SOUTH WALLINGFORD:
INDUSTRY AND ECONOMY DURING THE 1800'S

Fig 1, Ebenezer Towner and Mosley Hall Store opened in 1813, Alice Rist, chairperson Wallingford's Pictorial Committee, Wallingford 1761-1965, Vol. I, n. p., 1975.

Theodore W. Burnham

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

At first glance this project seemed a short trip back in history, but it turned out much longer and difficult. The information needed was submerged in an ocean of material concerning the entire township of Wallingford, Vermont. When unknown material was uncovered, the trip was exciting and exhilarating; other times it brought on feelings of utter frustration when the search led to continuous dead ends. Hence, it is important to acknowledge the assistance given by the many helpers in this crazy ride.

The first recognition belongs to Holman Jordan, Ph. D. Castleton State College, who assisted in keeping this venture moving and who kept supplying fresh lines of research and thinking. A second person who deserves a multitude of thanks is Joyce Barbieri, the Town Clerk of Wallingford, who made the process of locating the material for this essay possible.

Special thanks also go out to the following people who provided photographs used in this paper: Fred and Lois Thurlow, Herbert Frederick, and Richard and Helen Gilmore. I would like to assert special thanks to Robert Grace, Ph. D. Castleton State College, for the guidance given in the use of digital scanning and computer technology. His assistance allowed for the introduction of the many photographs used in the essay giving it a unique identity.

For the quality of the text I am deeply in debt to the assistance given by Robert Patterson, Ph. D. Castleton State College, whose insight and command of the written passage brought out the best in my writing ability. His assistance developed lengthy explanations of the text into concise points which will hopefully make its interpretation an enjoyable experience for all who are interested in Vermont history.

Theodore W Burnham

Fig. 2, map of Vermont showing South Wallingford's location, created by Theodore Burnham

SOUTH WALLINGFORD: INDUSTRY AND ECONOMY DURING THE 1800'S

When one looks at the village of South Wallingford, a small settlement located South of Rutland along US Route 7, the following question comes to mind: what caused the first inhabitants to settle in that location? The village center was established adjacent to Otter Creek on a small section of flat land in the valley extending from Rutland to Manchester. Considering the quest in human nature for beauty, the magnificent view of the eastern mountain range, with the sheer white cliffs of White Rocks, must have played a role in their choice. The existence of an accessible and powerful water source for the grinding of grains and the spinning of cloth must have been another factor. But the final consideration must have been the existence of a flat river valley floor, north and south of the settlement, where crops and livestock could flourish. When this was occupied, the numerous stone walls and barbed wire fences scattered over the mountainsides proclaim how the settlers cleared them for the grazing of the animals.

So started the history of the small village, always appearing to lie outside of the fast developing world beyond its boundary. The stage, the earliest form of transportation in the area, chose to travel around the village. F. W. Beers in his 1869 Atlas of Rutland County Vermont thought the village worth a little map of its own while unknowingly assigning the most prominent and influential businessman in the village to the larger village of Wallingford.[1] Even the majority of the historians who had written about the village describe it as a small satellite settlement of the larger village having its own school and post office. Underlying those representations was an untold story of the discovery of natural resources, the arrival of the stage and later the railroad, and finally the dissolution of all.

The purpose of this essay is to offer a glimpse of that untold story of the activities of the men and women who made South Wallingford a home. Little information about the story was easily accessible. Much that was used came from the town of Wallingford's land records. Often this primary source material

---

[1] F. W. Beers, Atlas of Rutland County Vermont, (New York, F. W. Beers, A. D. Ellis and G. G. Soule, 1869) 9A.

seems to contradict secondary works. Minute as these discrepancies may appear, their existence sheds much light on the village and town.

THE STAGE VILLAGE

In the beginning of the nineteenth century all travel through that portion of the country was accomplished on foot or by horse. Those means of transportation limited how much and how far both goods and people could be moved. The limitation was especially prominent in areas existing outside of the main travel ways in the state. One such thoroughfare was the Military Road which extended from the Connecticut River, in the vicinity of Charlestown, N. H., through the Green Mountains to Otter Creek and then North to Chimney Point in Addison, Vermont.[2] The route passed just north of the village of East Wallingford, a lengthy and cumbersome distance from the village of South Wallingford. From its location so far away from that main road the economic development of the village of South Wallingford was stunted and the inhabitants depended for life's necessities on their town's central village.

As an added insult to the village the early route of the stage system, from Rutland to Bennington, circumvented the village completely so it could travel through the town of Tinmouth. The old stagecoach route went south out of the village of Wallingford, crossed Otter Creek "by a bridge made with logs for stringers, covered with planks and supported on rough stone abutments..." and then continued south toward the village of South Wallingford.[3] Approximately one half of a mile south of the bridge the route turned due west on what was known as Cook Drive and ascended up over West Hill into the town of Tinmouth. Once it reached the top of the hill it returned to a southern course following a ridge in the mountain, totally bypassing the village of South Wallingford, to Danby.

When looking down the valley from Wallingford towards South Wallingford, one is perplexed by the purpose of ascending such steep terrain (which West Hill offers) when the flatland of the valley appeared to offer a much more accessible route. One reason is plain fact: the town of Tinmouth

---

[2] James E. Petersen, E. Otter Creek The Indian Road. (Salisbury, Vermont, Dunmore house, 1990) 27-29. This work contains a brief description of the route.

[3] Birney C. Batcheller, People of Wallingford. (Brattleboro, Vermont, Stephen Daye Press, 1937) 17.

experienced a much earlier and more substantial industrial development than did the village of South Wallingford. Another factor may have been the condition of the road extending between the villages of Wallingford and South Wallingford. According to Birney Batcheller, in the early part of the 1800's the road extending south of the village of Wallingford "was scarcely fit for the passage of carriages, travel being mainly on horseback."[4] The poor condition of the road was further described by Smith and Rann who stated that: "As late as 1820.... The road between here [Wallingford] and South Wallingford was so rough and rudimentary in construction that nearly all travel was necessarily on horseback."[5] In light of this road, bulky and heavy goods, ones demanding wagons or flatbeds, could not be moved between Wallingford and South Wallingford.

At an undetermined date a change in the stage route, through the valley, greatly altered South Wallingford's situation, opening it to travelers, supplies, and mail. A tavern, kept in operation to 1875 by one Joseph Edgerton, reflected this new prosperity.[6] Walter Thorpe, in his 1911 book History of Wallingford Vermont, indicated that with the coming of the stage the amount of transient guests in the village was increased, suggesting the ownership of the village tavern would have been a profitable endeavor.[7]

THE ARRIVAL OF THE WESTERN VERMONT RAILROAD

A generation after the stage came to South Wallingford, the railroad reached it. The Western Vermont Railroad began service from Rutland to Troy, New York, in 1852. Writing in 1976, Julian Klock noted how the railway promoted Wallingford and East Wallingford and so hurt South Wallingford because of its strong link to the stage system.[8] Even so, it ushered in a period of increased industrial expansion, especially in the marble industry which used this new form of transport to move its product. This new link also increased the availability of mercantile products to the residents of the village. Indeed, the first

---

[4] Batcheller, People of Wallingford, 18.

[5] H. P. Smith and W. S. Rann, History of Rutland County (Syracuse, New York, Mason and Co., 1886) 841.

[6] See Map, Figure 3 for tavern location.

[7] Walter Thorpe, History of Wallingford Vermont, (Rutland, Tuttle Co., 1911) 114.

[8] Julian Klock, A History of Wallingford Vermont (Rutland, Academy Books, 1976) 6.

generation of rail service witnessed the most dramatic increase in industrial activity, especially along the village's main road, and the adjacent water power source of Otter Creek.

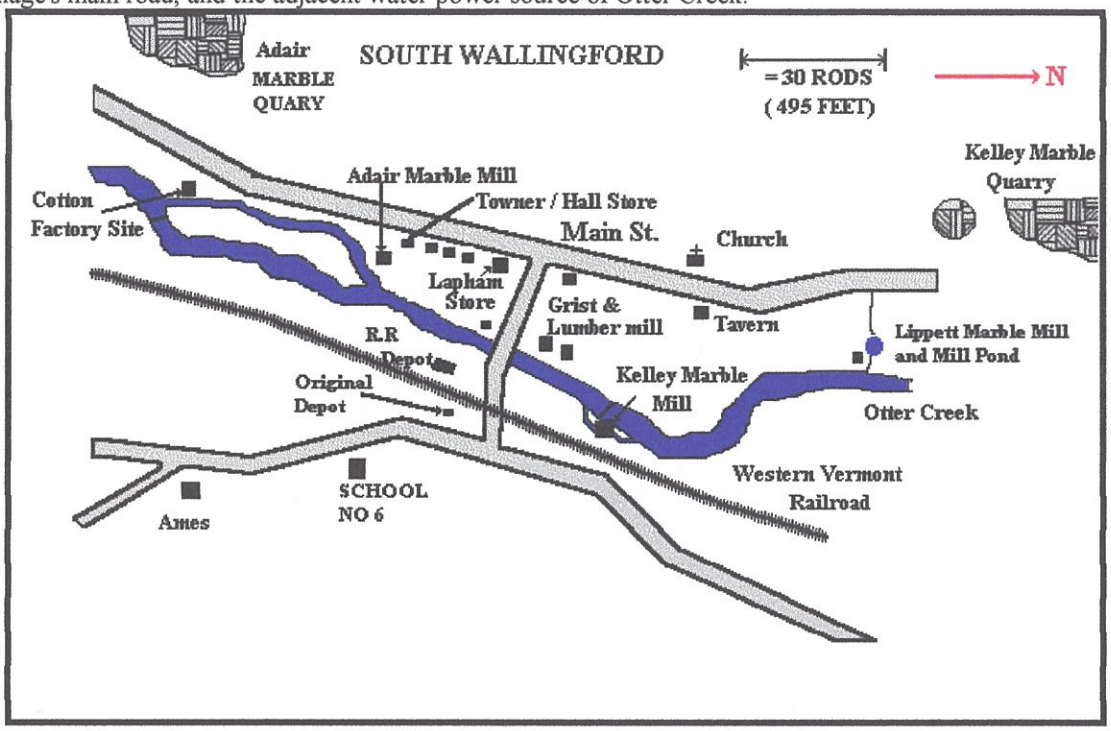

Fig. 3, Map of South Wallingford showing all the industrial and economical locations discussed in this essay, replicated and modified from F. W. Beers, Atlas of Rutland County Vermont, (New York, F. W. Beers, A. D. Ellis and G. G. Soule, 1869) 9A.

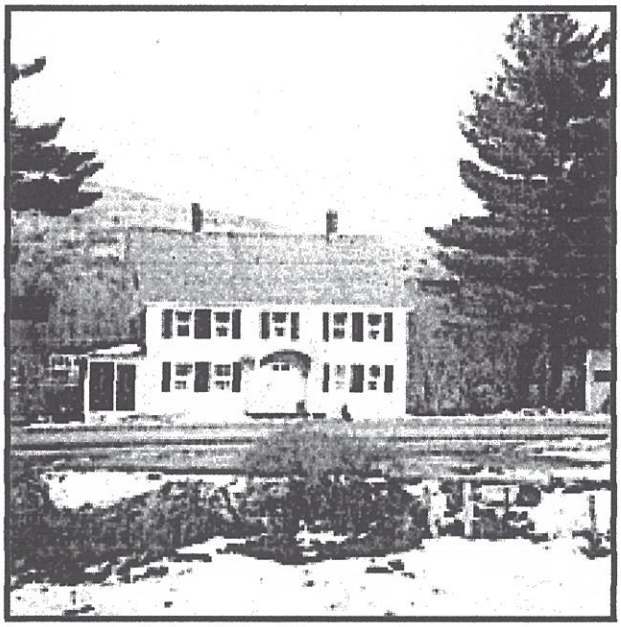

Fig. 4, tavern built in 1797 which served guests through most of the 1800's, Alice Rist, chairperson Wallingford's Pictorial Committee, Wallingford 1761-1965, Vol. I, n. p., 1975.

A discussion of the railroad in the township of Wallingford would be incomplete with out an introduction to the town's leading rail promoter — Robinson Hall — called General because of his rank in the Vermont Militia. From his position as Director and later as President of the railroad committee, he borrowed funds using his own personal security, which in the end and due to unpredictable circumstances, resulted in the loss of a good share of his wealth.[9]

Fig. 5 Gen. Robinson Hall, 1797-1861, Birney C. Batcheller People of Wallingford,(Brattleboro, Vermont, Stephen Daye Press, 1937) 20.

The amount of his personal loss was reported to be around $40,000, a very sizable sum, especially since this loss came in one fell swoop.[10] The enormity of the loss, significant as it was, did little to diminish the General's spirit: he after the incident "was often... heard to say that he would not have his money back, if the public thereby was to be deprived of the benefit of the road."[11]

The railway did much to make life a bit more comfortable in the village. It replaced the stage as the main carrier of tools, mercantile supplies and (far from least) the mail. This was left at the station (located across the tracks from the later station pictured in Fig. 6) where local residents were required to pick it up.[12] Considering the early practices of mail being delivered by any person heading in the direction

---

[9] Abby Maria Hemenway, Vermont Historical Gazetteer: A Magazine Embracing A History of Each Town, Civil, Ecclesiastical, Biograpical and Military, Vol. II (Claremont, N.H., Claremont Manufacturing Co., 1877) 1173.

[10] Batcheller, People of Wallingford, 175.

[11] Hemenway, Gazetteer, 1173.

[12] See map, Figure 3.

of its destination, it would not be unreasonable to suggest that upon the receipt of a piece of mail, the depot clerk would have passed it on to a person traveling by the recipient's homestead.

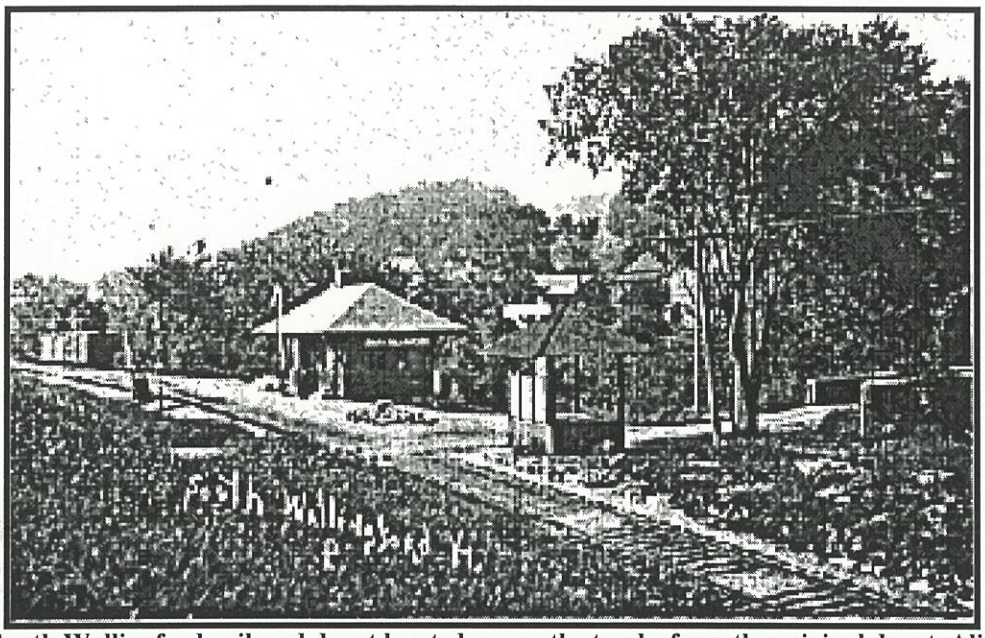

Fig. 6 South Wallingford railroad depot located across the tracks from the original depot, Alice Rist, chairperson Wallingford's Pictorial Committee, Wallingford 1761-1965, Vol. I, n. p., 1975.

In later years an official post office was established in one of the local stores and a postal official would transport the mail throughout the area to other post offices. By the end of the century the office had gone to Mr. George W. Kelley who was one of the businessmen in the village. Some loose papers from his business included an advertisement for farm machinery, Edison Phonographs and records, poultry foods, green cut meat, Pillsbury's Best flour, cedar shingles, and specialty custom grinding.[13] Those items' availability represents the importance of the railroad to the small village at the time.

With the benefits of rail service also came some negative impacts. There is little doubt that the ability of trains to transport numerous products brought competition to almost all locations. For Mr. Kelley, who advertised Pillsbury's Best and Pennant flour at the same time he ran his own grist mill, the competition must have been bittersweet.

---

[13] See advertisement, Figure 7.

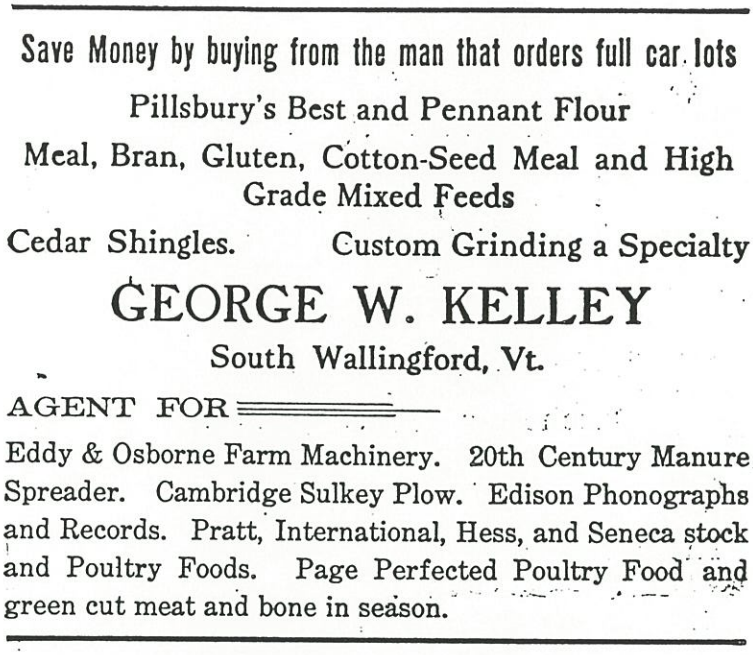

Fig. 7, advertisement placed by George W. Kelley, from loose papers belonging to the Wallingford Historical Society.

Despite his specialty and custom grinding there is very little doubt he could not compete with the big companies from the West. A receipt issued by Kelley to C. P. Goss on April 17, 1900, showed most of Goss's purchases to be commercial products; the same document, however, itemizes 875 pounds of grinding done by Kelley or his employee, at a dime per 100 pounds.[14] Another interesting item shows that the two men were bartering, twelve and three quarter pounds of butter towards $3.19 on Goss's Bill.

[14] See receipt from George W. Kelley to C. P. Goss, Figure 8.

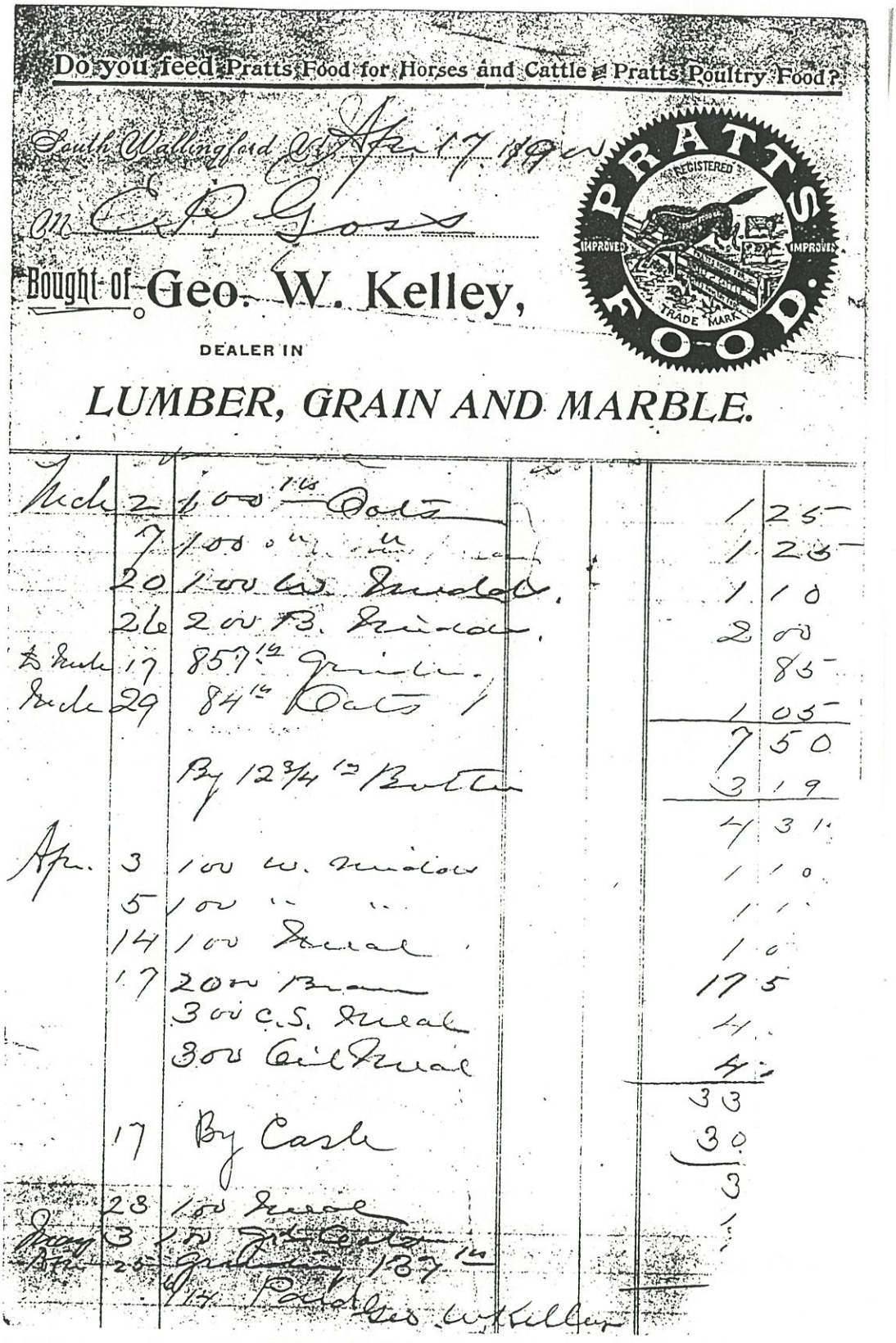

Fig. 8, receipt from George Kelley to C. P. Goss for services and products rendered, from loose papers found in C. P. Goss's ledger dated Feb. 4, 1844, at Town Hall Wallingford, Vt., April 17, 1900.

THE COTTON FACTORY SITE[15]

Walter Thorpe, a local historian, wrote that in 1815, Jonas Wood built a cotton factory on Otter Creek at the south end of the village.[16] Yet a deed of July 31, 1813 recorded that John Read sold Jonas Wood and partner Phillip Johnson a mill site for $500. The document stated that Wood and Johnson had "also the privedge of building a dam a crost said creek [Otter Creek] to the East bank ... and they the said Johnson and Wood are to make use of the water for the privedge of carding spinning yarn and manufacturing all kinds of clouth and grist all kinds of machinery for that purpose and the privilege of turning all kinds of iron brass or wood".[17] Four months later Wood and Johnson sold the property back to Read and Jonathan Barnett of Danby for $1,000. The deed specified that the property contained "the buildings and dam a crost the creek reporting to be a cotton factory".[18]

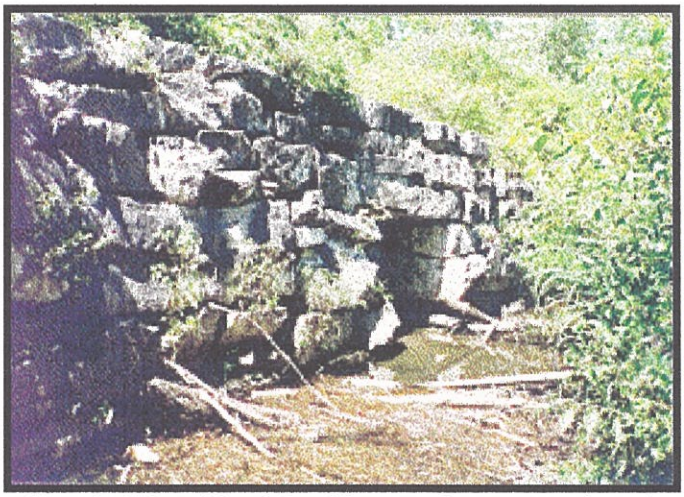

Fig. 9, Retainer wall on the West side of the old cotton factory showing what appears to be the discharge point for water used to power the machinery, photograph taken by Theodore W. Burnham, July, 1995.

These exchanges did not seem to leave Wood content. On September 27, 1816 he paid Jonathan Barnett $5,056.44 to buy a third of his business.[19] Evidently the factory must have been improved or a lot of machinery must have been added.

---

[15] See map, Figure 3 for location of cotton factory.
[16] Thorpe, History of Wallingford Vermont, 114
[17] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 4 (Town Clerk's Office, Wallingford, Vt.) 652.
[18] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 4, 667.
[19] Ibid., 927.

Taking into consideration the lengthy distance to the cotton producing regions in the country and the conditions of the roads into the small village it is evident that the factory did not process raw cotton but worked with partly finished goods. According to Klock the cotton factory burned to the ground in 1830.[20]

Five years later Wallingford's Jesse Lapham joined A. R. Vail to construct a forge upon the same site. The extent and type of work completed at this forge is not known, but two deeds between Lapham, Vail and Charles Holden, who owned a considerable tract of land on the east bank of Otter Creek, could shed some light on the subject.[21] In 1842 Lapham, Vail, and a third individual, John Vail, made an agreement with Charles Holden giving them the exclusive right to dig, wash, and sell all the minerals found on his land located east of the forge and adjacent to Branch Brook (currently named Homer Stone Brook). This brook entered Otter Creek just south of the forge dam.[22] Along with that agreement, in 1849 the same parties agreed to pay Holden $50 for the privilege of keeping the forge dam on his property.[23] Unfortunately, no records were found to show what uses the partners made from those transactions, or for how long, but it does make one wonder if they were using the minerals at the forge site.

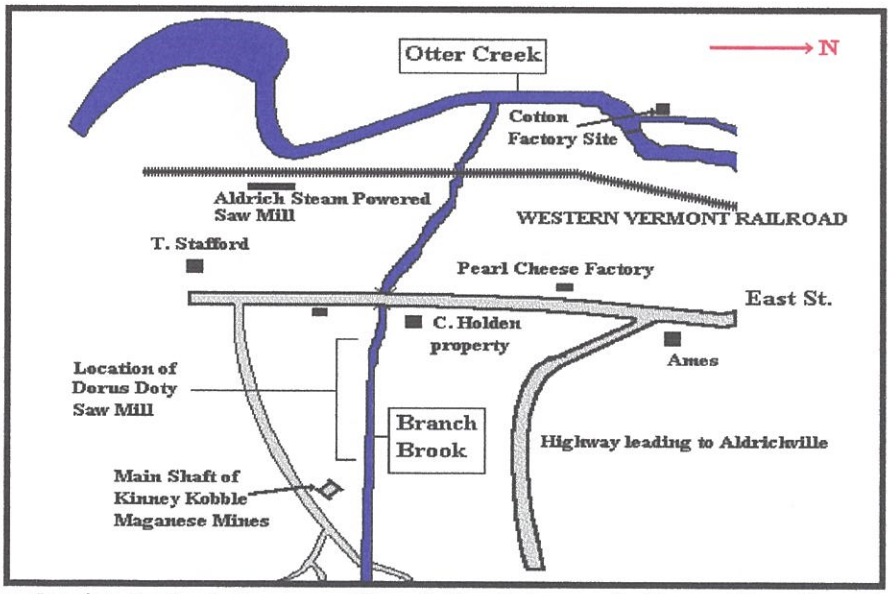

Fig. 10, Map showing the businesses near Branch Brook (currently Homer Stone Brook), created by Theodore W. Burnham

---

[20] Klock, A History of Wallingford Vermont, 42.

[21] See map, Figure 10, for the location of Charles Holden's land in respect to cotton factory / forge site.

[22] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no 8 (Town Clerk's Office, Wallingford, Vt.) 442.

[23] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 9 (Town Clerk's Office, Wallingford, Vt.) 229.

THE VILLAGE MILLS

Decades before South Wallingford's cotton factory, the village had the town's first grist mill.[24] Otter Creek's first major drop occured where South Wallingford's settlers first established their village. Long rapids, visible today as one crosses the bridge over the creek, provided good power through the 1800's for grinding grains, sawmilling, textiles, and later cutting marble. A photograph of the bridge that spanned the creek during the 1800's showed a much higher and much slower water level when compared to what can be seen today.[25] The reason for this is that just to the right of the picture was the location of the dam that powered the mills of the time.

Historians disagree widely about Wallingford's first grist mill. One writer tells that it was constructed by Crispin Bull.[26] Another suggests that Asahel and Jedediah Jackson, who "dammed Otter Creek in Wallingford in 1788 to turn a gristmill, fulling mill and forge", were the first settlers to make use of the power the creek offered.[27]

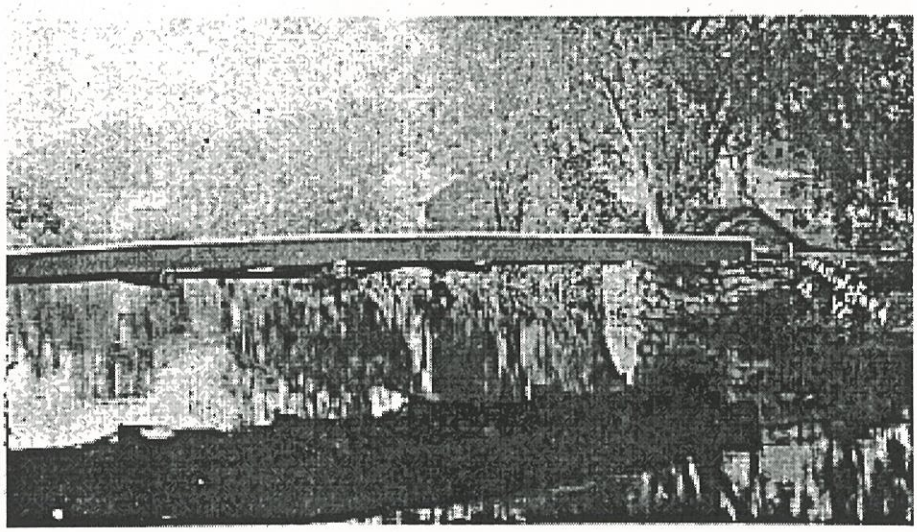

Fig. 11, Center St. Bridge spanning Otter Creek in South Wallingford just south of the dam that provided the water power for the mills located here, from Alice Rist, chairperson Wallingford's Pictorial Committee, Wallingford 1761-1965, Vol. I, n. p., 1975.

---

[24] See map, Figure 3 for the location of the grist mill and the saw mill which would also be constructed on the site.

[25] See photograph, Figure 11, showing the bridge that spanned the creek.

[26] Batcheller People of Wallingford, 53-54.

[27] Petersen, Otter Creek The Indian Road, 90.

A search of the Wallingford land record books indicated that Crispin Bull constructed a grist mill on land located in the village of South Wallingford which he purchased from Eliakim Hall on the seventh of September 1784, for the sum of 35 pounds.[28] Even the history of this mill is not without dispute. One writer claimed that the original proprietors of the saw and grist mill were J. O. and H. Stafford.[29] The inconsistencies continue when a recent historical account stipulated that Stutley Stafford purchased the mill from John Reed in 1795.[30] A search of the land records indicated that this was impossible because a deed dated May 28, 1807 — eleven years after the date given by the historian — indicated that Wallingford's John Read bought the mill for $800 from his father John Reed of Rhode Island.[31] Another record indicated that Stutley Stafford purchased the parcel of land from John Read on December 26, 1816 — twenty-one years after the given date — for $3,000.[32]

Beyond the triviality of who built the first mill in the village of South Wallingford, it is apparent the settlers were following the human norms of water power technology. With people of the time having breads as a staple to their diets, grinding of grains was required to produce flour. Also as civilization had spread to this hilly country the need for clothing encouraged the construction of carding and spinning factories. Above all, the villagers were constantly striving to make efficient use of the their situation near the headwaters of Otter Creek. The previous mentioned mill, constructed by Crispin Bull, is a good example of this quest; with the capabilities of the mill being expanded into log sawing and cider pressing by 1816.[33] This expansion in conjunction with future development of the area around the mill resulted in it being named Mill Hill.

Like other regions in America, economic development involved crafters, mill owners, and traders in many-faceted activities. One such man was Jesse Lapham, builder of the forge and later involved in the mining of ore. During the first half of the century he purchased the mill and land on which he built a four-

---

28 Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 1 (Town Clerk's Office, Wallingford, Vt.) 201.
29 Thorpe, History of Wallingford Vermont, 114.
30 Klock, A History of Wallingford Vermont, 42.
31 Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 4, 192.
32 Ibid., 937.
33 Ibid., 937.

story building that housed a store.[34] A generation later, the 1860 Industrial Census reported him investing $4,000 in his saw mill, where three employees processed 2,000 logs into 200,000 board feet of lumber valued at $1,400.[35]

Six years later Jesse Lapham's heirs sold the mill, the store, and three other lots for $6,500 to William W. Kelley.[36] He thus acquired a marble quarry, and a small plot across Otter Creek from the grist mill where he had a future marble mill put up by Oscar Eddy — the village carpenter.

Dispute about who and when the grist mill was built in South Wallingford has a parallel in missing information about it between 1816, when Stutley Stafford bought it, and 1870 in William Kelley's time. That year's Industrial Census reported a one-wheel mill generating up to ten horsepower, with a daily capacity of 75 bushels. Elsewhere the census told of a fifteen horsepower wheel at the saw mill.[37] One wonders if there were two distinct wheels, or one geared differently for distinct uses.

In either event, Kelley's works yielded $3,100 in products. After all recorded expenses, he made a profit of about $750 beyond what his store and marble works gave him.[38] This was not bad income for the times and it would continue into the next century under the ownership of William's son George.

The Kelley saw mill was not the only water powered saw mill to operate in the village during the nineteenth century. From approximately 1856 to 1870 a farmer named Dorus Doty operated a one wheel saw mill on a small tributary that entered the Otter Creek just above the site of the old cotton factory.[39] Evidence is lacking about its exact year of construction, but it first appeared on the town's Grand List in 1856. As early as 1844, Dorus Doty had planned for Dewey Phillips of Shaftsbury, Vermont, to construct a mill for him on land along Branch Brook — now named Homer Stone Brook — leased from L. M. Edgerton and Clark Bull.[40] In the contract Dorus Doty agreed to pay Dewey Phillips the sum of $662.00

---

[34] See map, Figure 3, for the location of the store constructed by Lapham across the road from the grist and saw mill.

[35] U. S. Bureau of the Census, United States Census of 1870, Industrial Census, microfilm (Calvin Coolidge Library, Castleton State College, Castleton, Vermont.).

[36] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 12 (Town Clerk's Office, Wallingford, Vt.) 66.

[37] U. S. Bureau of the Census, United States Census of 1870, Industrial Census, microfilm (Calvin Coolidge Library, Castleton State College, Castleton, Vermont.)..

[38] U. S. Bureau of the Census, United States Census of 1860, Population Census, microfilm (Calvin Coolidge Library, Castleton State College, Castleton, Vermont.).

[39] See map, Figure 10 for the general location of Dorus Doty's water powered saw mill.

[40] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 10 (Town Clerk's Office, Wallingford, Vt.) 136.

for the construction of the mill, for which Dewey Phillips guaranteed the mill would saw an average of 1,000 feet of logs in a twelve-hour period.

By 1854 Doty had leased the land in a document which allowed him either to dam the brook or to build a channel from the brook to the mill site.[41] No visible remains of that work survive, but one can infer much about the mill from the lease. Dorus Doty was required to maintain a gate leading into Bull and Edgerton's pasture. He was also allowed to keep a mill-yard around the mill site as long as he made sure the road leading up to the ore mine was always kept clear to allow all wagons and carts free passage to and from the mine with no delay. The description placed the mill between East Street, where Bull and Edgerton had their gate, and the mine entrance approximately one quarter of a mile up the brook.[42] Despite having a smaller water source than Lapham, Doty produced about as much in 1860 as Lapham did. He processed 1,500 logs into 150,000 board feet valued at $1,050. He also manufactured boxes: 5,000 of them, valued at $520, most likely for cheese factories located nearby.[43]

A third water-powered mill was begun in 1880 by Julius T. Remington and Edward P. Ely at the same location which previously contained the cotton factory and later the forge. It served in production of paper from a mixture of rags and pulp wood. A few years later a steam operated saw mill also began working with wood. It was owned by Edgar and Barney Aldrich, who after the year 1897 had moved their works from a site on the mountains called Aldrichville.[44]

For over five years prior to this move, the two brothers had operated the saw mill operation on top of the mountain, directly in the middle of prime timber land. Even though the saw mill appeared to be nothing special, the operation was much more than just a job site. Upon the mountain the brothers had created a small village: four frame houses, a tenant house, a school, and a blacksmith shop, plus four or five segregated log cabins for the French Canadian workers. There was also a working farm within close proximity to the main village owned by a family named Baird.

---

41 Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 11 (Town Clerk's Office, Wallingford, Vt.) 2.
42 See map, Figure 10, for the location of Dorus Doty's saw mill.
43 Bureau of the Census, Census of 1860, Industrial Census.
44 See map, Figure 10 for the location of the Aldrich steam powered saw mill.

An interesting sidelight to this essay is a short description of life in Aldrichville as experienced by Edna Earle Maranville, who spent a number of years as a little girl living in the village.[45] Included with the story is a map, also drawn by Mrs. Maranville, showing the general layout of the small village. This is complemented by a photograph of the men who played on the village baseball team. If one looks in the backdrop of the photograph, to the left of the men, the two frame houses documented on the map can be seen, and to their right, across the open area, the blacksmith shop and part of the horse barn.

As already mentioned, sometime after 1897 the saw mill operation was moved down to the bottom of the mountain. The reason was clearly the availability of transportation on the railroad which ran directly in front of the new location. After the move, logs for the saw mill were hauled off the mountain to the new mill using horses. In one instance, as much as six cords of pulp wood was drawn off the mountain in one load by three different drivers, all in competition for a barrel of flour offered by Barney Aldrich to the man who could draw the biggest load down off the mountain to the mill.

The Aldrich brothers' operation on the mountain had been producing lumber, chair stock, and lath (used as a backing in plastering walls), which was probably continued at the new operation in the village of South Wallingford.

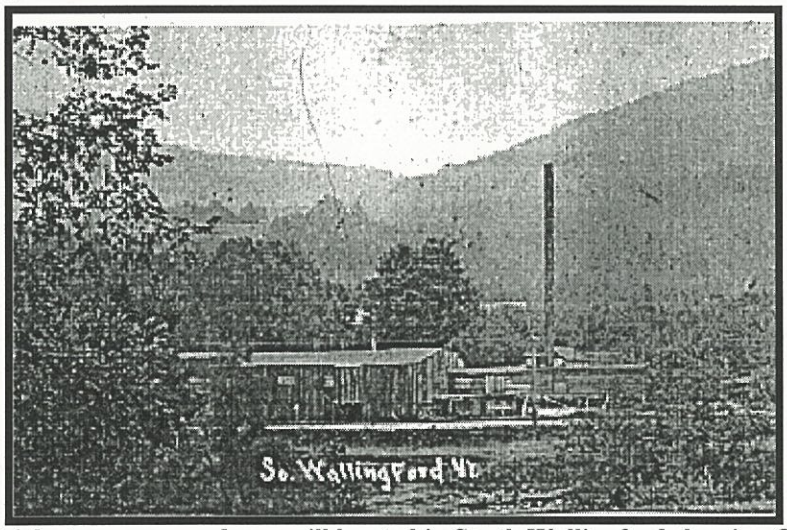

Fig. 13 The Aldrich steam powered saw mill located in South Wallingford showing Otter Creek and the railroad tracks running in front of the mill, from Alice Rist, chairperson Wallingford's Pictorial Committee, Wallingford 1761-1965, Vol. I, n. p., 1975.

[45] See Appendix A, Figure 22, a recollection of life in Aldrichville; Figure 23, a map of Aldrichville; Figure 24, a photograph of the village baseball team showing the buildings in the village.

THE MARBLE INDUSTRY

South Wallingford had three marble quarries operating in the nineteenth century. One, on the road-side as one enters the village limits from the north, reportedly dated back to 1835.[46] The original owner, Orange Carpenter, sold it to Anson Warner in 1840. Rather than working it himself, he had Joseph Lippett work the quarry for him. The relationship between these two parties is briefly discussed in an 1849 agreement between them which stated that Joseph Lippett would have the privilege of using a shop located near the marble quarry, free of charge, as long as he occupied the quarry.[47] Lippett also constructed South Wallingford's first marble mill adjacent to a small brook, east of the quarry on land he purchased from Orange Carpenter.[48] The brooks' size required the construction of a mill pond in order to run the machinery. In 1848 the property was passed to Harvey Button, and later in 1860 to Sarah Lippett.

The quarry, it will be remembered, passed in 1866 from Jesse Lapham's heirs to William W. Kelley. Little is known of Lapham's ownership, but much of Kelley's. During his ownership he purchased a channeling machine to assist in cutting the large blocks of marble from the rock face of the quarry. A channeling machine was a large steam operated apparatus which ran on rails cutting channels outside each rail by rapidly raising and lowering steel chisels. The very first channeling machine (the Wardwell Channeler) was invented by George Wardwell of Rutland, Vermont, in 1862 and first put into use in 1865.[49] This device replaced the "tunner — a round iron bar about seven-eighths of an inch in diameter by six to nine feet long."[50] The use of this tool allowed "a good day's work for one man being a cut four feet long by nine inches deep".[51] In comparison, the channeling machine cut a channel that ranged from four to six feet deep and between forty to eighty feet in length per day.[52]

---

[46] See map, Figure 3, for the location of this quarry, labeled the Kelley Quarry.

[47] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 9, 265.

[48] See map, Figure 3, for the location of Lippett's marble mill and mill pond.

[49] George H. Perkins, Report of the State Geologist on the Mineral Industries and Geology of Vermont 1931-2 (Burlington: Free Press Printing, 1933) 262. See Figure 14 picture of the Wardwell Channeler.

[50] Ibid., 262-263.

[51] George H. Perkins, Report of the State Geologist on the Mineral Industries and Geology of Vermont 1913-14. (Burlington: Free Press Printing, 1914) 172.

[52] Perkins, Report 1931-2, 277.

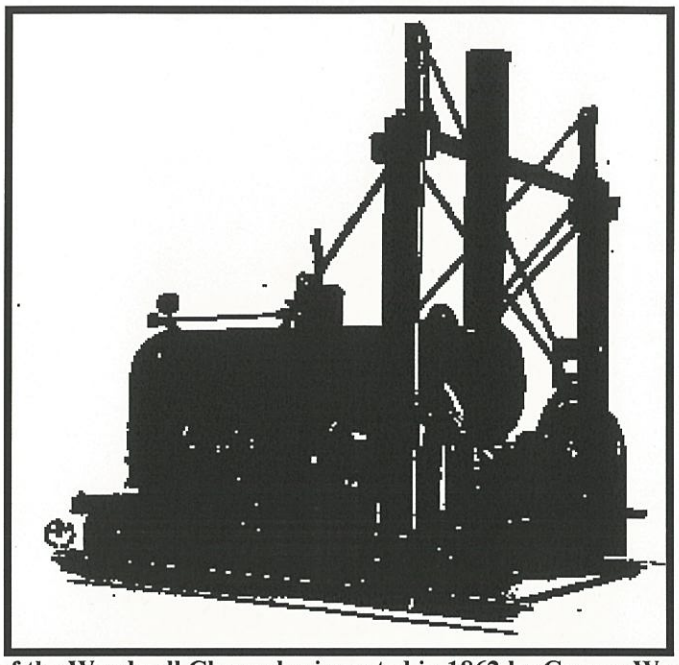

Fig. 14, a picture of the Wardwell Channeler invented in 1862 by George Wardwell of Rutland, Vermont, from George H. Perkins, Report of the State Geologist on the Mineral Industries and Geology of Vermont 1913-14. (Burlington: Free Press Printing, 1914) 176.

Visual evidence at the remains of Kelley's quarry suggests that marble was removed from the side walls using a high powered drilling machine that came into use about 20 years after Kelley had bought out the Laphams. The holes were so exactly proportioned and spaced that no hand drill could have produced them. Nor could a Wardwell machine: it made a square channel, not a row of consecutive round holes. One infers from this evidence that Kelley had bought another sort of machine, a Sullivan channeler, which made a line of round holes that needed to be split from the rock bed using steel wedges. [53]

In any event, Kelley's purchases of the latest machinery demonstrated his deep interest in the business which went beyond his quarry operation. Twelve years after purchasing the quarry he had Oscar Eddy, the village carpenter, build a marble saw mill on the small piece of land located across the creek from his other mills.[54]

The 1931-32 Vermont State Geologist's Report called the mill "a well-arranged eight-gang truck mill."[55] Marble was not cut using round saws with teeth as was done with wood. A marble saw's blades

---

[53] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 16 (Town Clerk's Office, Wallingford, Vt.) 92-5.

[54] See map, Figure 3, for the location of Kelley's marble mill located across Otter Creek from his grist and saw mill.

[55] Perkins, Report 1931-2, 288.

consisted of pieces of soft steel approximately one quarter of an inch thick, which were worked back and forth over the marble. The blades' width were more or less a standard size ranging from four to six inches; their length depended on what a mill's standard piece size was. In other types of mills the cutting apparatuses were called blades, in a marble mill they were referred to as gangs: the soft steel pieces arranged in a parallel fashion on a wooden frame. Thus one marble block could be cut into many different pieces. The principle follows an invention designed by Leonardo Da Vinci around 1440.

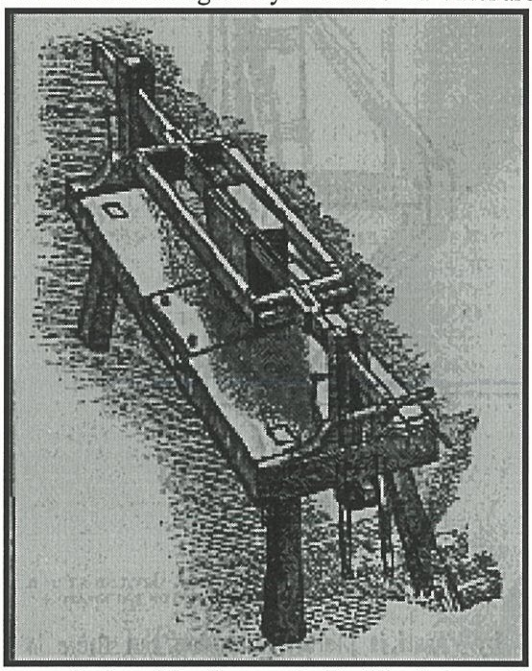

Fig. 15, a two gang marble saw designed by Leonardo Da Vinci, from Clarence Cook, "Leonardo Da Vinci", F. G. Holland, ed., . Scribner's Monthly, Vol. XVII (New York, Scribner & Co., 1879) 343.

Another difference from other saws related to the marble's hardness in respect to the saw's softness. For this reason, each gang required a continuous supply of sand and water which caused friction to allow the gangs to penetrate the stone. Kelley's sand might have come by rail, but a weight in it equal to that of the block might be required to cut just one block making it a very expensive option. A nearby alternative was a sand hill west of the village — no more than a quarter of a mile away — owned by John Adair.

In the description of the Kelley marble mill, the term two truck mill was utilized. The trucks referred to wheeled apparatuses which allowed the marble to be moved into the mill and placed under the gangs. At the time of the construction of this mill the use of trucks was a new way of completing the task.

Prior to the use of trucks, the marble was moved into the mills using a number of logs which were continuously placed under the block allowing it to be rolled into the mill.

All accounts of the Kelley marble mill indicated that William Kelley spared no expense in creating a state of the art facility. The 1870 Industrial Census indicated the mill was powered by not just one water wheel but two wheels which created 50 horse power. The report goes on to state that William Kelley had invested $20,000 into his quarrying business and his annual payroll was $10,000 for ten full time workers.

The second marble quarry to open in South Wallingford was the General Robinson Hall quarry which was located on the Northern outskirts of the village. His loss from investment in the railroad resulted in the closure of his operations less than three years after he began in 1855. Upon his quiting, Frank Post took over the quarrying operation for a short period of time.[56] In 1867 Loren Waldo opened and worked the quarry for approximately two years.

Fig. 16, a photograph showing blocks piled up in the vicinity of the Hall Quarry, taken by Theodore Burnham, July 1995.

Stone from the Hall quarry was highly regarded, for instance by the architect of the New York Public Library, who thought the marble finer in quality than what was coming out of both the Dorset and the Danby quarries.[57] A visit to the Hall quarry suggests one reason for its low profitability: it was just

---

[56] Smith and Rann, History of Rutland County, 186.
[57] Perkins, Report 1931-2, 116.

to small when compared to Kelley's venture, and land around it was left littered with piles of stones exposed to the elements.[58]

The final quarry in the village was reportedly opened by John Adair of New York City in the year 1857.[59] A search of Wallingford's land records, indicated that John Adair purchased the land from Nathen B. Holden of Wallingford and John H. Vail of Danby on February 8, 1855, for the sum of $1,500. It also stated that the land already contained a quarry which had been previously worked, indicating the quarry had been opened earlier than commonly reported.[60]

The State Geologist's report in 1932 indicated that Adair employed 75 men in the extraction and finishing of marble for the U. S. Customs House in Charleston South Carolina.[61] This labor force spoke eloquently about inefficiencies in the old hand process, beside the pressure to meet an urgent and lucrative government contract. Later, Adair's operation much resembled Kelley's. By 1870 he employed just a dozen men, active for six months of the year. He too invested $20,000, but his six gang mill had only 25 horse power from one wheel. Also, unlike Kelley, he enjoyed very little success with his mill.

In light of that fact, John Adair had to draw marble blocks, using a team of oxen, from his quarry across a dam on Otter Creek (most likely the old cotton factory dam) to East St. and then north to the finishing mill (the Kelley mill).[62] That procedure can be understood taking into consideration the inability of the bridge that spanned Otter Creek to support the weight of a block of marble passing over its planking and supports.[63]

---

[58] See, Figure 16, a photograph showing one of the large piles of rocks at the quarry location.
[59] Smith and Rann, History of Rutland County, 186.
[60] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 10, 63-4.
[61] Perkins, Report 1931-2, 115.
[62] Klock, A History of Wallingford Vermont, 52.
[63] See Figure 17, a photograph of wooden bridge spanning Otter Creek, also see Figure 10, a photograph of the same bridge from the side showing the wooden cross members on the underside of the bridge.

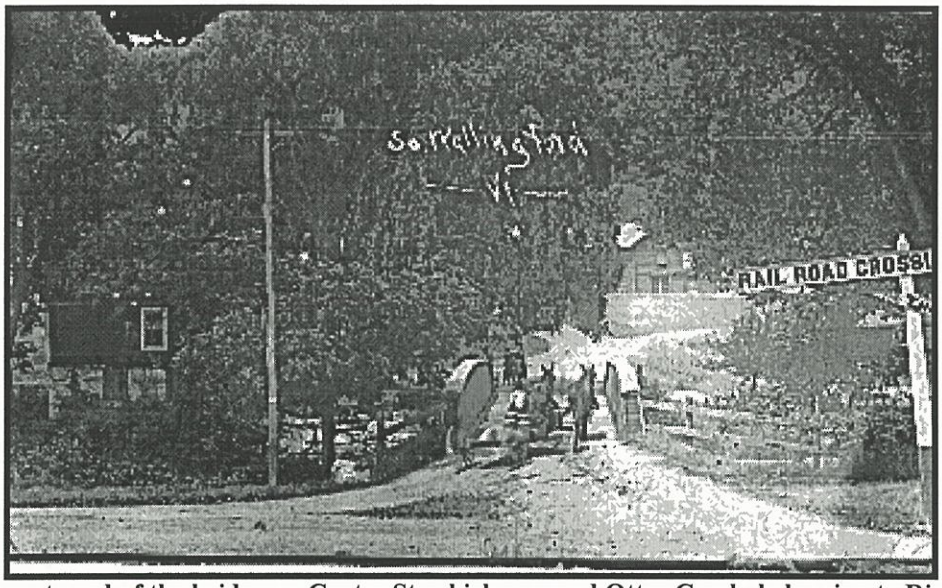

Fig. 17, a post card of the bridge on Center St. which spanned Otter Creek, belonging to Richard and Helen Gilmore of South Wallingford, Vermont.

THE VILLAGE STORES

The number of South Wallingford's industries and resident's needs for goods resulted in the opening of two stores. The first, pictured on this essay's cover, was opened in the year 1813 by Ebenezer Towner and Mosely Hall, who owned the arrea's two taverns. The second was opened by Jesse Lapham in the 1830's. Presumably he offered products from from his mills across the road. The store and mills changed hands, all century long, as one parcel of land.

George Kelley, while owning the store at the century's end, used it for his grain dealership. Figure 18 shows the wooden pulley near the roof's peak used to lift the grain and other products to the upper three levels of the store. The advertisement placed by George Kelley gives the only clue to what he offered for sale at the store.[64] From time to time other shops opened, for example directly across the main road from the Lapham store, and one in a former blacksmith shop. The number of operations must have made the competitive environment intense. As the village life slowed down, it is notable that the only survivor, still an open store, occupies the site of Towner and Hall's original venture in 1813.

---

[64] See advertisement, Figure 7.

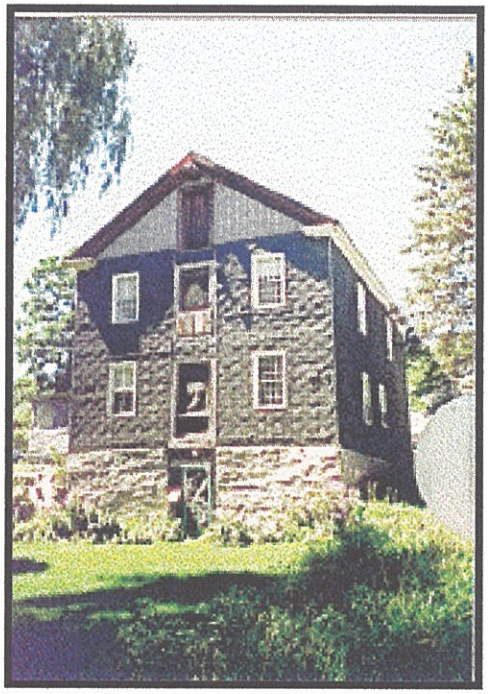

Fig. 18, a photograph of the four story building constructed by Jesse Lapham in the 1830's to contain his store. Notice the wooden pulley near the peak of the roof used to raise the merchandise to the upper levels, photograph taken by Theodore Burnham, July 1995.

THE PEARL CHEESE COMPANY

There was one constant with all the people who lived in South Wallingford: all appeared to be at least part-time farmers. George W. Kelley's advertisement and bill underline that fact. So does the cheese factory opened by Abraham R. Ames in 1873 near the Ames farm on East St.[65] An old post card of the factory shows what appear to be outbuildings behind the well-built main building. Little is known about the Ames operation's output, though a claim in the 1976 Wallingford Bicentennial Pictorial indicated the factory manufactured 100,000 pounds of cheese per year from the milk of 400 cows. The business lasted until washed out in the flood of 1927.

[65] See Figure 19, a post card of cheese factory located on East Street in South Wallingford.

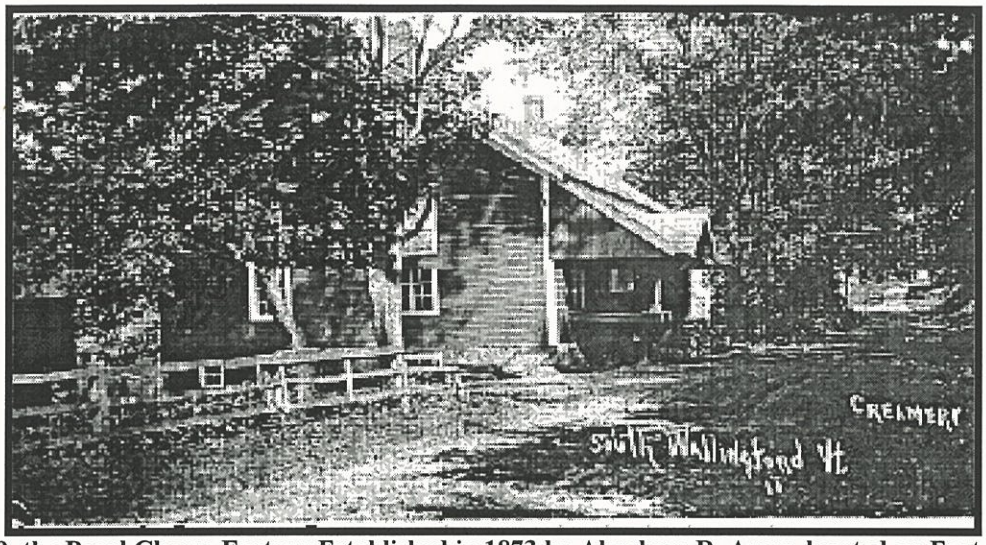

Fig. 19, the Pearl Cheese Factory Established in 1873 by Abraham R. Ames, located on East Street north of the Ames Farm, from a post card belonging to Fred and Lois Thurlow of Wallingford, Vt..

THE KINNEY KOBBLE / BULL MANGANESE MINES

A little-known industrial endeavor in South Wallingford was mining of iron ore, from a rounded outcropping on the mountain located to the west of the village near Branch Brook. A permit dated September 12, [18]41 to John L. Tucker showed the original plans of the mine. A surviving map shows two shafts, the Curtis and the Carnegie, the latter the main entrance extending at one time 1,000 feet into the mountain.[66] It also indicated an operation with seven to nine openings and shafts that varied from 360 feet to 1,000 feet deep. Air shafts ventilated tunnels as far down as 70 feet.

The first reference to the mine (as noted above on page 12) came in the lease between Charles Holden and Lapham, Vail and Co. dated June 27, 1842. The terms of the lease, which gave the parties of the second part the right to dig and wash ore found on Charles Holden's land, indicated that the mineral rights to the mine were not of much value considering they only had to pay twelve dollars a year — eight dollars for the right to use the water to wash the ore and four dollars for the right to dig on the land.[67]

---

[66] See map, Figure 20, showing the extent of work completed at the mine.
[67] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 8, 442.

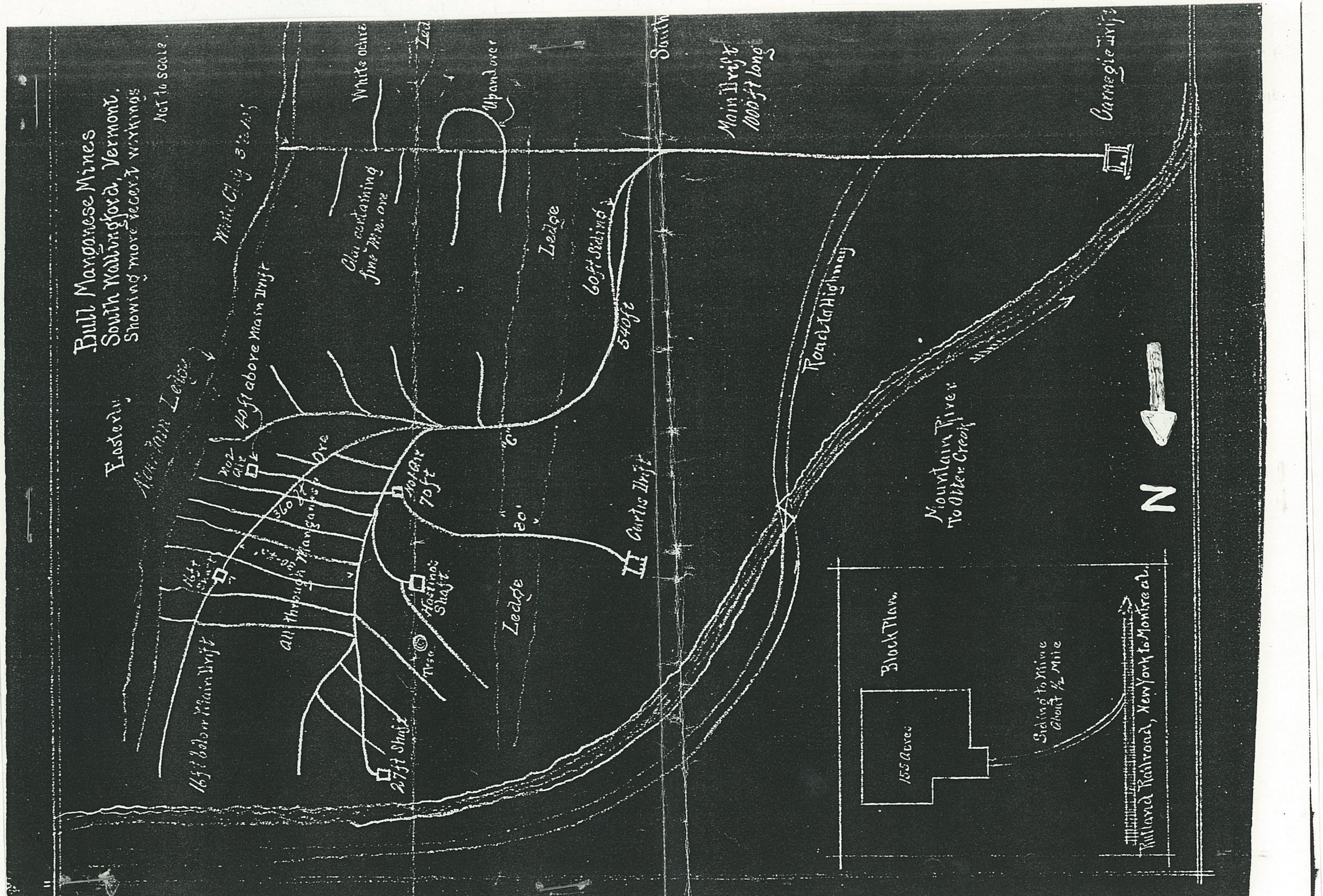

Fig. 20, map showing the extent of work completed at the mine including the length of shafts and the type of soil found, obtained from Fred Thurlow of Wallingford, Vermont.

The lease was misleading; the land containing the mine was located south of Charles Holden's property on land owned by Elija Bull and Samuel Edgerton. Two days later Mr. Bull and Mr. Edgerton let a plot to Lapham, Vail and Co. for an eleven-year term for a total of $616.[68]

Lapham, Vail, and Co. made good on the eleven year lease with the next contractual agreement made on December 20, 1856. On that date Samuel Edgerton and Clark Bull (a new partner in the ownership of the land) leased the property to Samuel Scovill of Cornwall, Connecticut. The terms of the lease allowed Mr. Scovill to construct a building on the premises for the purpose of storing the tools and machinery needed in the mining operation but he was forbidden from building any other dwelling houses or shanties on the property. The lease also permitted Mr. Scovill to use the water, in Branch Brook, for the washing of ore as long as he did not interfere with the operation of Dorus Doty's saw mill. The monetary compensation agreed to in the lease differed slightly from the earlier lease because the total sum depended on the amount of ore extracted from the mine. Samuel Scovill was required to pay $25 for the first 100 tons removed from the location and 25 cents for each additional ton.[69]

The next people to undertake the mining of ore from the Bull Mine — notably named after its sole owner at that time, Clark Bull — were Loring S. Waldo of Danby, and Henry Foote and Artimus Waldo both of Port Henry, New York who leased the mineral rights on August 1, 1867. The terms of their lease was very similar to the tenants before them with the exception that they were allowed to build a dwelling house for the workers. Furthermore, they were permitted to cut down any timbers they deemed necessary as long as they paid Clark Bull 25 cents for every cord cut. Another change was that Waldo, Foote, and Waldo had to pay $25 for the right to mine and an additional 25 cents for every ton of ore removed from the property.[70]

The final lease was an 1882 agreement between Gilbert W. Bradley of Sunderland, Vermont and Clark Bull. Terms were relatively the same except for the cost of each cord of wood taken increased to one dollar a cord. Another provision was that the party of the second part — Gilbert Bradley — was not

---

[68] Ibid., 443-4.
[69] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 10, 365-6.
[70] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 12, 466-7.

required to set up or maintain scales for the purpose of weighing the ore like the tenants before him. Instead, Clark Bull would accept the determination of the railroad on the amount of ore shipped.[71]

The number of years mining was conducted on the 155 acre plot indicated that a large amount of ore must have been removed from the site. A 1917 report indicated many of the miners believed a considerable amount of good quality ore still existed in the mine and it could be extracted for a considerable profit. The report went on to say that most of the timbers used to support the shafts were still in good condition and would need only slight repair. A photograph of the interior of the mine, 78 years after the report was issued, shows the timbers which had begun to fail under the hard hand of time. One thing that is undetectable is the existence of tracks which the report indicated were installed for the removal of the ore.

Fig. 21, a photograph showing the interior of the main entrance to the ore mine with fallen timbers in the foreground and other timbers still standing deeper down the shaft, photograph taken by Herbert Frederick of South Wallingford, Vermont on June 6, 1995.

One of the surviving indicators of the mine is the spur from the mine site to the railroad. The loading facility consisted of a depression in the ground where the main line split into two separate tracks, both leading to opposite sides of the depression. In this manner carts were able to be loaded from above in two different locations. Once the ore was loaded on one side and being transported to the main line, carts could be loaded from the other side with no big delay.

---

[71] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 14, 441-2.

With the large amount of activity occurring at the mine during the mid to late 1800's one might question the sudden stoppage of the mining after the turn of the century. According to the 1861 Report on The Geology of Vermont, the ore taken from the Kinney Kobble Mine consisted of a blended mixture of iron and manganese, which produced iron so hard after smelting that it could not even be penetrated by drill, yet so brittle it could not be used where strength was imperative.[72]

Thus we are introduced to the major theme of the story of South Wallingford: the lack of high quality natural resources. From the beginning of the century the village appeared to have an abundance of resources including water power, timber, and dairy products. As time passed the resources kept increasing with the location of the only vein of marble in the township to the discovery of iron ore in the mountains. By the end of the century most of the resources were found to be insufficent in quality; thus providing a hinderence to further development in the village. The development of new sorces of power, such as steam power and in the next century, electrical power, replaced the much sought water power that facilities of the village had long utilized.

All of those factors resulted in the slow but sure disintegration of the industry that at one time appeared to have a promising future in the village. Along with the businesses went the people who owned them. William Kelley, in the face of the competition throughout Vermont, had his entire estate foreclosed upon on July 22, 1889. In the foreclosure he lost all the land, the buildings, and the related machinery he owned in South Wallingford including his home farm. In order for this property to remain in the Kelley family, George W. Kelley was required to pay the trustees of the land $5,500 for the homestead and the businesses. Along with his land in the village William Kelley also lost a farm he owned in Poultney, Vermont and five dwellings in the city of Philadelphia.[73] Most of the other industries followed the same path. Dorus Doty shut down his saw mill around 1870. Work stoped in John Adair's quarry late in the century with Loren Waldo conducting the last work at the site as well as at the Hall quarry. In the face of the high quality of marble coming from other locations in the state, such as West Rutland, the marble

---

[72] Edward Hitchcock, et al, Report On The Geology of Vermont, (Claremont, N.H., Claremont Manufacturing Co., 1861) 821.

[73] Town of Wallingford, Land Record Book, no. 16, 92-5.

industry in South Wallingford ceased at the turn of the century. The final blow came in 1905 when George Kelley's marble mill burnt to the ground.

Lack of high quality natural resources was not the only factor working against the people involved in the industry of South Wallingford. The fact that most of them were also involved in farming further strained the economy of the village due to the depression of 1873.[74] That was the beginning of the decline in farming which into the twentieth century resulted in the loss of nearly all the working farms in the township of Wallingford. Other agriculture based businesses, such as the Pearl Cheese factory, also came up against a new competitive arena. For example, the Brigham Company out of Boston, Massachusetts reached into this isolated rural area and provided a new avenue for the surplus milk.

The same kind of competitive nature was true with the production and processing of grains as seen in the case of George Kelley. The railroad was one of the main reasons for the increased competition. Both George Kelley and later the Brigham Company used the rail service to transport products. In the end with the dwindling business environment and the decline of local agriculture many of the inhabitants were forced to pack up and move to more hospitable skies or travel to new areas for the purpose of making a living. Over the years, the opportunities have continued to decline so the only businesses which have survived are the store, pictured on the front cover, and a lime company which took over the Adair marble quarry.

---

[74] Alan Brinkley, American History: A Survey, Vol. II, 8th edition, (New York, McGraw-Hill 1991) 576.

Appendix A

AND SAWDUST EVERYWHERE
LITTLE GIRL REMEMBRANCES
By
Edna Earle Maranville, age 98
THE ALDRICH JOB
1889-1891 & 1895-1896

The Aldrich Job was located on the top of the mountains east of South Wallingford, Vt. in an extension of the White Rock range on the eastern side of the Otter Creek Valley.

As far as statistics are concerned, I have none. These will have to be little girl remembrances.

Evidently in the earlier part of the nineteenth century (mid-1850's) a road was cut through the forest connecting South Wallingford and East Wallingford by way of Sugar Hill over the mountains.

In the 1890's this road started in South Wallingford at what was known as the John Ames farm located beyond the schoolhouse. It came out on Sugar Hill at what was known as the Bulley Farm. One thing that impressed me, even as a little girl was the sharpness of the corner where the mountain road came smack against the Sugar Hill road, leading to Senacle's Pond and farms thereabouts. This pond was later known as Spectacle Pond.

Sugar hill seemed to have been a well-settled active area in the early days. I can remember as a little girl feeling so sad because the schoolhouse was falling to pieces. My father told me where the church used to be and pointed out the stepping stone at the former church entrance. He also told me about the closet that was built in the church for the bass viol which was the allowed form of church music at that time. There were active farms there in my day others had been abandoned. Whether there was a business like a cheese factory or something else, I have no idea. There just seemed to be much open country there surrounded by forests.

The Sugar Hill road came out in East Wallingford by the old railroad crossing. Halfway up the mountains from South Wallingford was the Carpenter farm with a deserted lonely house, entirely surrounded by forest, abandoned, looking like it wished someone would stop by, open the door and walk in. Farther up, near the top, was a farm with open fields and pastures, surrounded by wilderness. This was a working farm where lived a family by the name of Baird.

The Aldrich Job mill was established and owned by the Aldrich brothers, Edgar and Barney. Edgar lived in East Wallingford and drove back and forth while Barney lived on the job. Edgar later bought a grain business in Rutland and moved there.

A ways down from the top, the road turned off the main road, crossed a bridge, climbed a small incline and the mill and mill yard were laid out and built here. The mill produced lumber, chair stock and lathe.

"Aldrichville" consisted of a double tenant residence; a boarding house run by Mr & Mrs. Randeau whose family consisted of twin girls who were young women, a grandson, Zebby and grand daughter, Celina Trombly, who were my playmates; a frame single house, the horse and oxen barn; and the blacksmith shop where my father, Frank Earle, was the blacksmith. He shod the horses and oxen that worked in the woods and the mill yard. The oxen had to be strapped into a cradle-like frame that lifted them off the floor, then each foot was strapped to a side rail while he put on the ox shoes. The oxen were used in the mill yard to pile the logs coming in from the forest and roll them to the saw mill.

The whistle blew for work at 7 a.m. and again at noon at which time the workers had an hour for dinner, then the final mill whistle was at 6 p.m. This was the working day for six days a week.

Down the road from the mill, off the main road, was a two-tenant house occupied by the Phelps family (Mr Phelps was the sawyer) and the Moore family.

Barney Aldrich lived in a frame house near the tenent house across a nice little wood land brook with a bridge connecting the two properties. He had a little store in the back of his house where he sold cloth by the yard among other items. I remember my mother, DeEtte Earle, making a dress for me with a skirt gathered in the back and gored in the front from some gingham plaid she had purchased at this store.

This was Aldrichville's Great White Way.. Sawdust lined, sawdust filled...a real lumber habitation.

French Avenue was located beyond the Baird Farm and consisted of four or five log cabins where the French families of Bitourney, LaRochelle, Bushee and one or two others whose names I have forgotten, lived.

At the fork of the road coming from the mill to French Avenue was located another frame house occupied by a man named Mulligan.

With the establishment of the lumber operation here, came a necessity for a school for the children of workers. That's where I started my early education with Eva Ames as teacher. She was one of Vermont's 19th century poets and the mother of Ethel Roberts.

There were only two terms for school each year, one in the fall and the other in the spring. One winter, while I lived in Aldrichville, I attended school in South Wallingford living with a dear old lady called "Gam" Edgerton. She had pretty hair which she curled into six curls that were held back by a black velvet ribbon. I don't remember how many pupils there were at the Aldrichville school but I do remember the Randeau twins, pretty young girls.

The school house was located beyond the log cabins, We had to walk through the mill yard and through the woods to get to school each day. My father was appointed school director for the Aldrichville school district. he was very strict about attendance and insisted that the French boys be in school rather than at the mill after reaching five years of age. Se when I became five years old on January 23 1890 he had to come to Brandon to get me where I was visiting my Aunt Ada and Uncle Lewis Aldrich. Uncle Lewis later became the engineer at the job where he ran the steam engines that operated the saws.

Boards from the mill were piled in the mill yard with crevices between each layer. We spent hours on these board piles placing ends of the lathe (narrow rough boards later to be used for house walls as a base for plaster) between the layers of boards. This was our piano and many a composition was created even outdoing Beethoven!

We would also insert a board in a crevice extending out making a solo teeter board. The sad part of that is that teetering one day I overstepped the edge and went banging down onto the ground with a scraped inner leg.

One of my fondest memories is of the long-stemmed violets that grew on the banks of the little brook back of our house. They were beautiful, deep purple. There, too, I "kept house on the rocks with the lovely mosses and broken dishes to furnish my kitchen! We made aprons, headpieces and belts from maple leaves pinning them together with their stems and we built boxes and baskets from green burdocks.

My sister, Ina, was born in 1890 and would have been the first baby born on the Aldrich job if my mother had stayed there but she resented that possibility so decided to go to be with her mother and father-in-law in Mt. Holly which is where my sister was born.

The first time we lived on the mountain (1889-1891) we lived in the tenant house. Uncle Lewis and Aunt Ada Aldrich later lived on the other side.

Mr and Mrs Thomas Price of Danby, who were Irish, became the operators of the boarding house following the Randeau family.

After cutting off of the timber, nature came back with raspberries, acres of them. Everyone wen berrying. We'd spend the day in the berry fields. I remember one day Mother put up my lunch and gave me a berry pail and sent me off to the field, quite a walk, into the cutover area all alone. Then she came out to pick after dinner. I can remember me walking up that road. She charged me over and over, "You'll find a pile of stones on the left hand side of the road. That's where you turn to go into the berry field."

As far as male sports were concerned I do remember baseball talk and think they had a pick-up team. They also played horseshoes and one day someone made an unexpected "wringer" ...my ankle!

On my occasional visits to the mountain after we moved away, when I returned home out would come the camphor bottle, newspapers and fine-toothed comb. Yes, we had them (lice) then, much more rampant than now.

Sometime after 1895 the job moved to the foot of the mountain in South Wallingford. (Note: in 1978 there was an old two-story building still standing on the east side of the road near the Rist residence which was used as a boarding house for some of the mill workers at this later saw mill site.)

Fig. 22, recollection of life in Aldrichville, from Edna Earle Maranville, News Letter Wallingford Historical Society, Inc., Vol. VI, Issue XII, 1983, transcribed by Theodore W. Burnham.

Appendix A

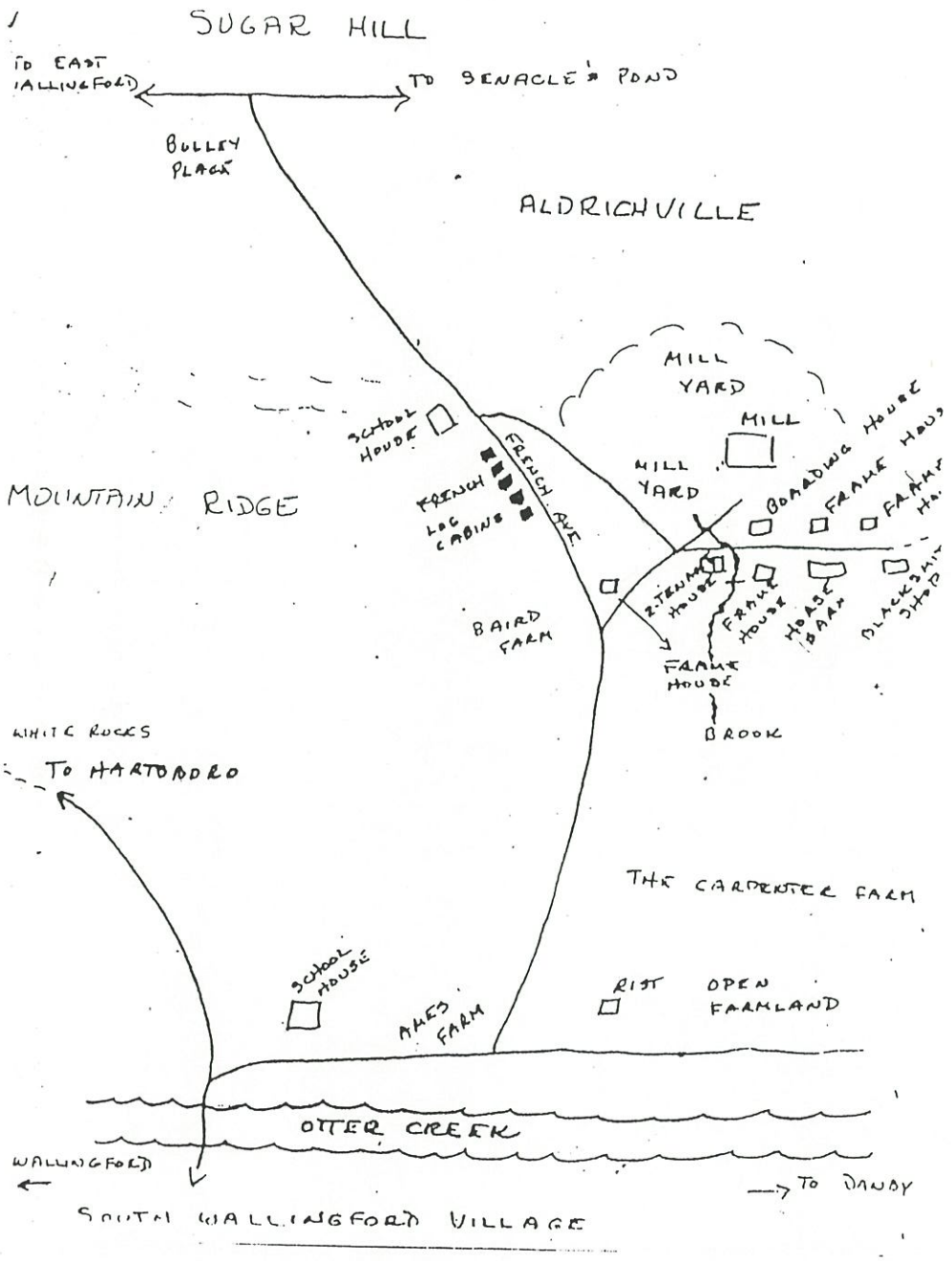

Fig. 23, map of Aldrichville, created by Edna Earle Maranville for Alice Rist of South Wallingford, Vt.

Appendix A

Fig. 24, a photograph of Aldrichville baseball team showing the structures present in Aldrichville, from Alice Rist, chairperson Wallingford's Pictorial Committee, Wallingford 1761-1965, Vol. I, n. p..