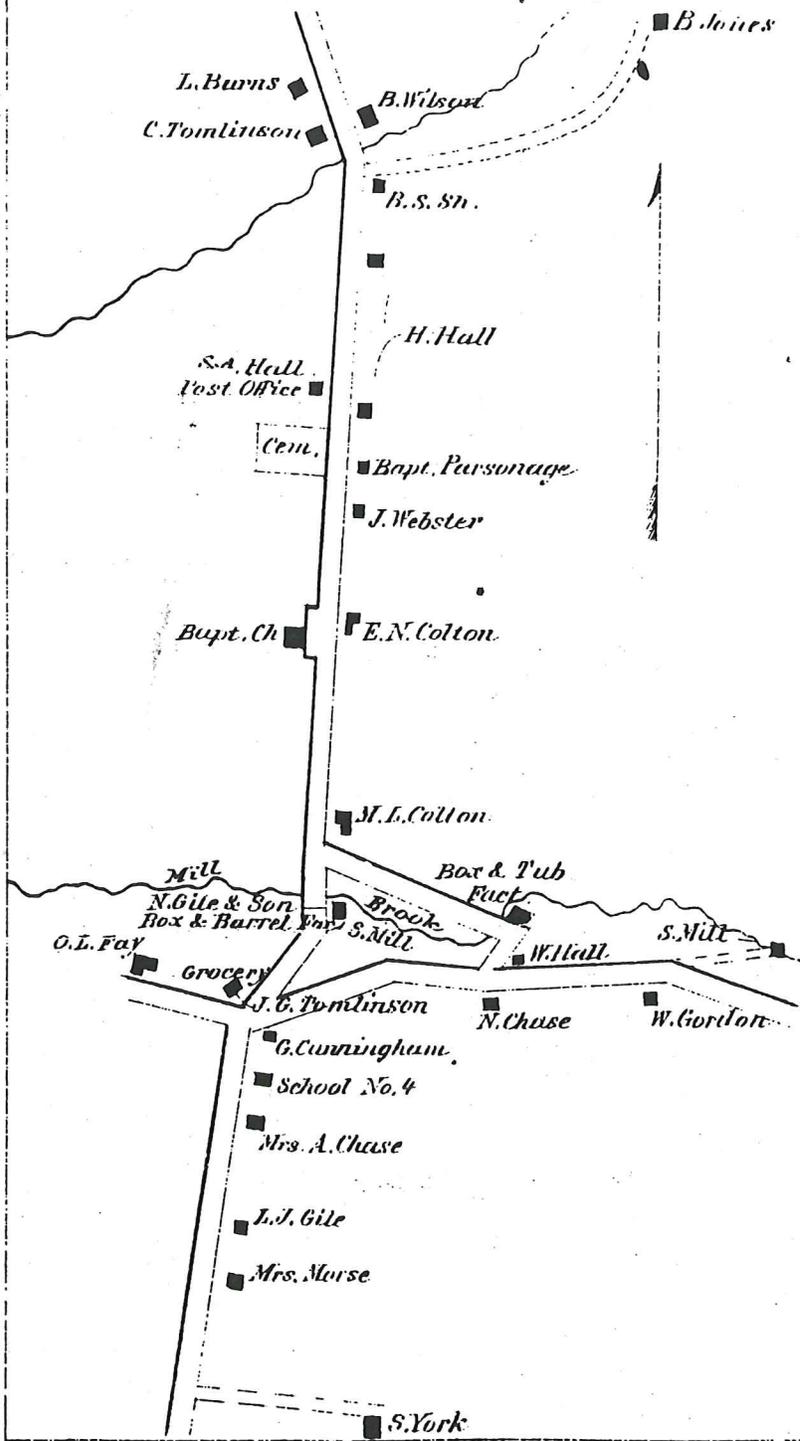


WEST BOLTON

TOWN OF BOLTON.
Scale: 40 Rods to the inch.



AT THE TURN OF THE
CENTURY

by
GARDINER LANE

WEST BOLTON
AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

by
GARDINER LANE
BOLTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Credits: VT National Guard
Camp Johnson
University of Vermont Wilbur Collection
Chittenden Regional Planning Commission

This story was made possible by the cooperation of LTC Alan Nye, Facilities Management Officer of Camp Johnson, who also provided us with the enclosed History of the Ethan Allen Firing Range as presented to the Jericho Historical Society.

Gardiner Lane

WEST BOLTON AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

West Bolton was a busy community in the late eighteen hundreds. It could boast having three productive sawmills cutting hundreds of thousands of square feet of lumber per year - for shingles, butter tubs, boxes and barrels. It had a post office, a church, a large general store, blacksmiths shops, a carriage builder and a shoe maker.

A directory reports about twenty-five males involved in farming and logging partially during the winter months. About twenty males worked in the sawmills, shingle, box and tub factories.

It was also reported that there was one butcher, one preacher, one dealer in produce, two teamsters, one stone mason, two blacksmiths, one agent in spring tooth harrows, one general merchant, three coopers, two joiners and carpenters, one stave maker, one dry goods agent, one postmaster and one letter carrier. (See attached Business Directory of Bolton and West Bolton.)

What happened to this thriving community? The panorama photo taken in the late eighteen hundreds from the front of the Baptist Church shows the back of the general store and the large number of farms. It also shows the evidence of complete clear-cutting of timber to satisfy the building markets for wood.

By nineteen hundred all of the timber in the Bolton area had been cut. Sawmills and related production facilities

closed. People abandoned their homes to seek work in the west or in Burlington's textile mills, so that West Bolton was literally abandoned. The 1870 census figures show the population of Bolton at over 700; by 1910 it had dropped to 300; by 1940 there were about 180 residents.

In the 1920's Fort Ethan Allen was leasing land in Jericho (Kinney and Doyle Farms) for maneuvers. More space was needed for an artillery firing range. In 1926, the Department of the Army purchased 6026 acres of abandoned land in the Jericho, Underhill and Bolton areas. By 1941 the Underhill Firing Range was not large enough to meet the needs of new and improved weapons, so another 5119 acres were acquired. In 1973, sixty-two acres were not considered essential for training needs, so were deleted from Range property. The total land acquired over the years amounted to 11,219.7 acres.

Buildings within the Range property were gradually dismantled and fences were erected. Today only the foundations as tombstones, and pictures, are remembrances of West Bolton as a flourishing community.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ETHAN ALLEN FIRING RANGE
As Presented to the Jericho Historical Society
on 15 May 1993 by LTC Alan Nye

During the following presentation, some of you may have more knowledge on the Subject than I do, as I do not claim to be an expert on the Ethan Allen Firing Range. I have spent many days walking around the range in the presence of others who have known much more than I. If you have something additional to offer, please interrupt me and we will include it.

Prior to the 1920's, the area that is currently known as the Ethan Allen Firing Range was home to many small farms, at least two water-powered saw mills, a church, a cemetery, a post office and a school. Today, the remnants of these times still remain. We can identify the foundations for the homes and barns; we can find the sluiceways and dam foundations for the sawmills; the steps of the church still remain as an indicator to what the lifestyle was like back then. Stories have been told of whole families being found in the spring after having died from a contagious disease during the long winter, and of married couples traveling all the way to West Bolton from Underhill Center to celebrate their honeymoon.

For those who tried to farm the higher elevations, it must have been a difficult life. I personally have been at the LaBerge Farm above our artillery impact area in late June when there had been a frost that night and then again in late August. It was a very short growing season.

My interest in the early history was set by my father when, as a child, he would bring me to the range, drive me around and talk about who lived here, and show me foundations, old houses and barns.

The Department of the Army originally purchased 6026 acres of land in 1926 for use as an artillery firing range for units stationed at Fort Ethan Allen. I have been told numerous stories from people who lived in Essex Junction or on Route 15, about the soldiers marching by with the horses and wagons on their way to train. They would buy items to eat and drink along the way. In 1941, the Underhill Firing Range was not large enough to meet the needs of the new and improved weapons that had been developed, and the Department of the Army bought another 5119 acres. In 1973, the Army exsessed two parcels of land amounting to 62 acres that were not critical to the training needs. One was known as the Camp Fire Girls camp and is owned by the school district. The other is on the south side of Nashville Road. In talking with various people, you can hear two different stories about these purchases. The first is that the vast majority of the landowners were glad to sell their property and move, as living on this land was difficult. The other is that the Government took the land for little or no money and people were very unhappy.

As the area around Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester became more built up and traffic on Route 15 increased, additional training areas were developed at the Underhill Firing Range. The earliest knowledge we have is the construction of a

Known Distance Range on what was known as the Doyle Farm. This had, and still has, the ability to fire rifles at a distance of 600 yards, although we would have to cut the poplars, alders and pine trees.

During the late 1930's, an organization known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed a permanent camp up Range Road, or as we call it, Poor Farm Road, from Underhill Center. This camp consisted of thirteen buildings, a water distribution system and recreational facilities. Individuals from this camp worked in what is now the Underhill State Park and began work on a road up Mount Mansfield from the west side. Remnants of this camp include an old granite and mortar chimney, the water system pump and well, and foundation for the water tower and stairs leading down to the main camp area from the road. As the United States increased training prior to its entry in World War II, the training at the Underhill Firing Range increased. East of the CCC camp, the Army constructed a school to teach machine gun. This consisted of some permanent buildings, a water system, sewer system and numerous tent platforms. They even constructed a moving target on railroad tracks that ran about a mile from the intersection of Beartown Road and LaBerge Farm.

In the early 1950's, the accountability for the Underhill Firing Range was transferred from the Army to the Air Force. This was basically due to the fact that the Air Force had taken over Fort Ethan Allen. At this time, limited Air-to-Ground bombing was conducted at the Range with inert bombs. The drop area was in the Lee River valley and was identified by

large yellow pylons. At least one of these still exists today.

1953-54 saw the arrival of the General Electric Company, which desired to do some short-term production test firing of the machinegun systems that they were making in Burlington. The National Guard was utilizing the Known Distance Range on the Doyle Farm. Due to the conflict over the use of the Range with the requirements of the General Electric Company, the National Guard began construction of a Known Distance Range off Nashville Road. Over the next ten years, efforts were made to create an internal road network on the Range that would require minimum off-post traffic between training areas.

Prior to the Bicentennial year of 1976, at the request of the Vermont National Guard, the name of the Range was changed by Congressional decree to the Ethan Allen Firing Range in honor of the revolutionary period patriot.

As dependence on the National Guard in the overall defense policy of the United States increased, the need to provide quality local training opportunities was realized. Starting in the late 1970's, several million dollars have been spent in construction to provide a year-round training site for battalion-sized units. This has included barracks, mess hall, administrative facilities, vehicle maintenance facilities and numerous ranges. In the last five years, a renewed interest in the need for a mountain warfare capability in the Army caused the Ethan Allen Firing Range to become home to the National Guard Bureau's Mountain Warfare School. Construction has included classroom space, an artificial ice climbing area, downhill ski area with a poma lift and several rock climbing and rapelling areas.

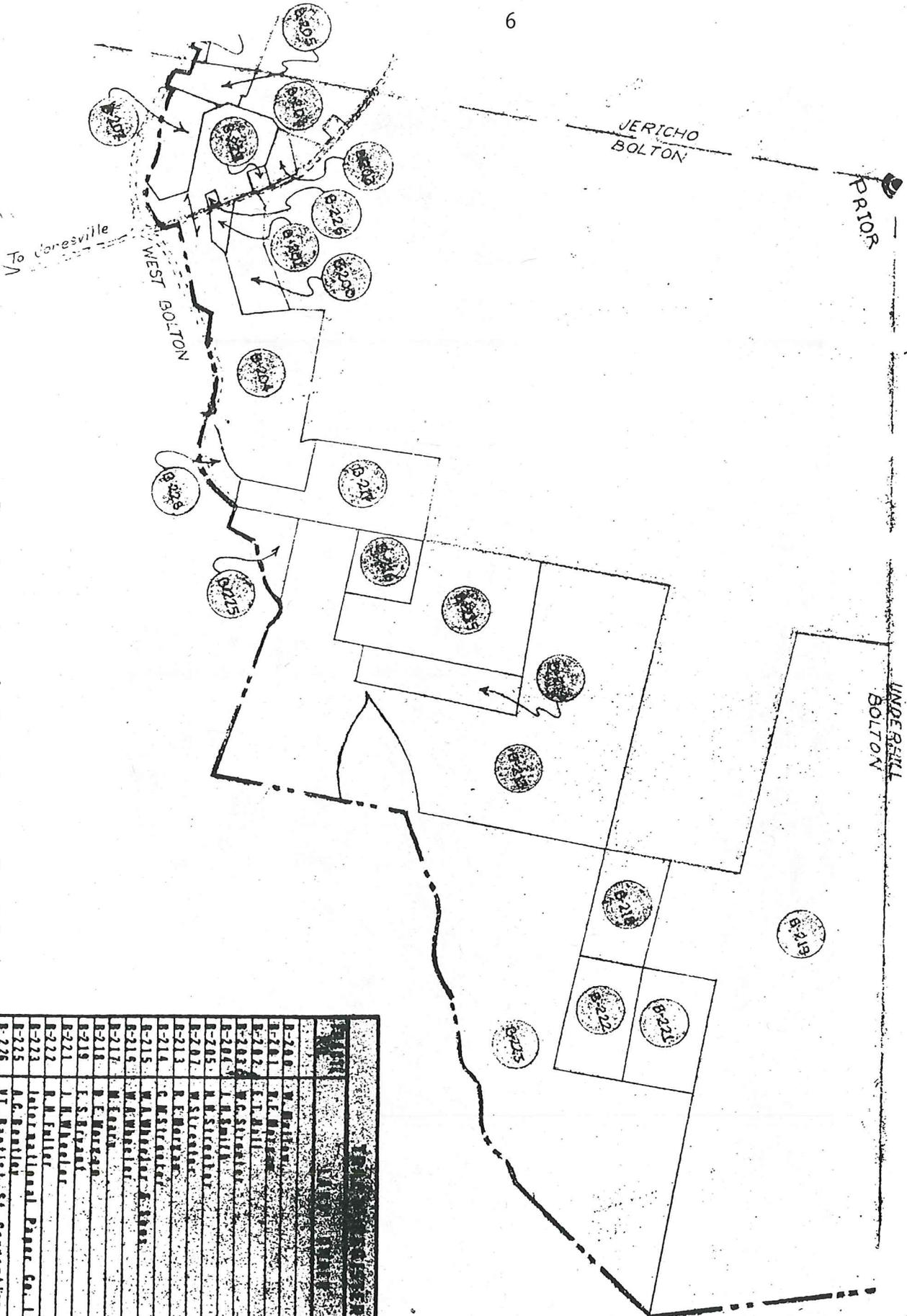
Over the years, because of the climate and precipitation that is very similar to that found in the northern Europe area, the Range has been the site of several tests. The most notable was the aerostat or balloon that was visible over most of Chittenden County.

The Range is home to the National Guard Bureau biathlon program and there are two world class x-country and biathlon facilities on site. These have been host to several National Biathlon Championships and two World Military Ski Championships. In addition, we boast the only paved roller ski loops in the United States. These trails are used by the local Bill Koch Ski Club and local high school and college ski teams.

The General Electric Company, Martin-Marietta, has conducted production test firing at the Ethan Allen Firing Range since 1953. At particular times, such as during the Vietnam War, they conducted testing 24 hours a day. Speaking as a member of the military, it is my belief that they make the best, most reliable gun system in the inventory today.

Over the last fifteen years, the National Guard's Adjutant General Donald Edwards, I, and in particular, Earle "Pete" Stygles have been committed to maintaining the historical significance of sites on the Ethan Allen Firing Range. This includes the preservation of large roadside maple trees, building foundations, bunkers, concrete firing positions, the moving target off Beartown Road, bridge abutments and stringers, water tank foundation in West Bolton, old communication lines and poles, wells and sewer systems. This should allow those who come after us to dream and fantasize as to what different

objects were, what they were used for, and basically how people lived and worked on what we know as the Ethan Allen Firing Range prior to and after the ownership by the military.

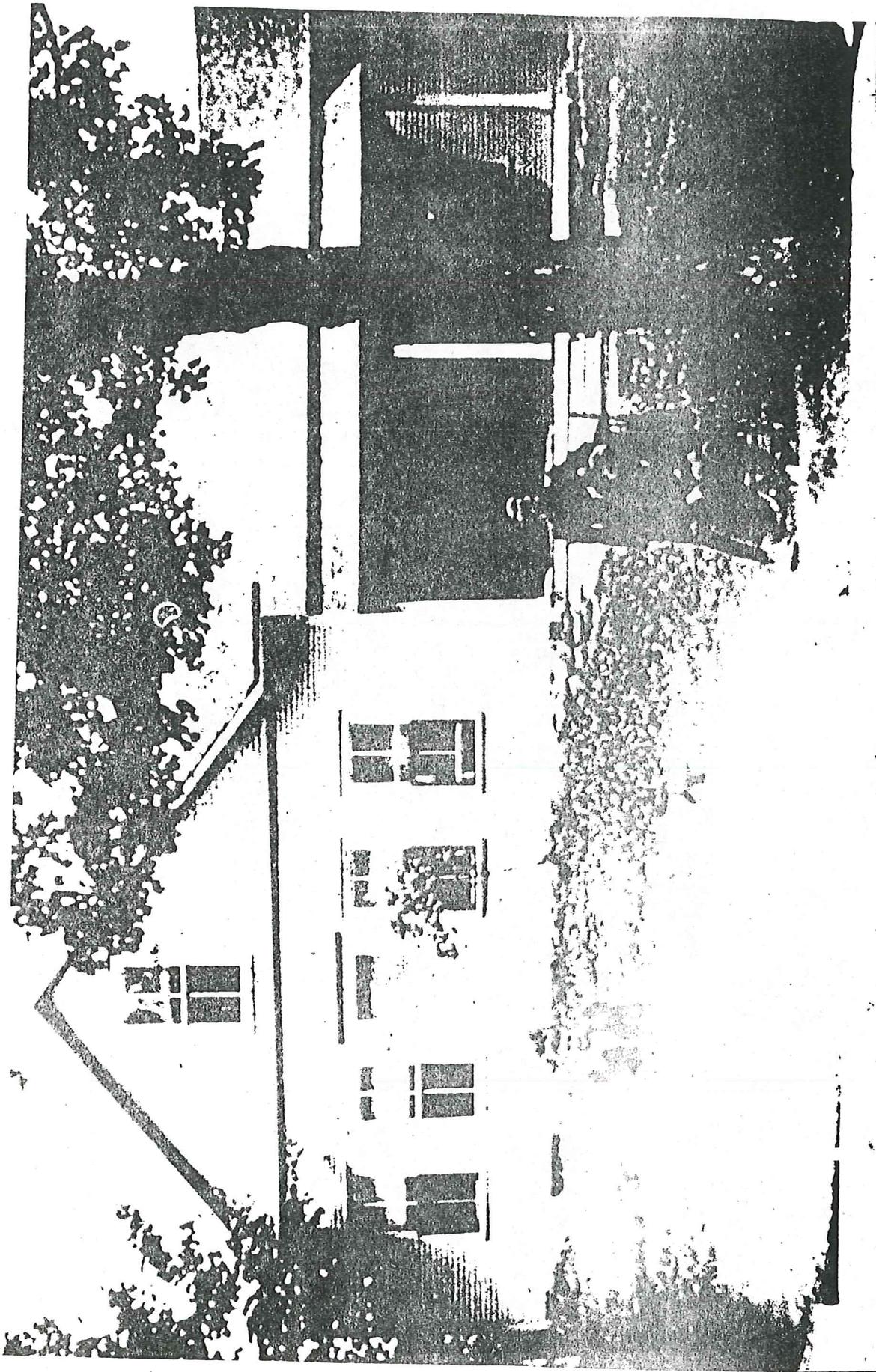


Property purchases by Camp Johnson in West Bolton

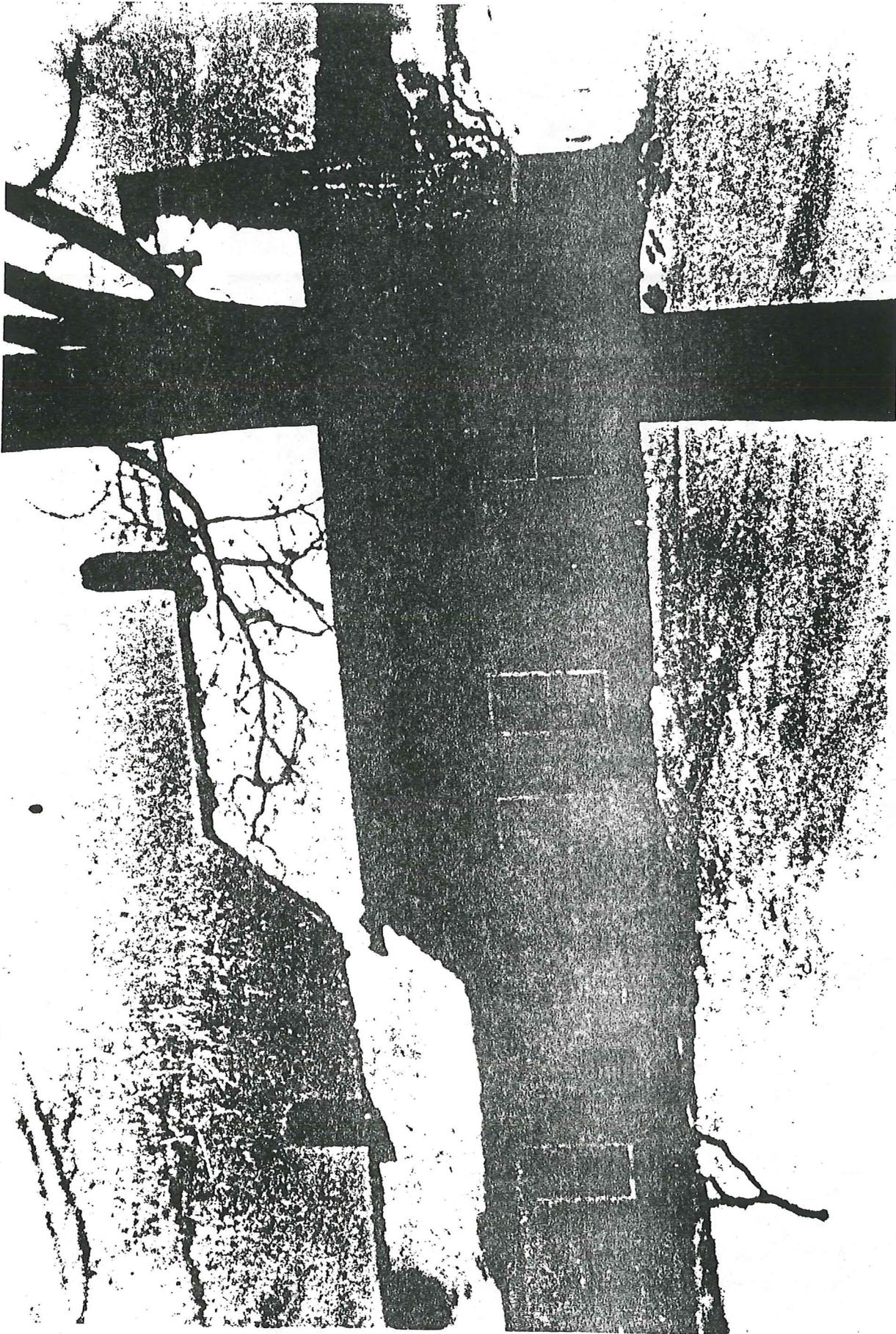
R-200	W. Miller	1.5
R-201	R.E. Miller	1.5
R-202	E.T. Hill	5.2
R-203	W.C. Stevens	1.1
R-204	L.H. Smith	5.2
R-205	H.R. Stebbins	9.2
R-207	W. Stratton	1.5
R-213	R.E. Moore	22.7
R-214	C.M. Stebbins	22.7
R-215	W.A. Wheeler	58.0
R-216	W.A. Wheeler	18.0
R-217	W. French	38.0
R-218	R.E. Moore	25.8
R-219	E.S. Bryant	39.8
R-221	J.H. Wheeler	26.7
R-222	R.H. Fuller	23.7
R-223	International Paper Co. Inc.	9.8
R-225	A.C. Bennett	8.3
R-226	Vt. Baptist St. Convention	6.2
R-228	IP Co. Inc.	1.0
R-229	Town of Bolton	1.0

Jones Farm on Jones Lane, off West Bolton Road, looking southwest. Bolton Notch in the right background. (Upper right of map.)

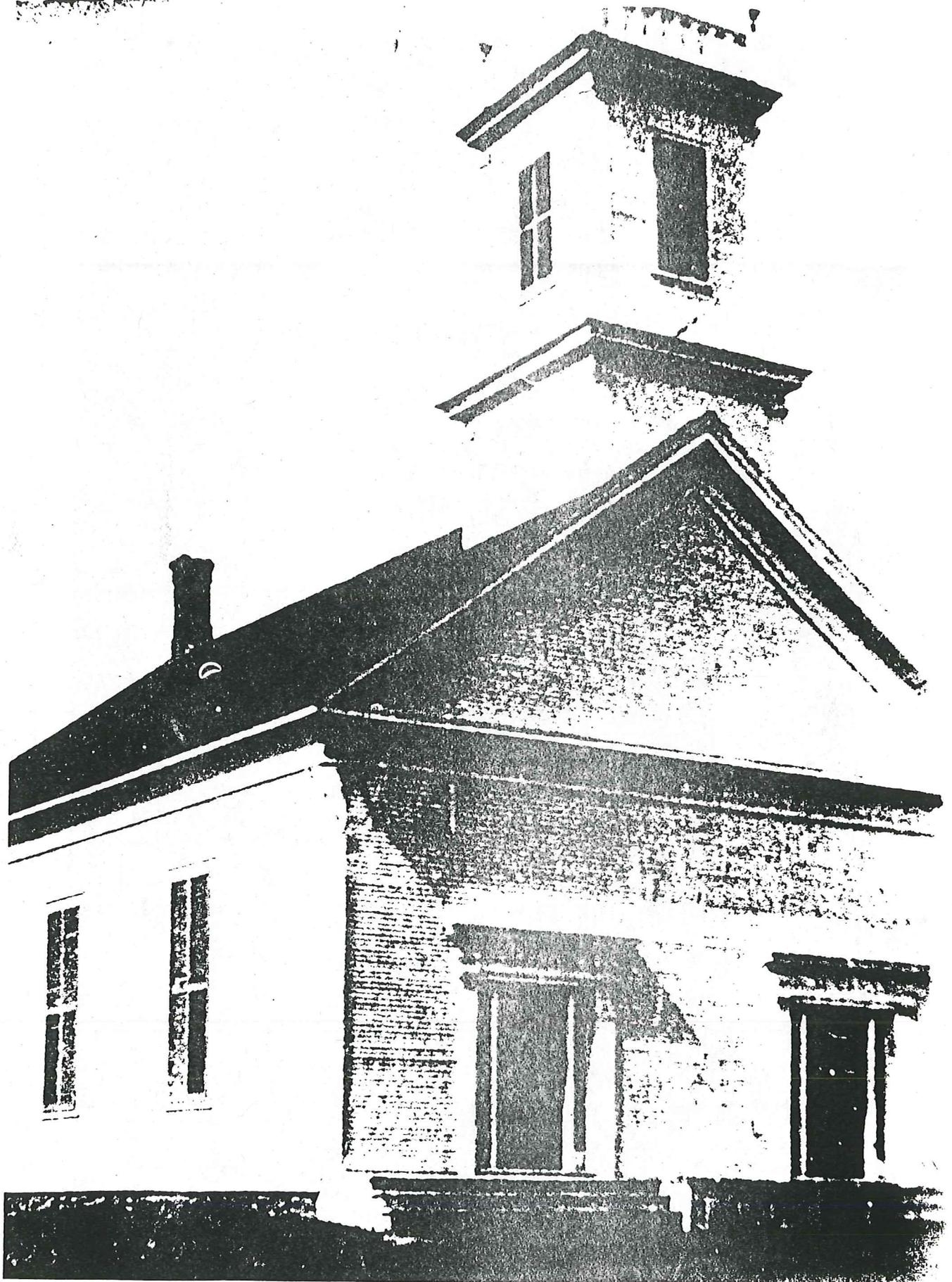




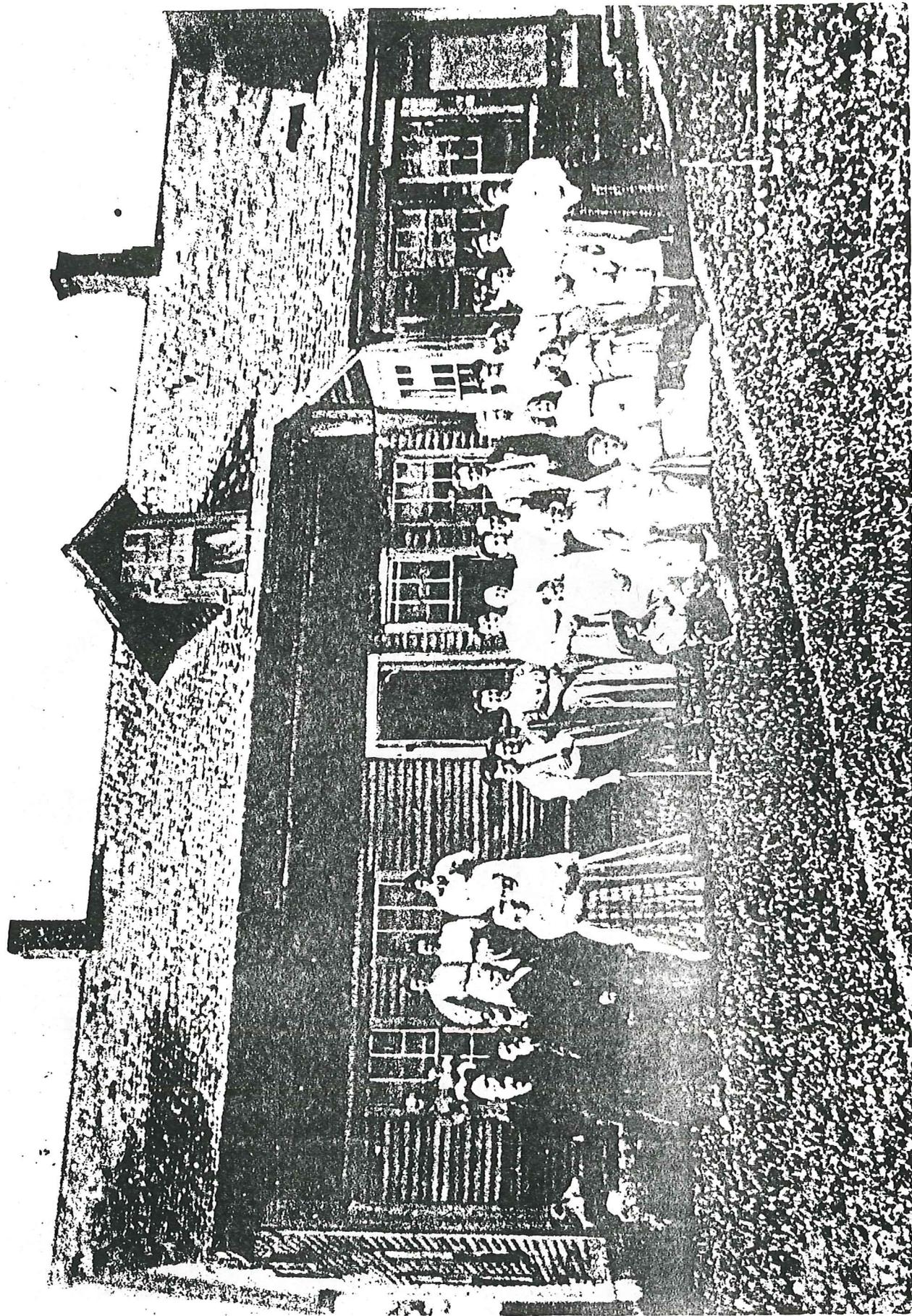
Giles Farmhouse on West Bolton Road between cemetery and Jones Lane on east side of road. (Map shows H. Hall; Giles family were owners of the large sawmill.)



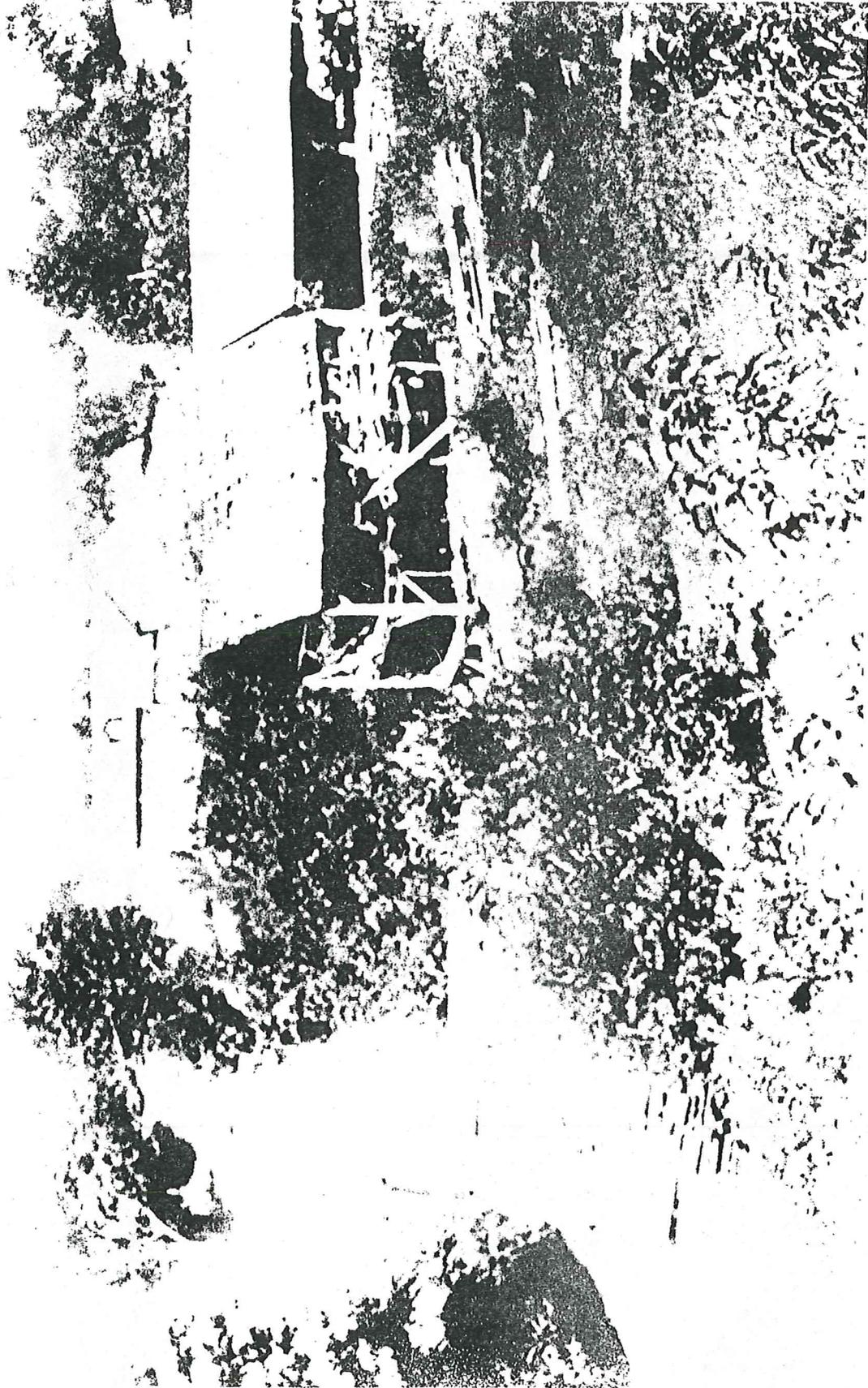
Grandmother Giles' house, West Bolton Road across from cemetery. (Map shows Baptist Parsonage.)



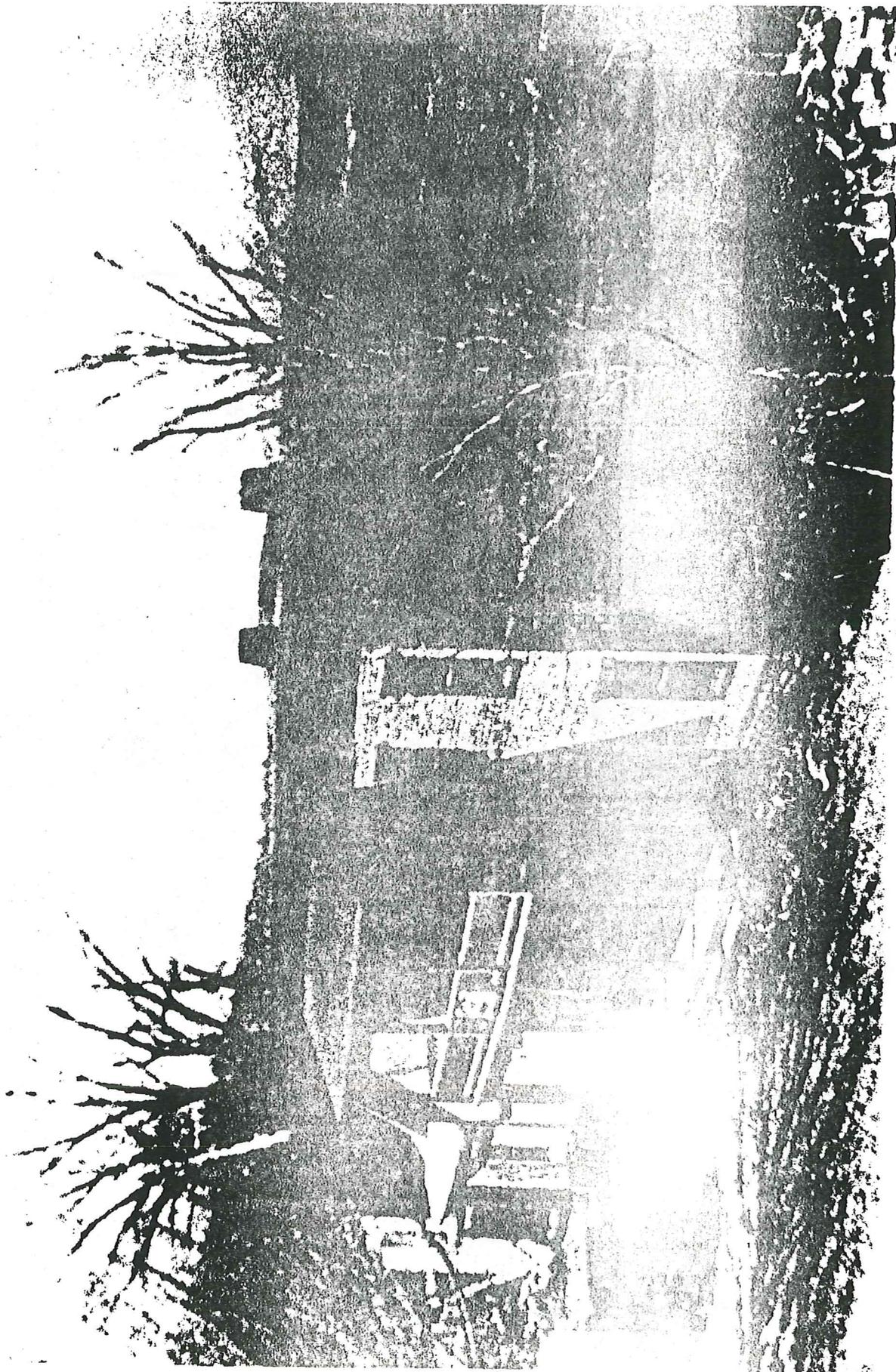
Baptist Church



Jim Smith House, West Bolton Road north of Mill Brook bridge on right side of road; barn on left. (Map shows M.L. Colton.)



Looking north. Giles sawmill at Mill Brook. Baptist Church roof can be seen in upper left. Smith and Morgan places.



Store in West Bolton, south of Mill Brook. Former owners were Dewey Nash and Ed York. Zen Wheeler's wife was a York.



Looking south from Baptist Church area in West Bolton, through Bolton Notch. From a postcard, Mrs. Dewey Nash. Back of general store is in the foreground. Note clearcutting of forests.



Giles Barn, West Bolton Road, 300 yards north of cemetery. Gene Davis' house is past the barn.

1882-1883

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

—OF—

CHITTENDEN COUNTY.

EXPLANATIONS.

Directory is arranged as follows:—

1—Name of individual or firm.

2—Postoffice address in parenthesis.

3—The figures following the letter r indicate the number of the road on which the party resides, and will be found by reference to the map in the fore part of this work. Where no road number is given the party is supposed to reside in the village.

4—Business or occupation.

5—A star (*) placed before a name indicates an advertiser in this work.

6—Figures placed after the occupation of a farmer indicate the number of acres owned or leased.

7—Names in CAPITALS are those who have kindly given their patronage to the work, and without whose aid its publication would have been impossible.

 For additional names, corrections and changes, see *Errata*.

ABBREVIATIONS.—Ab., above; ave., avenue; bds., boards; bet., between; cor., corner; E., east; h., house; l., lot; manuf., manufacturer; N., north; n., near; opp., opposite; prop., proprietor; reg., registered, as applied to live stock; S., south; s., side; W., west.

The word *street* is implied.

BOLTON.

- Agan Patrick, (West Bolton) r 2, farmer 100.
Ashley Samuel, (Jonesville) r 10, laborer.
Atchinson Julius Henry, (West Bolton) r 4, dairy 7 cows, and farmer, leases of William Gordon 150.
Bacon Richard, (West Bolton) r 6, blacksmith.
Bemis Oliver, (Jonesville) r 16, physician.
BENNETT MARCIUS A., (West Bolton) r 4, farmer 50.
BERRY CHARLES M., (Jonesville) r 6, farmer 130.
Berry Robert C., (Jonesville) r 6, farmer 200.
Besse Orrin, (Jonesville) r 16, laborer.
BISHOP HENRY H., (Bolton) r 11, prop. of Bishop Hotel, farmer, leases of Samuel Bishop 400.
BISHOP HOTEL, (Bolton) r 11, H. H. Bishop, prop.
Bishop Samuel, (Bolton) r 11, retired merchant, owns farm of 400.
Bohonnon William A., (West Bolton) r 6, dairy 10 cows, sugar orchard, and farmer 300.

- Brown Joseph, (West Bolton) r 6, laborer.
 Burke Peter E., (Bolton) r 13, section hand, C. V. R. R.
 Burnes Ambrosia Mrs., (West Bolton) r 4, h and lot, leases of Wm. Gordon.
 Burns Heman, (West Bolton) r 3, blacksmith.
 Casey Matthew, (West Bolton) r 1, farmer 100.
 Chase Aurora L. Mrs., widow of Cassius, r 4, h and lot.
 Chase Cassius N., (West Bolton) r 1, shoemaker.
 Chase George S., (West Bolton) r 1, teamster.
 Church Truman T., (West Bolton) r 4, farmer 75.
 Clough Lyman J., (Jonesville) r 6, farmer 100.
 Colby James A., (Bolton) r 7, farmer 100.
 COLTON EDWIN N., (West Bolton) r 2, lumber and shingles, farmer 50,
 and 800 wood land.
 Corven John, (Jonesville) r 6, farmer 200.
 Cox Andrew L., (Jonesville) r 18, farmer, leases of Ira Sayles, of Jonesville,
 200.
 Davis Eugene, (W. Bolton) r 2, farm laborer.
 Davis Perley J., (North Duxbury, Wash. Co.) r 13, farmer 100.
 DEAVITT SAMUEL, (Jonesville) r 16, farmer 200.
 Delhanty Patrick, (North Duxbury, Wash. Co.) r 13, farmer 40.
 Dower Edmond W., (Jonesville) r 19, sugar orchard 300 trees, farmer 140.
 Drinkwine John, (Jonesville) r 15, works for C. V. R. R.
 Eaton Henry, (Bolton) off r 15, farmer, leases of Capt. Gleason 1,200.
 Farnsworth Lyman D., (West Bolton) r 2, dairy 8 cows, farmer 90, and 100
 mountain land.
 Fay Caroline Mrs., (West Bolton) r 3, widow of Orange L., farmer 125.
 Field Sarah Mrs., (West Bolton) widow of E. W., r 2, farm 80.
 Flury Fred, (Bolton) r 17, laborer.
 GILE LOREN J., (West Bolton) r 4, manuf. lumber and shingles, own
 wood lot 110.
 GILE NATHAN, (West Bolton) r 3, lumber, packing boxes and furniture.
 GILE RILY W., (W. Bolton) r 2, manuf. of lumber, cheese boxes and but-
 ter tubs, farmer 30, and mountain lot 50.
 Gill George W., (Bolton) r 7, farmer 4.
 Gill Henry N., (Bolton) r 11, laborer.
 Gillitt L. Henderson, (Jonesville) r 15, dairy 13 cows, farmer 100, and 280.
 mountain land.
 Gillitt Polly Mrs., (Jonesville) r 15, widow of Heman, farmer 17.
 Goodwin Joseph, (Bolton) r 7, laborer.
 Gordon William, (West Bolton) r 4, farmer 45.
 Gregory Edward H., (Jonesville) r 10, farmer 200.
 Gregory John, (Jonesville) r 6, farmer 75.
 Guyette Angeline Mrs., (West Bolton) r 1, farmer 50.
 HALL EDWIN, (West Bolton) r 4, mail carrier from West Bolton to Jones-
 ville, mason, and farmer 1.
 HALL FRED W., (West Bolton) r 3, postmaster, superintendent of schools,
 3rd selectman, dealer in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, hardware,
 medicines, etc.
 HALL SMITH A., (West Bolton) r 2, cooper.
 HAPGOOD GEORGE F., (Jonesville) r 9½, son of John.
 HAPGOOD JOHN, (Jonesville) r 9½, overseer of the poor, dairy 14 cows,
 and farmer 225.
 Harrigan David, (Bolton) r 11, section hand C. V. R. R.

Harrington John, (Bolton) r 12, peddler.
 Harris Rufus, (West Bolton) r 2, farmer 85.
 Hasford Orwell J., (West Bolton) r 4, farmer.
 Hayden Martin V. B., (Bolton) r 12, dairy 11 cows, farmer 175.
 Hill Oria W., (Bolton) r 7, carriage maker with Chas. Perkins.
 Hurlbert William L., (West Bolton) r 6, retired preacher.
 JENNINGS ORIN Z., (Jonesville) r 19, farmer 40.
 Jones Byron, (West Bolton) r 3, laborer.
 Jones Stephen S., (West Bolton) r 6, farmer 30.
 Kelley Lawrence, (West Bolton) r 5, farmer 200, leases of E. F. Whitcomb, of Essex, Vt.
 Lackyard Mitchel, (West Bolton) r 2, dealer in country produce.
 Lancor Frank, (West Bolton) r 9, farmer 100.
 LARNED CHARLIE G., (Bolton) r 7, (Spaulding & Larned.)
 Lewis Joseph, (Bolton) r 14, laborer.
 Lewis Joseph 2d, (Bolton) r 14, farmer.
 Locke Parran C., (West Bolton) r 9, farmer, leases of J. H. Smith.
 Maltby Loton H., (West Bolton) r 4, farmer 50, 100 acres wood land in Jericho.
 May Harmon J., (Bolton) r 13, laborer.
 May Horace, (West Bolton) r 2, farmer 100.
 May John V., (Bolton) r 13, laborer.
 McCabe James, (Bolton) 2 7, section hand C. V. R. R., farmer, leases of D. Tracy 100.
 McMannis William, (Bolton) r 15, laborer.
 McGinnis Thomas, (Bolton) r 11, dairy 35 cows, farmer 300, and 350 wood-lot.
 Morey Francis W., (Bolton) r 7, laborer.
 Morgan Oscar J., (West Bolton) r 6, teamster, and farmer 10.
 Morse Charles G., (Bolton) r 7, lumberman.
 Morse Edgar, (North Duxbury, Wash. Co.) r 12, dairy 10 cows, and farmer, 275 mountain land, and leases of Pinneo estate 220.
 Morse George B., (Bolton) r 12, lumberman.
 Morse George P., (Bolton) r 11, lumberman.
 MORSE RUSSELL J., (North Duxbury, Wash. Co.) r 13, lister, school director, dairy 10 cows, and farmer 130.
 Pease Chester, (West Bolton) r 1, stone mason.
 Pease George A., (West Bolton) r 2, sawyer.
 Pease Smith N., (West Bolton) r 6, dairy 12 cows, and farmer 121.
 PERKINS CHARLES, (Bolton) r 7, blacksmith and carriage maker.
 PERRY ALHANAN, (West Bolton) r 3, dairy 10 cows, and farmer for Mrs. C. Fay.
 Perry Lucy, (North Duxbury, Wash. Co.) r 12, resident with Sally Pinneo.
 Phillips John, (Bolton) r 11, 2d selectman, justice of peace, dairy 35 cows, farmer 200.
 Phillips Thomas, (West Bolton) r 6, farmer 75.
 Pinneo Sally Miss, (North Duxbury, Wash. Co.) r 12, lives on the old home-
 stead.
 Plant Paul, (Bolton) r 11, laborer.
 PRESTON NOAH, (Jonesville) r 16, dairy 16 cows, and farmer 232.
 Preston William, (Jonesville) r 16, son of Noah.
 Ragon Michael, (North Duxbury, Wash. Co.) r 13, railroad section hand.

**THE BLUE STORE, 85 CHURCH ST., BURLINGTON, VT.
 SMITH & PEASE, FASHIONABLE CLOTHIERS.**

- Raynolds Samuel R., (Jonesville) r 18, laborer.
 Raymond Joseph, (Jonesville) r 18, farmer.
 Ross Frank, (West Bolton) r 9, carpenter and joiner.
 Ryan John, (Bolton) r 11, section boss C. V. R. R., owns h and lot and wood lot 20 acres.
 RYAN WILLIAM, (Bolton) r 13, farmer 123.
 SABENS BROS., (Jonesville) r 6, (Ransom J., Elisha B., Elijah H., Allen M.,) dairy 5 cows, and farmer 340, mountain lot 150.
 SABENS JOHN C., (West Bolton) r 4 cor 3, general merchant.
 SABENS RANSOM J., (Jonesville) r 6, (Sabens Bros.)
 SABINS CHARLES F., (Bolton) r 15, brakeman on C. V. R. R., highway surveyor, farmer 41.
 Simmons Fred H., (Bolton) r 7, sawyer in C. P. & G. W. Stevens' mill.
 Smith Joseph H., (West Bolton) r 5, dairy 8 cows, and farmer 100.
 SMITH HENRY M., (Jonesville) r 16, dairy 11 cows, and farmer 200, leases of John A. Deavill, of St. Albans, Vt.
 SPAULDING LEONARD G., (Bolton) r 7, (Spaulding & Larned.)
 SPAULDING & LARNED, (Bolton) r 7, (Leonard G. Spaulding and Charlie G. Larned,) prop's. steam saw-mill.
 Stackpole Charles H., (St. Albans, Franklin Co.) r 13, brakeman C. V. R. R.
 Stackpole Henry R., (North Duxbury, Wash. Co.) r 13, farmer 150.
 Stevens Charles C., (Bolton) r 13, dairy 45 cows, and farmer, leases of L. D. Whitcomb 600.
 STEVENS C. P. & G. W., (Bolton) r 7, (Charles P., of Troy, Vt., and Geo. W.,) saw-mill, hard wood and spruce lumber and clapboards, 1,600 acres of wood land.
 STEVENS GEORGE W., (Bolton) r 7, (C. P. & G. W.,) farmer 19.
 STOCKWELL ELEAZER, (Jonesville) r 18, dairy 10 cows, and farmer 235.
 Stockwell Norman, (Jonesville) r 18, farmer, son of Eleazer.
 STOCKWELL SYLVESTER, (Jonesville) r 18, dairy 14 cows, and farmer 250.
 Streeter Jasper, (West Bolton) r 3, manuf. of shingles.
 STREETER LOREN, (West Bolton) r 1, laborer.
 Streeter Nathan, (West Bolton) r 3, laborer.
 Streeter Wallace, (West Bolton) r 4, butcher, and farmer 30.
 Swasey Dudley, (North Duxbury, Wash. Co.) r 13, retired farmer.
 Tobin James, (Bolton) r 7, farmer 50.
 Tomlinson George W., (West Bolton) r 1, laborer.
 Tomlinson Harley E., (West Bolton) r 9, farmer 60.
 Tomlinson Hollis P., (West Bolton) r 3, carpenter and joiner, millwright.
 TOMLINSON JERROD G., (West Bolton) r 1, manuf. butter tubs, cheese boxes, measures, bail boxes, etc.
 Tomlinson Samuel Chase, (West Bolton) r 2, carpenter and joiner, and farmer 25.
 TOWERS PERRY L., (West Bolton) r 2, local agent for spring tooth harrow, dairy 15 cows, and farmer 165.
 TRACY DANIEL W., (Bolton) r 7, manuf. common lumber, shingles, and spool stock, and farmer 140, and 250 mountain land.
 Tracy Israel, (Bolton) r 7, laborer.
 Trombley Joseph, (Jonesville) r 19, laborer.
 Webster Henry B., (West Bolton) r 1, laborer.

Masquerading Parties will find a large line of Masks, Dominoes, &c., at H. E. Salls', Burlington, Vt.