in that short war. As the Captain of the Battleship *Oregon*, Clark led his ship on a record breaking 66-day voyage from San Francisco, through the raging Straits of Magellan, to Cuba — a voyage of 15,000 miles.



It was August, 1777, and the British Army of General John Burgoyne was mounting a major campaign down Lake Champlain to link with General Howe in the Hudson Valley. In need of fresh supplies to maintain his army, Burgoyne dispatched Colonel Baum and 800 Hessians to the town of Bennington, Vermont to seize the cattle, corn, flour and wagons which the Americans had assembled there.

The Americans rallied to defend the town. Among others, General John Stark and 1,000 men came from New Hampshire and the Reverend Thomas Allen and most of his congregation came from Pittsfield. Seth Warner and his Continental Regiment were also there.

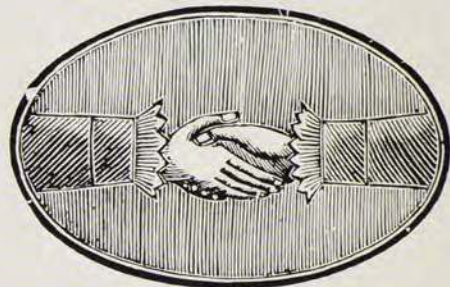
The Battle of Bennington, fought on August 16, 1777, was sharp but brief. The Americans won a resounding victory as the British troops scattered in disorder. Burgoyne's army never recovered from the defeat and, a short time later, surrendered to the Americans at Saratoga.

Lemuel Haynes, born on July 18, 1753, was the distinguished Black preacher at the all-white Congregational Church of West Rutland, Vermont, for 30 years. Along with such other intellectuals of his time as Samuel Wil-

liams and Royall Tyler, Haynes was regarded as one of the most learned and respected men in Vermont.

Haynes, an illegitimate child of mixed parentage, was born in West Hartford, Connecticut, where he was abandoned by his mother at 5 months and subsequently adopted by a white family. During the Revolutionary War he served as a common soldier and enlisted for the perilous expedition to Ticonderoga with Ethan Allen. In 1783 he married a white woman and moved to Vermont soon afterward.

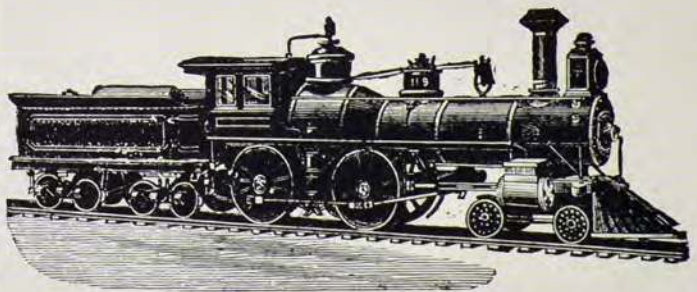
Haynes received a Master of Arts Degree from Middlebury College in 1804, was the author of a number of religious tracts, and played a leading role in Vermont's embryonic intellectual community.



By March, 1775, the revolution against the authority of England was spreading throughout the colonies. In the New Hampshire Grants, which were later to become Vermont, there was increasing bitterness among the settlers over the control of their territory by aristocratic New York.

On March 13, 1775, an angry group of New Hampshire Grant settlers acted to prevent the Cumberland County Court, under the authority of New York, from convening in order to consider actions to collect debts. A throng of 100 settlers occupied the Westminster Court House and amidst threats and parleys with an armed posse of Yorkers, two settlers were shot and killed.

This incident, which later became known as the Westminster Massacre, helped to bring settlers from all over the New Hampshire Grants together in increased opposition to New York and helped pave the way for Vermont's independence.



When Charles Paine constructed Vermont's first rail line from White River to Bethel in 1848, it marked the beginning of several important rail connections with

Boston, New York and Canada which were to have major effects on Vermont's economy. Most of Vermont's rail construction took place in the course of 20 years. The Rutland and Burlington line connected Burlington with Boston and New York, and the Vermont and Canada Railroad connected Vermont with both Canada and with western rail routed through northern New York.

Vermont's railroads were often wrought with blunders. Charles Paine's Central Vermont bypassed the Barre granite belt, an area which desperately needed rail service. Likewise, the Vermont and Canada linked with the Central Vermont at Essex Junction, leaving Burlington at a dead end until the Rutland Railroad extended a line northward through the Champlain Islands. One of the most important impacts that the railroads had for Vermont was that the Boston market now became open for Vermont dairying.

In the late Spring of 1609, a Frenchman named Samuel de Champlain began a long trip up the St. Lawrence River from Canada. He was accompanied on the trip by a war party of Algonquin Indians who were engaged in a military expedition against their ancient enemy, the Iroquois.

In July, Champlain, two French companions and some 60 Algonquins came upon a huge lake which the Indians referred to as the Great Lake of the Iroquois.

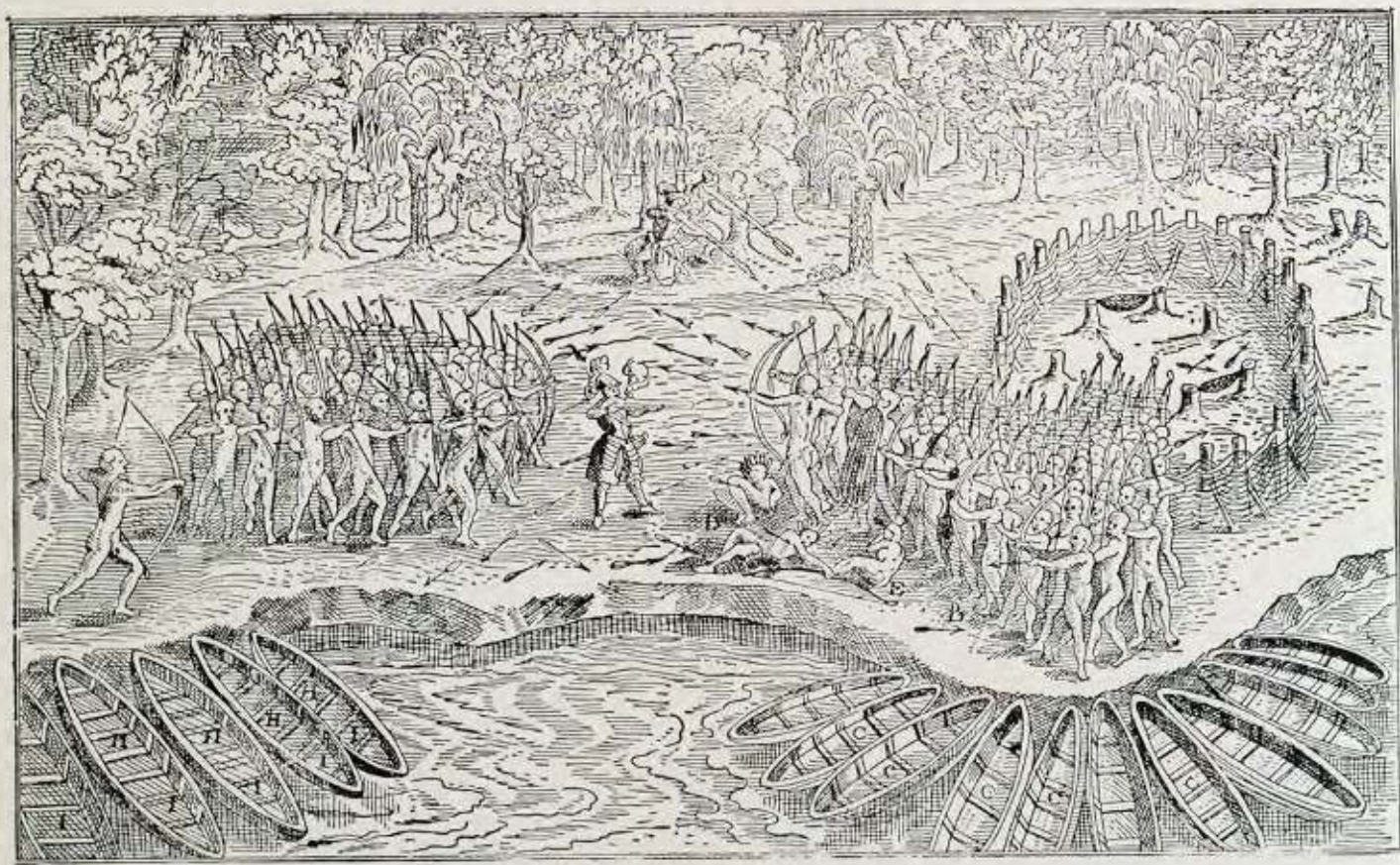
Champlain, who was to give this lake his own name, began an exploration of the area and thus became the first recorded European to set foot on the soil of Vermont.

During the course of this expedition Champlain and his companions set back the course of the French settlement of the area by engaging with the Algonquins in a battle against the Iroquois, a battle which the mighty Iroquois never forgot.

One of the off-shoots of the great religious revival in Vermont in the 1830's and 1840's was the Temperance Crusade. In a period of 25 years, it achieved extraordinary success — both legal and moral — in its fervent campaign against the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

In 1828 the Vermont Temperance Society was organized and by 1832 over 200 local Temperance Society Clubs had been formed throughout the state containing tens of thousands of members. Armed with pledge cards, the members of the Society urged their fellow Vermonters to abstain from the evils of alcohol. Efforts were also made to dry up the liquor trade by ostracizing the people who were connected with it, such as distillery owners.

In 1852 the Temperance Society won its crowning victory when the Vermont State Legislature, emulating the state of Maine, passed a statewide prohibition law.



CHAMPLAIN FIRING ON THE IROQUOIS, 1609



The State of Vermont, as much as any state in the union, took the lead in the fight against slavery. Vermont's Constitution was the first in the nation to prohibit slavery — and the state continued its strong opposition to that "peculiar institution" until the Civil War brought the question to a head.

As the quarrel among the states over the question of slavery became more and more bitter, Vermont — through its Legislature — was outspoken. It opposed the annexation of Texas as a slave state, and contributed \$20,000 to the anti-slavery forces struggling in Kansas, and issued many proclamations against slavery.

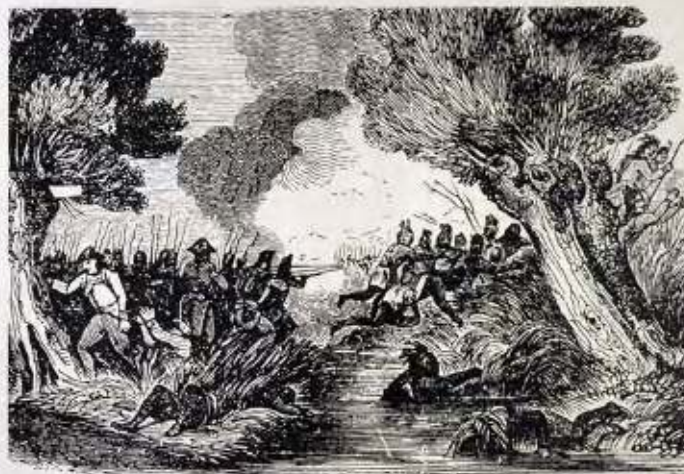
In 1855 a committee of the Vermont State Senate summed up the State's feeling on the question. "Born of a resistance to arbitrary power — her first breath that of freedom — her first voice the declaration of the equal rights of Man — how could her people be otherwise than haters of slavery."



Legend has it that the naming of the town of Barre, Vermont was done in a rather unusual way. The town was originally settled in 1788 and given the name of Wildersburg. The settlers grew to dislike that name, however, and in 1793 a meeting was held to change it.

The town record states that the name was changed by Ezekiel Wheeler, because he contributed the most to build the community chapel and thus won the right to rename the town. But legend has it that Captain Joseph

Thompson of Holden, Massachusetts and Jonathan Sherman of Barre, Massachusetts both wanted to rename the town after their own home towns and, after heated discussion, entered into a knock-down, drag-out wrestling match over the matter. The issue was finally resolved in Calvin Smith's barn with Jonathan Sherman of Barre, Mass. the winner of the fight — and the new name for Wildersburg became Barre, Vermont.



One of the most vicious aspects of the French and Indian War fought around the area that was to become Vermont were the Indian raids and massacres against the settlers, and the equally savage counter-raids by the British.

In 1759, Robert Rogers of New Hampshire, acting under orders from British General Jeffrey Amherst, led his Rangers on a punitive expedition against the Abnaki Indians of St. Francis, a village northeast of Montreal.

Upon entering the village Rogers' men noticed, hanging on poles, the scalps of some 600 settlers — and the massacre soon began. Attacking the Indians before dawn, while they were still asleep, the Raiders completely destroyed the village. About 200 Indians were slaughtered including those who were burned alive as they attempted to hide in their homes. Almost every house in the village was destroyed and some Indian children were taken prisoner.

One of the most bitter periods in Vermont history occurred between 1826 and 1836 with the advent of the anti-Masonic movement. During that period, Vermont elected a governor on the Anti-Masonic Party four times and — in 1832 — was the only state in the union to give its electoral vote to the anti-Masonic presidential candidate, William Wirt.

The anti-Masonic movement received its stimulus when, in 1826 one William Morgan of New York disappeared after writing an "exposé" of the secrets of Masonry. It was charged that he had been murdered by Masons. Despite the fact that many of Vermont's notables had been Masons, a large number of Vermonters

passionately opposed the secret society, perceiving it as an undemocratic, elitist institution. By 1836, as a result of the anti-Masonic opposition, most of the Masonic lodges in the state had closed their doors.



Harnessing the winds to produce energy is not a new idea, at least in Vermont. In 1940, the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation installed an experimental 1250 kilowatt wind turbine generator atop Grandpa's Knob outside Rutland. The 150 foot diameter wind generator was put into experimental use in October of 1941, but it took years of testing to make it operational. The generator was finally used commercially for a month in early 1945, averaging an output of 431 kilowatts.

In March of that year a gust of wind ripped off one of the 70 foot blades, and the Grandpa's Knob wind turbine was never to run again. Even though the \$1¼ million venture proved not to be economical for operation in the United States at that time, the project did stimulate interest in the generation of electricity by wind power in England and Australia.



She was a lonely woman — and a bit of a fanatic — but she left to the people of the State of Vermont the most extensive body of knowledge about this state ever gathered by one person.

Abby Maria Hemenway was born in Ludlow, Vermont, in 1828. For 30 years this determined woman,

fighting against both poverty and sexual discrimination, traveled throughout Vermont compiling as much information as she could about the history of the state. On July 4, 1860, she published the first issue of the *Vermont Quarterly Gazetteer* — an issue devoted to the civil, ecclesiastical, biographical and military history of each town in Addison County. By the time she died in 1890 Miss Hemenway had recorded the history of towns in every county in the state except Windsor County, which death prevented her from doing. Her monumental work, the *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, comprises five volumes which contain over 4 million words.



The Revolutionary War against the English had already begun in earnest at Lexington and Concord. On May 8, 1775 in Castleton, Vermont, Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys laid out their plans for the first American assault of the war, a surprise attack the next day against the English at Fort Ticonderoga. Over 200 men were assembled at Hands Cove in Shoreham for the battle but, because of a shortage of boats, only 82 men joined Allen that night in the trip across Lake Champlain.

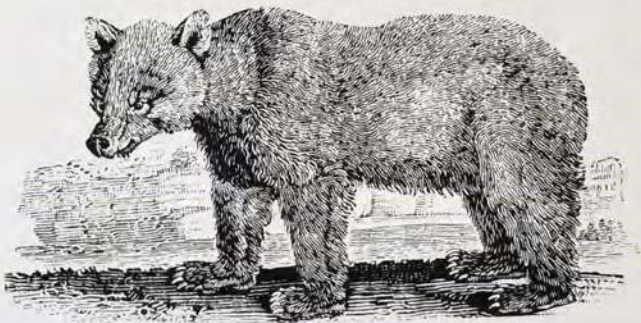
It was just about daybreak on the 10th of May, 1775, when they reached the shore of New York. Not wishing to lose the element of surprise and be detected by the British, Ethan and the Boys attacked at once. They were successful. The British, caught sleeping and completely off guard, surrendered without a fight. The Green Mountain Boys had captured Fort Ticonderoga.



In December, 1807, as a result of a major dispute with Britain over trading rights on the high seas, President Thomas Jefferson signed the Embargo Act and, in March 1808, a subsequent act embargoed trade between the United States and Canada. This embargo was extremely unpopular with both Vermont and Canadian merchants. These people, who had traded together for years, did not consider themselves enemies and, in fact, were economically dependent on a flourishing trade along Lake Champlain.

The traders defied the embargo on the Lake with armed rafts and on the land they used various routes which were difficult to detect. The militia was sent from Rutland to Alburg to stop the illegal trade, but the soldiers refused to enforce the embargo and deserted.

The embargo was rendered an utter failure by the fiercely independent Vermonters. In fact it had the opposite effect. Trade increased by 30 per cent in a single year.



In Abby Maria Hemenway's *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, the remarkable 19th century collection of Vermont history, the following tale is related: On a cold morning in the early years of the settlement of Randolph, Vermont, Mr. Tracy — the first teacher in the new schoolhouse — entered the school early so as to light the fire. After he opened the door, which was slightly ajar, Mr. Tracy

suddenly found himself face to face with a huge bear and two half-grown cubs. The teacher grabbed a large shovel from the fireplace and the fight began.

Finally, in the midst of the battle, Diah Flint arrived and, having a gun with him, soon dispatched the old bear and cubs and then went for help to dress them. By nine o'clock that morning the bears had been skinned and dressed and the whole district rejoiced in a fine feast of bear meat for their supper.



The 1840's in Vermont was a period of religious revivalism and fanaticism and no religious group created more excitement than the Millerites, the followers of William Miller of Low Hampton, near Poultney.

Miller, who was believed to be a Prophet by his followers, preached the doctrine that the Second Coming of Christ, and the commencement of His Thousand-Year Reign, would occur in either 1843 or 1844. The Millerites looked forward to the imminent establishment of the Kingdom of God with its rewards to saints and punishments to sinners.

In anticipation of the Great Event which, after several disappointments, was supposed to occur on October 20, 1844, many of Miller's followers disposed of their property or neglected their crops believing that Christ would prefer them propertyless. October 20, 1844 finally arrived and the faithful waited . . . and waited. The Millerite Movement lost its influence soon thereafter.

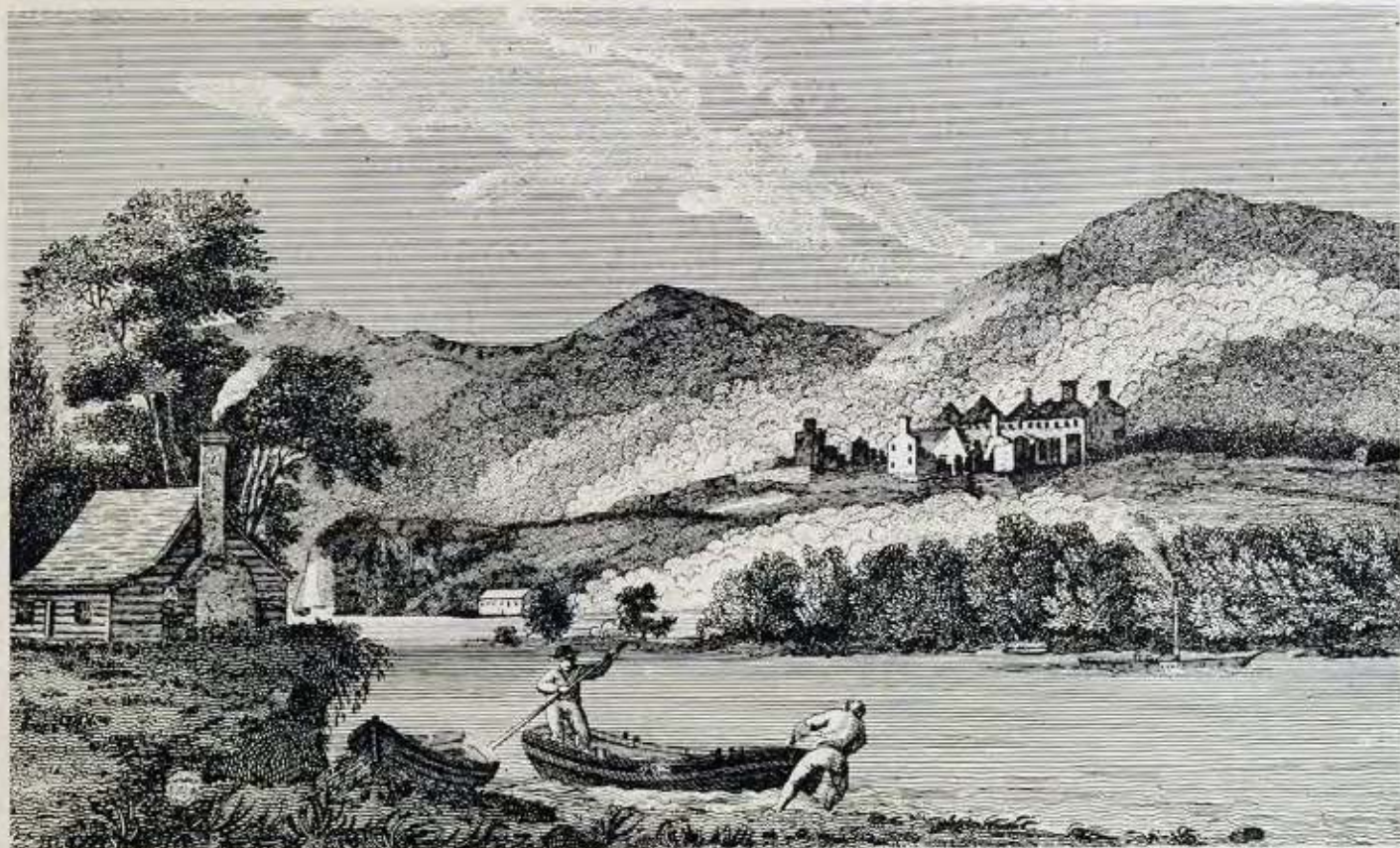
Ira Allen, Secretary of the State Council in 1778, one of the leading authors of the State's Constitution, founder of the University of Vermont, soldier, historian, businessman and, perhaps more than any other single individual, the man most responsible for the existence of the State of Vermont, died penniless and alone in Philadelphia in 1814.

In 1800 Ira Allen returned to Vermont after five years imprisonment in Europe. Upon his return he found that, in his absence, his enemies and some of his friends had robbed him of nearly everything he had. Allen, who had once been one of the richest men in Vermont, was jailed in debtors prison in Burlington and was forced to flee the state after jumping bail. In 1814 Ira Allen died in poverty in Philadelphia. His unmarked grave has never been discovered.



The Vermont State Prison, established in Windsor in 1807 was, until its recent demise, the oldest functioning state prison in America. Before the prison was established, most of the towns in the state had stocks and whipping posts with which to punish law-breakers. Individuals who were found guilty of robbery, or counterfeiting, or some such crime were tied to the whipping post and received a certain number of lashes on the bare shoulders with a cat-o'-nine tails, an instrument of punishment which consisted of nine pieces of cord fastened to a thick rope — with each cord having 3 knots at intervals.

In some instances criminals were branded with some



FORT TICONDEROGA IN RUINS, 1820

ignominious mark on the cheek — such as an R for rogue, or L for liar and — in some cases — the convicted criminal had the rim of an ear cut away.



When Horace Greeley gave his famous advice, "Go West, Young Man," it had an especially bitter ring for Vermonters. Greeley, who had apprenticed at a Poultney, Vt. newspaper, was just one of many young people drawn away from the state by the promise of the west.

The 1840's in Vermont were the years of the Great Exodus, when many Vermonters were forced to abandon their farms because their rocky soil was exhausted and unable to compete with the products of the fertile plains. From 1840 to 1850, Vermont's population increased by only seven per cent — much less than the national average — and her back country was soon sprouting abandoned farms.

Among the migrants who left Vermont to make their mark upon the nation were George Jones, the founder of *The New York Times*; Thaddeus Stevens, Congressional leader and Steven Douglas, who lost his bid for the Presidency to Abraham Lincoln.



During the week of October 10, 1864, when the Civil War was raging in Atlanta, approximately 25 strangers drifted into the town of St. Albans, Vermont, and registered at various hotels. On October 19, parties of two

and three of these men entered the three St. Albans banks and robbed them at gun point. The men announced to the bank officials that they were no ordinary bank robbers but were a party of Confederate soldiers carrying out the raid in retaliation for the plundering of the Union Army in the South.

The raid on St. Albans netted the bandits over \$200,000 in gold, silver and bank notes. Two St. Albans people were shot. The raiders were eventually arrested in Canada where they were tried and acquitted. The Canadian authorities believed that the raid had been a legitimate act of war.

On April 1, 1933, 3,000 Barre granite workers marched to protest a 25 per cent reduction in pay which was demanded by the Depression racked granite manufacturers. This was the beginning of a two-month strike — one of the bitterest in Vermont history.

Wages were not the only issue. French Canadian workers were imported as strike breakers, and the strikers set up picket lines to enforce the union shop. Violence erupted. Tear gas, billy clubs, and charges of communism were used against the pickets, but they still resisted the employers and the violence escalated.

On May 8, Governor Stanley Wilson dispatched two divisions of the National Guard to quell the strikers, vowing to defend the open shop. Within a week the granite workers were back on the job. It was only the third time in Vermont history that the National Guard was used in a labor dispute.



When the first General Assembly of the independent Republic of Vermont, a sovereign government, convened in Windsor on March 12, 1778, there was considerable doubt as to how long it could last. Although the Battle of Bennington had been fought and won six months earlier the new Republic continued to exist

under intense military pressure from a surrounding enemy.

The British dominated the Lake Champlain area and life was uncertain in the Valley. The young settlement of Weybridge was raided and wiped out in 1778 by Loyalists and Indians, and Royalton was to suffer a devastating raid in 1780. There were forts and blockhouses at Castleton, Pittsford, Rutland, Barnard, Corinth and Peacham which protected the more heavily-settled southern counties. The farthest outpost north was at Hazen's Notch and there were large sections of the New Republic which could not be settled for fear of British and Indian raids.



Rain began to fall throughout New England on the evening of November 2, 1927. And in Vermont during the following two days, it rained harder than anyone had ever seen before or since — with billions of tons of water falling on the already saturated ground.

The Great Flood of 1927 was the greatest natural disaster ever experienced in the State of Vermont. In Bolton 28 people lost their lives including 18 residents of the Hayes Boarding House which was swept away, without warning, down river. In Waterbury 11 people died, and in Barre Lt. Governor S. Hollister Jackson was drowned. All told, the Great Flood of 1927 claimed the lives of some 85 Vermonters, caused more than \$60 million in property damage, and drove 9,000 people from their homes.

A widow named Ann Story left her Connecticut home in 1774 for the wilderness of Salisbury, Vermont, determined to settle the land which her late husband had cleared and on which he had built a home. With pack-horse and rifle, shepherding her five children, she made

her way to the crude cabin her husband had finished before death took him.

Ann Story developed a reputation as a woman who could cut off a two foot log as quick as any man in the settlement. When the Revolution came many settlers fled the area to avoid the fighting. But Ann Story and her family stayed and fought. When her home was burned by the enemy she built it again. To the Green Mountain Boys she said; "Give me a place among you, and see if I am the first to desert my post."



It was the year 1870. The Civil War was over, the slaves were free, and all Americans — with the notable exception of the 50 per cent of the population who were women — had the right to vote.

By 1870 the Women's Suffrage Movement began to gain support in Vermont as well as the rest of the nation. In May of that year Vermont held an election to its Constitutional Convention, and the American Women's Suffrage Association fought hard to convince the delegates to support their position. They failed.

Despite the speaking tours of such noted suffragettes as Julia Ward Howe and the support of such newspapers as the Green Mountain Freeman and the Rutland Herald, the suffrage question lost at the convention 231 to 1. The suffrage opponents had convinced the delegates that suffrage would destroy women's role in the home, and that women would vote for candidates on the basis of good looks alone.



It was the Spring of 1816 in Vermont. The long Winter was over, the weather began to warm, and the snow cleared from the fields as it always did. Then it came time for the Summer of 1816 in Vermont but that Summer never arrived.

On June 6, 1816, it began to snow in Vermont, and by Saturday, June 8, there were 18 inches in Cabot, a foot near Randolph, and six inches in Rutland.

In early July and in middle and late August there was frost and much of the corn, and some of the potatoes, cucumbers, squash and beans were killed. It was the worst crop year in the history of the state and the people suffered terribly as hunger and deprivation followed the crop failure.

1816 in Vermont, the year without a Summer, the year of famine has come to be known as "Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death."



Soon after the end of the Revolutionary War, while on his way to Canada, the Prince of Wales stopped at the

home of shoemaker Abner Pride in Brookfield, Vermont for refreshment. When about to take his leave from the house the Prince stepped up to Mrs. Pride and, with aristocratic brashness, kissed her. Observing that Mrs. Pride showed signs of resentment the Prince remarked soothingly; "Oh, never mind; you can now tell your people that you have had the honor of being kissed by an English Prince."

Upon hearing this, Mr. Pride angrily approached the impertinent Prince and, with a forceful kick, ejected him out the door stating, "Oh, never mind; you can now go home and tell your people that you have had the honor of being kicked out of doors by an American cobbler."



The date was August 2, 1923, and it was a hot, muggy night in Springfield, Vermont. Suddenly, the news came over the crystal radio set. Warren G. Harding, the President of the United States, had just died in San Francisco and Vice President Calvin Coolidge, born and raised in Vermont, was to become the new President.

At 2 o'clock in the morning at the Coolidge Homestead in Plymouth Notch, Vermont, Vermont Congressman Porter H. Dale urged Mr. Coolidge to take the oath of office then and there. Mr. Coolidge agreed and at 2:47 a.m. on August 3, 1923, the Vice President stood opposite his father, Col. John C. Coolidge, a Notary Public of the State of Vermont, and recited the oath of office. In the light of a kerosene lamp, in a farmhouse in Plymouth Notch, Calvin Coolidge was inaugurated as the 30th President of the United States. ∞

