

1933

A study of the depopulation of the small towns in Windham County, Vermont

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A STUDY OF THE DEPOPULATION OF THE
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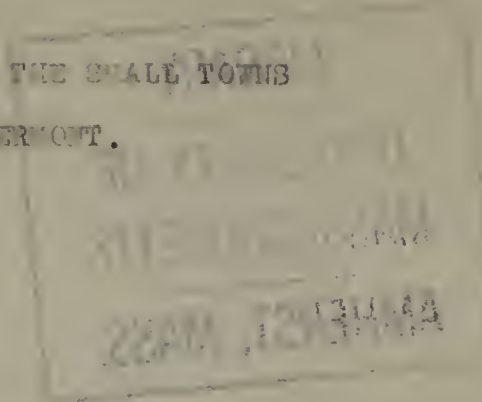


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A STUDY OF THE DEPOPULATION OF THE SMALL TOWNS
IN WINDHAM COUNTY, VERMONT.



By

LAURI S. ROTKA.

Thesis submitted for degree of Master of Science
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION.

This study was made to determine the extent of migration from the small towns in the County of Windham, State of Vermont; to discover reasons for the migration of folk from these towns; and to discover if the migration has been selective in its effect upon the rural population.

During recent years the migration of people within the United States has been on such a vast scale that the older sections of the country are threatened with complete depopulation unless there should come some stimulus that will curb the tide. Although there is a tide back to the country sections at present, the fear persists that this tide is only of temporary nature, and that as soon as economic conditions improve, the tide will again reverse and flow toward the city. As the causes for movement of population in the nation are known--the westward movement and the development of industrial centers being the most outstanding--in Chapter V the Windham County depopulation will be correlated with the national population changes.

Vermont has probably had to suffer more from the tide of migration within her borders than most of the other states--first during the early Westward movement and then, later, during the movement from the farm to the city. There are places in Vermont, especially in the towns to which this investigation was restricted, where one comes upon an old stone wall, miles from the nearest road, probably crumbled and tossed here and there as if by some giant, and covered by vines. If one's curiosity is aroused and

he investigates still further, one will find a ruined cellar hole with remnants of lilac bushes still marking the rim. And, if one spends a little time in contemplation he will realize what all this means. Here stands the remains of a farm-house, settled by hardy men and women who had to struggle with Nature to secure a living. They cut timber, plowed virgin soil, struggled from early morning until late night to keep alive. What happened?! The younger generation was not satisfied with this mode of living-- they migrated. It is the purpose of this paper to present a picture of the process of depopulation that has gone on in these small town sections of the County.

The data for this study was gathered during the course of the year in the towns of Athens, Brookline, Dover, Dummerston, Crafton, Guilford, Halifax, Londonderry, Jamaica, Newfane, Somerset, Stratton, Townshend, Wardsboro, and Windham. These fifteen towns give a good cross-section of the entire county, as there are only twenty-three towns in Windham County; in Chapter IV the precise degree to which these towns are representative will be shown.

A questionnaire was used in gathering a great deal of the information that is to be presented in this report. Also, the relatives of many of the people that had migrated were personally questioned. One hundred and thirty families were studied and information received concerned two hundred and eighty-six persons, sixteen years of age or over, either living in another part of the county, or having left the county for another part of the State or another part of the United States. Other facts were gathered from leading men in the towns represented by the study

and from the United States Census reports, and Windham County
Gazettes.

CHAPTER II

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWNS STUDIED.

I. Athens is a small irregularly outlined town situated in the northeastern-central part of the county. It is bounded on the north by Grafton, on the east by Rockingham and Westminster, on the south by Brookline, and on the west by Townshend.

The town has a very uneven surface, although we discovered that the elevations are not generally abrupt and consequently afford a good, productive soil. The town is, however, much better adapted to grazing than to tillage. The natural growth is beech, birch, maple, ash, basswood, hemlock and spruce.

The only stream of any great importance in Athens is Bull Brook, which, with its tributaries, flows along a northerly course through the eastern part of the township. One of the tributaries of this brook originates in Athens Pond, a body of water about thirty acres in extent and lying in the western part of the town. Lily Pond, another small body of water lying in the southwestern part of the town, derives its name from the large quantities of water lilies that grow in it.

The principal rock entering into the geological structure of the territory is of gneiss formation, although small beds of steatite and azoic limestone have been found. Considerable quantities of calciferous mica schist are found in the southwestern part of the township. Traces of gold have been discovered in the west part. (I)

II. Brookline, one of the smallest towns from the standpoint of population that entered into my survey, is irregularly out-

lined and lies in the eastern part of the County. It is bounded on the north by Athens, on the east by Westminster and Putney, on the south by Dunmerston, and on the west by Newfane and Townshend, being partly separated from Newfane by the West River. The town receives its name from Grassy Brook, which flows through the town in almost a straight line from north to south. Brookline covers an area of about eight miles in length and from one-half to two and one-half miles in width--including a total area of about six square miles.

A deep valley runs through the entire township from north to south; at the bottom of which is Grassy Brook, so named by the first settlers who found an open meadow near its head. The stream rises, however, in Athens and falls into West River, near the southwestern corner of Brookline. Along the whole eastern line of the town is an extensive elevation--one of the peaks of which rises to an height of about eleven hundred feet. The soil of the territory is generally rich and productive; but is, like that of Athens, better adapted to grazing than to tillage.

The predominant rock entering into the geological structure of the town is calciferous mica schist although considerable quantities of gneiss are found in the western part. On some of these farms are found springs whose waters are impregnated with medicinal qualities. (I)

III. Dover, another town in my list, is small and is located in the western-central part of the County. It is bounded on the north by Dardsboro and a small part of Stratton, on the east by Newfane, on the south by Marlboro and Wilmington, and on the west

by Somerset.

The surface of the town is broken and uneven, the soil being better adapted to grazing than to the raising of grain. However, there are many tracts of arable, productive land and these are utilized to their fullest extent. Through the western part of the town flows a large branch of the Deerfield River which also has several good sized tributaries. Rock River, the second stream of any great importance in Dover, flows a southwesterly course through the eastern part of the town.

Rocks of gneiss and talcose schist formation, the latter underlying the eastern, and the former the western portions, make up the geological structure of the territory. An extensive bed of serpentine lies in the eastern part and traces of gold have been discovered in the same locality. (I)

IV. Dummerston lies in the eastern part of the county and is bounded on the north by Putney and Brookline, on the east by the left bank of the Connecticut River, on the south by Brattleboro, and on the west by parts of Newfane and Marlboro. The town has an area of about nineteen thousand three hundred and sixty acres.

Although there are large tracts of level, excellent farming land in the town, the surface is, in many parts, broken and uneven. Dummerston meadows are noted for their fertility. The principal elevations are Black mountain which is of granite formation and is found in the central-southern part of the town, Spaulding and Leverwood hills found in the northern part, and Stoddard hill which is found in the western part. The scenery

of the town is of the finest in the county--the picturesqueness of the White River Valley being proverbial. Many points of view are afforded that are grand in the extreme. The principal stream is White River which flows a southeasterly course through the western part of the township. In the eastern portion of the territory we find tributaries of the "placid" Connecticut. Aside from going far toward making up the scenic beauties of the town, these several streams offered many excellent mill-sites.

The rocks entering into the geological structure of the territory are principally of the calciferous mica schist and clay-slate formation, the former underlying the western and the latter the eastern portions. I have already mentioned the granite formation of Black Mountain. This granite is white, flecked with black mica and is extensively used for building purposes, monuments, etc, etc. Beds of primitive limestone are found in parts of the town--and specimens of tremalite, limpid quartz and galena, or the sulphuret of lead, are also found. (I).

V. Grafton, one of the larger towns of the County, is of irregular outline and is located in the center of the northern tier of towns of the County. It is bounded on the north by Chester, in Windsor County, on the east by Rockingham, on the South by Athens and Townshend, and on the west by Windham.

The surface of the township is very uneven although we find much fine, arable land in the valleys and on the hill-slopes. Although the town is much better adapted to grazing than tillage, we find that all grades of grain and grasses are grown to advantage. Saxtons' River forms the principal water-course of the

township--and is formed here by the union of several branches. The river flows a southeasterly course into Rockingham. A branch of Williams River flows an easterly course through the northern part of the town and is nearly parallel to the north line. These two streams afford numerous very good mill-sites or privileges.

From a geological point of view, the chief rock entering into the structure of the town is of gneiss formation. However, there is a large bed of steatite located in the southern part and this bed has been quarried to a great extent. In connection with this deposit of steatite are found fine green laminated talc, chlorite, potstone, and crystals of actynolite and bitterspar. The potstone is of a greenish gray color and is less frangible than the steatite. The crystals of actynolite are large and of a high green color. Those of bitterspar are of different sizes, presenting rhomboidal surfaces and are found embedded in the steatite. They are usually perfect, but are not transparent. Their color is a light gray, and their lustre more pearly than that of calcareous spar. Cyanite, or sapphire, is also found--this being of a light blue color and usually is in compressed hexagonal prisms in mica slate. Garnets abound both in talcose and in mica schist. Hornblende is very common. Some of the other types of stone that are found in this township are the sulphuret of iron (found in small brown cubes), plumose mica or mica slate, limpid quartz in transparent crystals, greasy and milky quartz, schorl, and precious serpentine. Gold also has been discovered in small quantities. (I)

VI. Guilford is located in the southeastern part of Wind-

ham County and is bounded on the north by Brattleboro, on the east by Vernon, on the south by the State of Massachusetts, and on the west by Halifax. The township has an area of about twenty-three thousand and forty acres.

Guilford is very hilly but not what might be termed mountainous--the only "mountain" being "Gov. Mountain." East Mountain, so called, which extends the whole length of the town north and south, is the largest hill. The town has a naturally rich and deep soil, with a sufficient mixture of earth to make it warm, and, at the same time, to prevent its leaching. The lower lands and plateaus form excellent farms for tillage, while the hills afford excellent grazing levels. The natural growth of timber is made up of maple, hemlock, walnut, beech, birch, ash, basswood, butternut, and elm, while occasionally we find black oak, lucust, and sycamore.

Green River, the principal stream in the township, flows southerly through the western part of the territory. Broad Brook, a smaller stream, flows an easterly course through the southern part of the territory. There are two small streams, branches of Broad Brook, which run north, one through the center of the town, and the other at the foot of East Mountain, on the west side. Both of these streams afford excellent sites for mills.

The rocks that make up the geological aspect of the town are mica slate, lying in light ledges, interspersed with strata of quartz and running from north to south. The former contains a large quantity of impure garnets and some good specimens of each

crystal are found. Quartz and schorl, in various mixtures, are found--some having the appearance of lava. On the east side of the town is a range of argillaceous slate which has been wrought into roofing slate. On every hand we discover rolled rock of granite, from huge masses to small pebbles. In some localities we find limestone and bog-iron-ore but neither sufficiently pure or plentiful to warrant their manufacture. (I)

VII. Halifax, one of the most difficult of towns to reach, lies in the southern part of the county and is bounded on the north by Marlboro, on the east by Guilford, on the south by Colrain, in the State of Massachusetts, and on the west by Whitingham. This township, like Guilford, has an approximate area of twenty-three thousand and forty acres.

The surface of the town is very rough and uneven although there are no elevations of sufficient altitude to warrant their being designated as mountains. Even though we find much land that is unfit for purposes of cultivation on account of the brokenness of the terrain, there are many fine farms and much fine land that possesses a rich, arable soil. This fact makes the soil in general well adapted to the production of grass thereby making the town a fine grazing territory. The prevailing timber is mostly beech, birch, maple, ash, hemlock and spruce.

The principal streams found in the township are the North and Green River. The latter flows a southeasterly course through the southeastern part of the town while the former flows an easterly course through the northern part of the township. Branch Brook, which unites with North River, flows a southerly course

through the center of the town. All of these streams have several tributaries which afford a number of excellent mill-sites. On Branch Brook is a succession of cascades extending about one hundred rods along its course, each of which is from fifteen to twenty feet in height and all are overlooked by the projecting rocks as one ascends the stream. These present a wild and beautiful scene. The rocks entering into the geological structure of the territory are of gneiss, talcose schist, and calciferous mica schist formation. (I)

VIII. Jamaica, one of the towns that has severely suffered from the process of migration (as my figures will later show) lies in the northern part of the county. It is bounded on the north by Londonderry Town and Windham, on the west by Stratton and Winhall, on the east by Townshend, and on the south by Wardsboro. The township is quite large, having an area of about twenty-nine thousand and seventeen acres.

The town has a surface that is mountainous and very uneven--the elevations being quite rocky. The soil is, in general, however, warm and productive. Some of the principal elevations are as follows: Sage Hill, in the southwestern part; South Hill, in the southern part; Shatterock Mountain, in the northern-central part; and Turkey Mountain in the northeastern part of the Township.

West River, the principal stream of the Township, and one of the principal streams of the county, flows a southerly course through the town. Together with its numerous tributaries, this river affords numerous excellent mill-privileges. Jamaica and

Adams ponds are small sheets of water, the former lying in the southern and the latter in the northeastern part of the town. Almost every mountain, valley, and stream that helps make up the town, abounds in beautiful and interesting scenery. To speak of any particular point would perhaps provoke a storm of protest. However, one cannot help but refer to one spot that goes a long way toward making Jamaica one of the beauty spots of the entire State of Vermont. I refer to Hamilton Falls, in the northern part of the town. Here Cobb Brook tumbles and leaps from the bosom of a beautiful meadow--over an almost perpendicular ledge into a narrow gorge nearly two hundred feet below. Then along this gorge the stream winds its way to West River. Dim indeed must be the eye that fails to brighten at the beautiful vision that one sees spread before him as one stands upon the brink of the fall and looks down upon the tops of the tallest trees of the valley.

From the point of view of the geologist, the structure of the town is chiefly made up of rocks of gneiss and talcose schist formation. The former underlies the western and the latter the eastern portions of the town. The eastern part of the town has yielded small quantities of gold ore. (I)

IX. Londonderry Town, the end of the railroad that runs from Brattleboro, lies in the northwestern corner of the county and is bounded on the north by Landgrove, in Bennington County, and Weston and Andover, in Windsor County, on the east by Windham, on the south by Jamaica, and on the west by Landgrove and Winhall, in Bennington County.

Although the surface of the township is broken and uneven, there still remains a great deal of fine, arable land which is made up of warm, easily cultivated soil. The alluvial lands along the West River are considered especially good for farming purposes. The West River, with its several tributaries, forms the chief water course of the territory and flows a southerly course through the center of the town into Jamaica. The river is joined by Winhall River and Utley Brook from the west and a good sized mill stream from the east. Upon this mill stream, located in the northern part of the town, is found Lowell Lake, a fine large pond and about it a smaller body of water known as Lily Pond. (I)

X. Newfane Town, known as the Shire Town of the County, is located in the central part of the same. It is bounded on the north by Townshend and a part of Brookline, on the east by Brookline and Dummerston, on the south by Marlboro and a small part of Dummerston, and on the west by Dover and Wardsboro. This township, like some of the others that entered the investigation, has an area of about twenty-three thousand and forty acres.

Although the town has no elevation that would deserve to be designated as a mountain, the surface is broken by numerous high hills and deep valleys. These afford many magnificent views and many beautiful landscape pictures. There is little or no broken or waste land that is suitable for purpose of cultivation. The intervalles afford excellent tillage lands while the uplands are inferior to none in the State for grazing purposes.

The principal streams that are found in the township are

the Wantasiquet, commonly known as the West River, which flows through the eastern part of the town in a southerly direction; the South Branch, so-called, which rises in Dover and, after having been joined by a number of tributary streams, passes through the southerly part of the town and empties itself into the West River near the eastern boundary of Newfane; Bakers' Brook, a tributary of the South Branch, rises in the township of Wardsboro and joins up with the South Branch in Williamsville; and Souths' Brook which also rises in the township of Wardsboro and, running through the entire northerly part of the town of Newfane, empties itself into the West River.

The town presents an interesting subject to the student of geology, for here are found numerous varieties of rock. The territory is principally of mica slate and of hornblende structure, although few continuous ranges can be traced with certainty. Granite is very plentiful here, boulders and rolled masses of it being scattered in profusion over every part of the town. This probably is a result of the great drift period! However, these boulders are skillfully split and are wrought into fence posts and building blocks. Hornblende is a very common rock and forms a range that extends through the entire length of the town. Mica slate, by far the most common rock, forms the summits and frequently the sides of the hills and is very common even in the valleys. In the northern part of the town are found extensive strata of mica slate which are wrought into flagging stones after they are quarried. Chloride-slate also occurs in the town and in this are often found embedded splendid specimens of garnet.

It is interesting to note that in 1827 a nugget of native gold, weighing eight and one-half ounces was discovered in the town. It was of conical shape and had adhering to it a number of small crystals of quartz. The nugget was discovered in alluvium consisting of thin strata of sand, clay, and water-worn stones. At the time the gold was discovered it was supposed to have been accidentally lost by a band of counterfeiters who formerly resided in the immediate neighborhood. There was some suspicion in regard to this theory, however, as the operations of the counterfeiters were confined exclusively to the manufacture of silver coins. Moreover, gold at that early period had not been discovered elsewhere in New England but since then, as it has been discovered in Somerset, Plymouth, Bridgewater, and other places in Vermont, the theory exists that the nugget originally lay in the bed of serpentine and talcose slate that is found in the western part of the town, near the head waters of the South Branch, and was swept out of place by some freshet and deposited in the alluvium some six miles below. (I)

XI. Somerset, another of the smaller towns in the survey, is located in the western part of Windham County and is bounded on the north by Stratton, on the east by the township of Stratton and Dover, on the south by Searsburg, in Bennington County, and on the west by Glastonbury, also in Bennington County. This township, like many of the others, also contains an area of about twenty-three thousand and forty acres, or a tract of about six miles square.

The surface of the town is not very uneven, except in the

eastern part where we find a range of high hills or mountains, the highest point of which is Mac Mountain and the highest point of this lies in Dover. The soil that goes to make up Somerset is mostly a black loam which is capable of producing excellent crops of grass, oats, and potatoes and affords excellent opportunity for fine grazing farms. The township has many streams almost all of which afford good mill privileges. The principal streams are the east and west forks of the Deerfield River which flows a southerly course into Searsburg.

The township is chiefly made up of a rock of gneiss formation although there is a large bed of granite in the central part of the town. Traces of gold have been discovered in the western part of Somerset and a good marble quarry exists on Mac Mountain. (I)

XII. Stratton, the most depopulated of the towns that are a part of this survey, is located in the northwestern corner of the county. It is bounded on the north by Winhall, in Bennington County, on the east by Jamaica and Wardsboro, on the south by Dover and Somerset, and on the west by Sunderland, also in Bennington County. The township originally contained an area of about twenty-three thousand and forty acres but in 1799 Stratton Gore was annexed which increased the size of the township.

The township is located in perhaps the most hilly section of the county, for the surface is extremely irregular and mountainous, so much so that in some places it is unfit for habitation. The few cultivated farms are found mostly in the eastern and southern portions where there is land that is arable and re-

pays the toil of the farmer. Deerfield River, perhaps the principal stream in the township, flows south into Somerset after having risen in the central part of the town. Black Brook, which rises in Bennington County, is the principal tributary of Deerfield River found in Stratton. Pond Brook has its source in Grout Pond and flows a southerly course, uniting with Meadow Brook which also flows a southerly course, into Somerset. Several other small streams are found all of which flow east into Wardsboro. All of these streams afford excellent mill privileges. Grout Pond, the largest body of water in Stratton, covering an area of about one hundred acres, lies in the southern part of the town. The rocks that enter into the geological structure of the town are almost entirely of gneiss formation. (I)

XIII. Townshend Town, one of the most interesting of all the towns surveyed, and the one that the investigator is most intimately acquainted with, lies in the northern-central part of the County. It is bounded on the north by portions of Athens and Grafton and Windham, on the east by Athens and Brookline, on the south by Newfane and a part of Brookline, and on the west by Jamaica and a part of Wardsboro. This town, also, originally included an area of about twenty-three thousand and forty acres but this area was greatly increased in 1840 by the annexation of the town of Acton.

The surface of the town is very broken and uneven, many of the hills being high and steep. However, there are large areas of good farming land, especially along the valley of the West River. This river flows in a southeasterly direction through

the town, entering it at about the center of the Jamaica line and leaving it on the line between Brookline and Newfane. West River is joined by Negro Brook from the south, and Simpson, Joy and Acton Brooks from the north.

Gneiss and talcose-schist, the former predominating while the latter is found only in the western part, are the principal rocks that make up the geological structure of the territory. In the northern part is a bed of sacchroid azoic limestone, and in the eastern part is located a bed of stealite. (I)

XIV. Wardsboro Town lies in the western part of the county and is bounded on the north by Jamaica, on the east by parts of Townshend and Newfane, on the south by Dover, and on the west by Stratton.

Wardsboro, like Stratton to a certain extent, has a very uneven surface, with a high range of hills lying between the town and Dover. In some places the terrain is very rocky. The soil is much better adapted to grazing than it is for tillage, although there are some tracts of land that have a good, arable soil. The principal streams that help make up the geographical description of the town are the Whetstone Brook with its numerous tributaries, and a large branch of White River. Both afford excellent mill-sites!

The rocks entering into the geological structure of the township are of gneiss and talcose-schist formation. The former is found in the western part and the latter in the eastern parts of the territory. There are some rare minerals among the most important of which are tremolite and zoisite. The former is in fine

crystals, sometimes six inches long, penetrating the quartz. The latter is found in prismatic crystals, sometimes a foot in length and from one to two inches in width. (I)

XV. The last town in the list that was surveyed is Windham which is located in the northwestern part of the county. It is bounded on the north by parts of Andover and Chester, both in Windsor County, on the east by Grafton and a small part of Townshend, on the south by portions of Townshend and Jamaica, and on the west by Londonderry.

Like most of the other towns that made up this survey, the surface of this town is uneven, Glebe Mountain extending nearly the entire length of its western border. Turkey Mountain lies in the southern portion and we find high hills in both the northern and eastern parts. However, the central part of the township is quite level and, notwithstanding the brokenness, there are many tracts of level, arable land that afford excellent sites for farms. Windham Township is well watered, although the streams are small and consist mostly of branches and tributaries of Williams, Saxtons' and West Rivers.

Although there are considerable beds of hornblende schist and gneiss in the extreme eastern parts and gneiss in the extreme western parts, the principal rocks that make up the geological structure of the territory are of talcose-schist formation. Beds of limestone serpentine, and steatite are found throughout the town. In the southern part we find gold existing in small quantities. (I)

CHAPTER III

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWNS STUDIED WITH A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COUNTY.

I. As Windham County consists of twenty-three separate townships and as my study included fifteen of these (a good majority), it seems advisable to give a brief history of the County itself before I begin a history of each individual township.

Probably no county in the entire State of Vermont excells Windham County in points of scenic beauty and surely none can equal it in points of historical interest. There is hardly a mountain, river, or streamlet, throughout its entire length and breadth, that has not clustered about its name a wealth of historical lore over which the historian delights to linger. There are traditions that have inspired the pen of the poet, novelist, and historian to works of rare grace and beauty. The sons of Windham County, too, from the very earliest who broke the solitude and quietness of the forest, have always held a prominent place in the ranks of patriotism, honor, and letters. However, it is impossible to attempt a full and detailed history here as part of this report, and one must be satisfied with only an outline of the principal events connected with the history of this beautiful territory.

As part of the Laws of Vermont, passed in October 1780, we find the County of Cumberland referred to as being divided into the half-shires of Cumberland and Gloucester. The division line was identical with the northern boundary of what is now Windsor County. But, by an act of Legislature, passed in February 1781

"for the division of counties within the State" the County of Cumberland as it had been established in 1778 and 1779 was subdivided into the Counties of Windham, Windsor, and Orange. (General Laws 43). Windham County was established as including all the land of Cumberland County lying south of a line "beginning at the southeast corner of Springfield, thence running westerly on the south line of said Springfield and Chester, to the east line of Bennington County." (II), (I)

Since its establishment in 1781, Windham County has had no important changes in respect to its area! Thus it exists today, located in the southeastern corner of the State of Vermont, being between thirty-six miles long from north to south and twenty-eight miles in width from east and west. The County contains an area of about seven hundred and eighty square miles or about five hundred and thirty-nine thousand and two hundred acres. It is bounded on the north by Windsor County, on the east by the Connecticut River, on the south by Franklin County in the State of Massachusetts, and on the west by Bennington County.

The population of Windham County as a whole has increased and decreased, being naturally affected by the change in number of population of its towns. The changes in the population from 1790 to 1930 are shown in both the table and graph following.

TABLE I

Population of Windham County, Vermont and Small Towns in
Windham County, at Each Census since 1810, Inclusive,
Showing the Loss and Gain.

Year	Population of County	Population of Towns Studied
1810	26760	14396
1820	28457	15971
1830	28748	17109
1840	27442	14600
1850	29062	14794
1860	26982	13498
1870	26036	11906
1880	26763	11010
1890	26547	9407
1900	26660	8658
1910	26932	7823
1920	26373	6510
1930	26013	5969

These figures obviously show that since the high peak of population had been reached in 1850, the number rapidly decreased to twenty-six thousand in round numbers, about which figure it has remained since then, however, a gradual decrease taking place at each census. On the other hand, however, it is noticeable that the population in the small towns has steadily declined. The apparent stability of the County population in spite of the decline in farm town population, is explained by the increase that has taken place in towns like Brattleboro where the population advanced from 8332 in 1920 to 9416 in 1930.

It is interesting to note the decrease that has taken place in the County in the total number of farms that existed between the years 1870 and 1930.

GRAPH I

Showing the Curve of Population in Windham County of Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive.

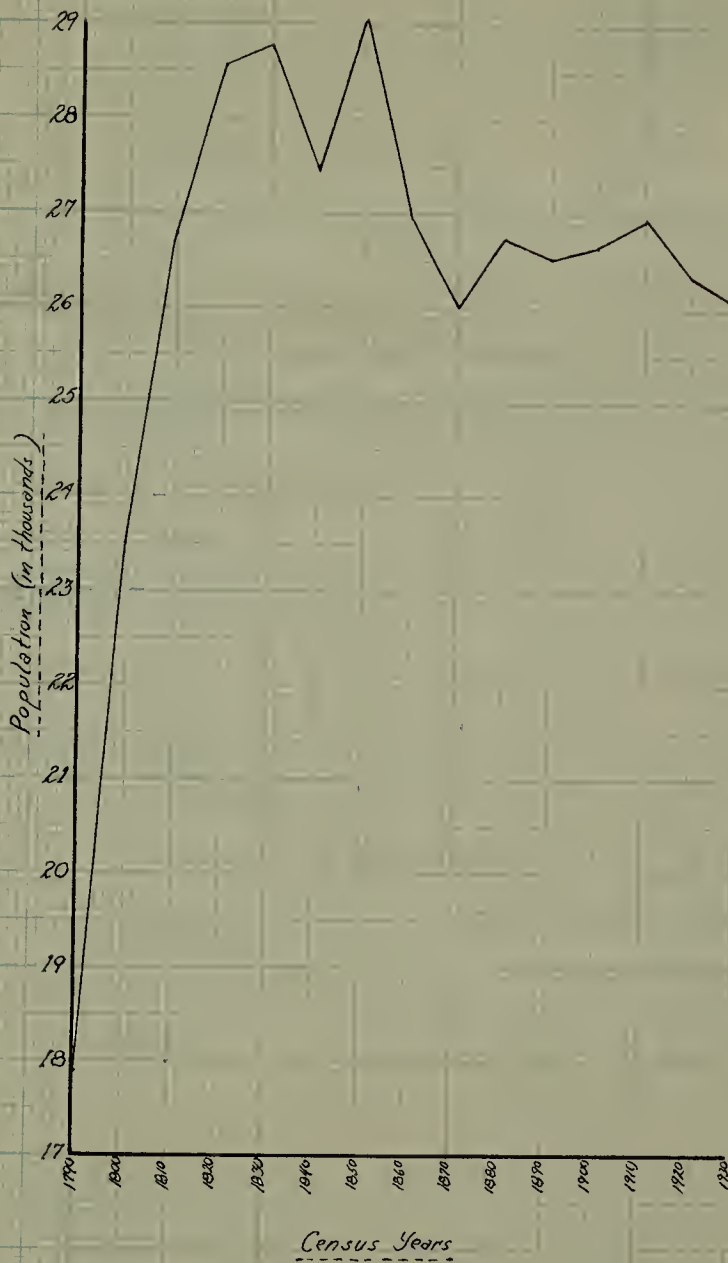


TABLE II

The Total Number of Farms in Windham County Between the Years 1870 and 1930.

Year	Total Number of Farms
1870	3162
1880	3224
1890	2857
1900	2765
1910	2553
1920	2103

The decrease can be explained by the total disappearance of the old industries in the small towns. All the towns had saw-mills, some had other lines of industry. These have disappeared resulting in migration from these towns--or a change of occupation. A change of occupation has resulted in a union of some of the smaller farms so as to form one large farm--again tending to decrease the number of population. The uniting of the farms that has taken place is clearly shown by the following table.

II. Athens. The first attempt toward a settlement of the Town of Athens was made in the year 1779 when some pioneers came on, cleared a few acres of land, erected a log hut and then left town. However, some of these pioneers returned the following year and brought their families with them. They took possession of the log house and the original group was soon joined by a few more settlers.

It was during this year, on March 11, 1780 that the town was granted an area of nine thousand two hundred and twenty-eight acres by the State of Vermont. This grant was formally made on May 3rd, 1780 to Solomon Harvey, John Moore, Jonathan Perham and sixty-three others. On the 27th of October, 1794, a portion of

TABLE III

The Number of Farms in Windham County Classified According to Acreage, between the Years 1860 and 1930

Year	3 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 49	50 - 99	100 - 449	500 - 999	1000-over
1860	48	103	468	1,121	1,365	5	1
1870	168	164	473	913	1,424	7	1
1880	141	127	386	680	1,848	37	3
1890	106	119	302	548	1,742	36	4
1900	112	105	314	502	1,668	54	10
1910	170	120	263	469	1,449	66	16
1920	131	78	226	405	1,186	65	12
1930	97	64	152	301	974	65	12

the town was set off, thereby forming the town of Brookline, and some years later, on October 30th, 1816, another portion was set off to Grafton. On November 2, 1846, however, a part of Rockingham and a part of Grafton were annexed to Athens, making the area of the town that which it is today, namely, eight thousand three hundred and thirty six acres. (I)

The population of Athens, revealing the increases during the years but showing, more obviously, the decrease that has taken place, is presented in both the following table and graph.

TABLE IV

Population of the Town of Athens at Each Census since 1790, Inclusive, Showing the Loss and Gain.

Year	Population
1790	450
1800	459
1810	478
1820	507
1830	415
1840	378
1850	359
1860	332
1870	295
1880	284
1890	205
1900	180
1910	201
1920	123
1930	132

These figures clearly show how the town of Athens has steadily decreased in population--having reached its maximum number in 1820 and then decreasing until, in 1930, we have a population of 132.

III. Brookline. The first settlement in Brookline was made about 1777. On the thirtieth of October, 1794, however, the town

GRAPH II

Showing the Curve of Population in Athens at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive.



was incorporated, as it was then set off from Athens and Putney. On October 25, 1804, another part of Putney was annexed, and again on November 12, 1820, a small part of Weyfane, on the east-erly side of West River, was annexed, so that the town now has an area of about seventeen square miles. (I)

The steady decline in the population of Brookline is clearly brought out in both the following table and the graph.

TABLE V

Population of the Town of Brookline at Each Census Since 1800, Inclusive, Showing the Steady Decline.

Year	Population
1800	472
1810	431
1820	391
1830	376
1840	328
1850	285
1860	243
1870	203
1880	205
1890	162
1900	171
1910	137
1920	105
1930	101

Upon first thought it is difficult to understand why Brookline, with its fairly rich and productive soil, very well adapted to grazing, has continually suffered a decrease in population. But, one clearly understands the cause as he discovers that Brookline has lost its saw-mills and its grist-mills--resulting in a change of occupation to one that is not as financially productive as the previous.

IV. Dover. This town was settled mainly by emigrants from the State of Massachusetts who moved into the "New State", as

GRAPH III

Showing the Curve of Population in Brookline at Each Census Since 1800, Inclusive.



Vermont was then called. The first settlement was made in June, 1780 by (as has been said) immigrants from Milford and Sturbridge, in Massachusetts. The town was formerly a part of Wardsboro, which was granted by Vermont to William Ward, of Newfane, and sixty-two others on November 7th, 1780. On October 18th, 1781, however, the town of Wardsboro was divided into two districts, North and South Wardsboro, and on October 30, 1810 South Wardsboro was incorporated into a separate town by the name of Dover. Tradition tells us that at the time of the separation or establishment of the territory into a separate town, it was a moot question as to what name the new town should bear. A man named Amos Hayward said "call it after my dog, Dover." The suggestion was adopted and as Dover the town has since been known.(1)

Dover, like Brookline, has suffered from a steady decline in population. The following table and graph illustrate this clearly.

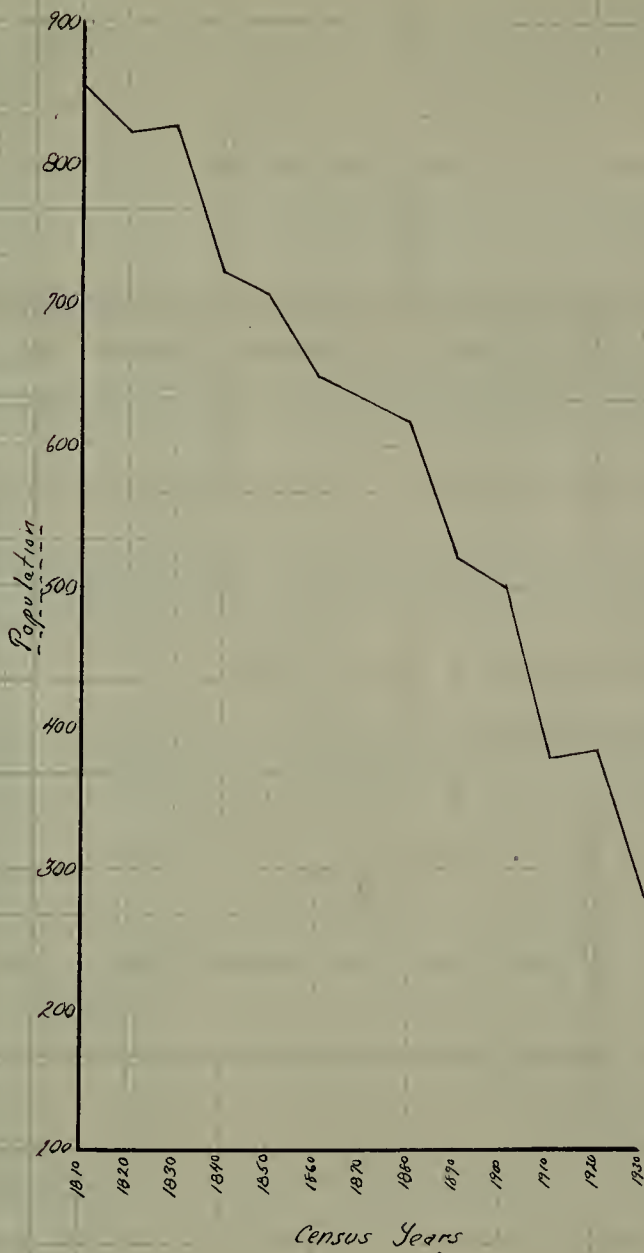
TABLE VI

Population of the Town of Dover at Each Census Since 1810, Inclusive, Showing the Steady Decline.

Year	Population
1810	859
1820	829
1830	831
1840	729
1850	709
1860	650
1870	635
1880	621
1890	524
1900	503
1910	377
1920	385
1930	278

GRAPH IV

Showing the Curve of Population in Dover at Each Census Since 1810, Inclusive.



There are only two periods during the history of Dover wherein the population increased at all. These periods are between the years 1320 and 1330 and between the years 1910 and 1920. The increase during these is so slight, however, that one can safely say that Dover has steadily declined in its rate of population since the census report of 1310.

V. Dummerston. Dummerston originally was a part of the Equivalent Lands and was named in honor of William Dummer, one of the principal proprietors. Joseph Blanchard, of Amherst, New Hampshire, was sent to survey the territory in 1750. After the completion of his survey and report, the proprietors of the Equivalent Lands petitioned the Governor of New Hampshire for a confirmatory grant of that tract and a portion of the adjacent territory. "Accordingly, on the 26th of December, 1753, the "Equivalent Lands," together with a "considerable quantity of other lands, was (sic) formed into three townships, beginning at the north bounds of Winsdale, on the west side of the river, and extending back about six miles, and so far up the river" as to enclose the required amount. These were divided into the township of Fulham, Putney, and Brattleboro. (1) The township of Fulham, often spelled Fullham and Fullua in old documents, later gained the name of Dummerston, although it is not known at just what date the change took place. We find, indeed, that even as late as 1773 the territory was known by both names. The original charter gave the territory an area of nineteen thousand three hundred and sixty acres.

Shortly after the township of Fulham had been granted the

charter, a man named John Kathan, who had resided within the limits of the town since the year 1752, purchased in conjunction with a number of persons, a part of the township. In 1764 Kathan came to the town, bringing with him "his wife and seven or eight helpless children". Hall, says of him "Possessing the qualities of industry and perseverance, qualities especially necessary to the successful management of a new settlement, he addressed himself with energy to his task, and did actually clear and improve about a hundred and twenty acres, and built a good dwelling house, barn and all necessary offices, and also a saw-mill and potash works." In order to make his improvements secure, Kathan built a fort around his house and was "under the disagreeable necessity of residing therein during the course of a tedious and distressing war." (III) After suffering a great many misfortunes, among which was having his daughter kidnapped by the Indians, John Kathan with his associates rapidly began to accomplish the conditions of the charter deeded to the township. Moreover, we find that as early as 1752 a ferry was established between Westmoreland, New Hampshire and the proprietary of Dummerston and about the same time a similar method of communication was established between Dummerston and the town of Chesterfield. The town was organized in 1771.

The population of Dummerston increased from 159 souls in 1770 to 1704 in 1810, the latter figure representing the population of the town at its most industrious period. Since that day the population has declined as the following table and graph will illustrate.

TABLE VII

Population of the Town of Dummerston at Each Census Since 1770, Inclusive, Showing the Loss and Gain.

Year	Population
1770	189
1780	not available
1790	1501
1800	1592
1810	1704
1820	1653
1830	1592
1840	1263
1850	1645
1860	1021
1870	916
1880	816
1890	860
1900	726
1910	643
1920	570
1930	604

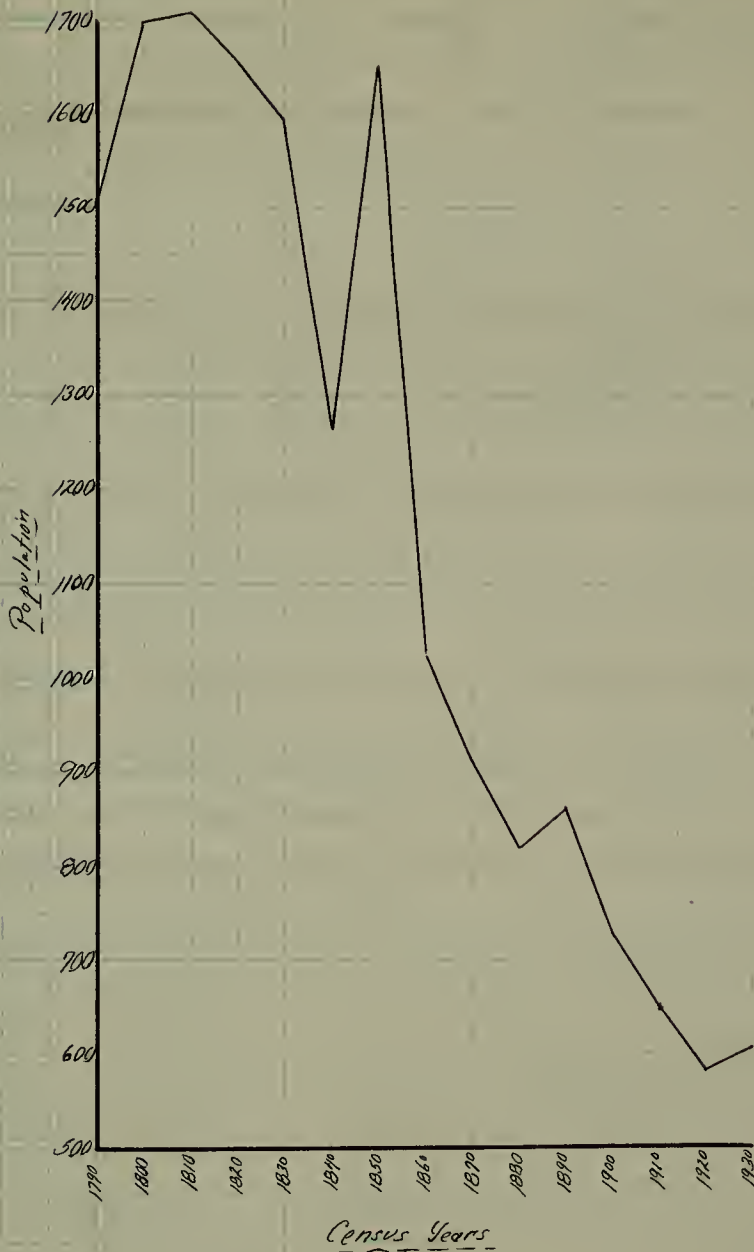
These figures clearly show that since 1850 the population of Dummerston has rapidly and steadily declined. We have from other sources that this loss was due to the westward movement taking place during the latter half of the nineteenth century, and to the movement toward the newly founded industrial center, the city.

VI. Grafton. The township was originally granted by the State of New Hampshire, on April 8th, 1754, to Jonathan Whitney, William Holt, Nathan Harris, Philip Goodridge and sixty-one associates. At the time of this grant the territory was known as Thomlinson, and this charter was the last granted by New Hampshire previous to the outbreak of the French War.

Due to a failure to comply with the requirements of the charter, the original one was replaced by a new charter granted

GRAPH V

Showing the Curve of Population in Gummerston at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive.



on the first of September, 1763, to the same persons who held the former. The name Thomlinson was retained until 1788 when we find that the letter "h" was omitted for some cause or other. On October 31, 1791, however, the name was changed to Grafton. The circumstances leading to this change are interesting. Child, says (1) "Many of the citizens of the town were anxious to have the town named after the town from which they originated, and to give each an equal chance it was decided to put the name of the town up at auction; and on the 31st day of October, 1791 it was sold". Joseph Axtell, being the highest bidder, for the sum of five dollars, had the pleasure of naming the town Grafton, he having removed from Grafton, Massachusetts.

The charter designated that the township was to be divided into sixty-four shares and was to contain a total area of six square miles. On October 20, 1816, however, a part of Athens and Avery's Gore were annexed to it and later, on November 2, 1846 a part of the township of Grafton was set off to Athens. Although there is evidence that the town was organized in 1761, the first town meeting on record was held in 1783.

The following table and graph show the increase in the population up to the census of 1820, from which date the population has steadily declined. The increase between 1810 and 1820 can be accounted for by the annexation of part of Athens, while the decrease between 1840 and 1850 can be, in a large extent, accounted for by the setting off of a part of the town to Athens.

TABLE VIII

Population of the Town of Grafton at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive, Showing the Gain and Loss.

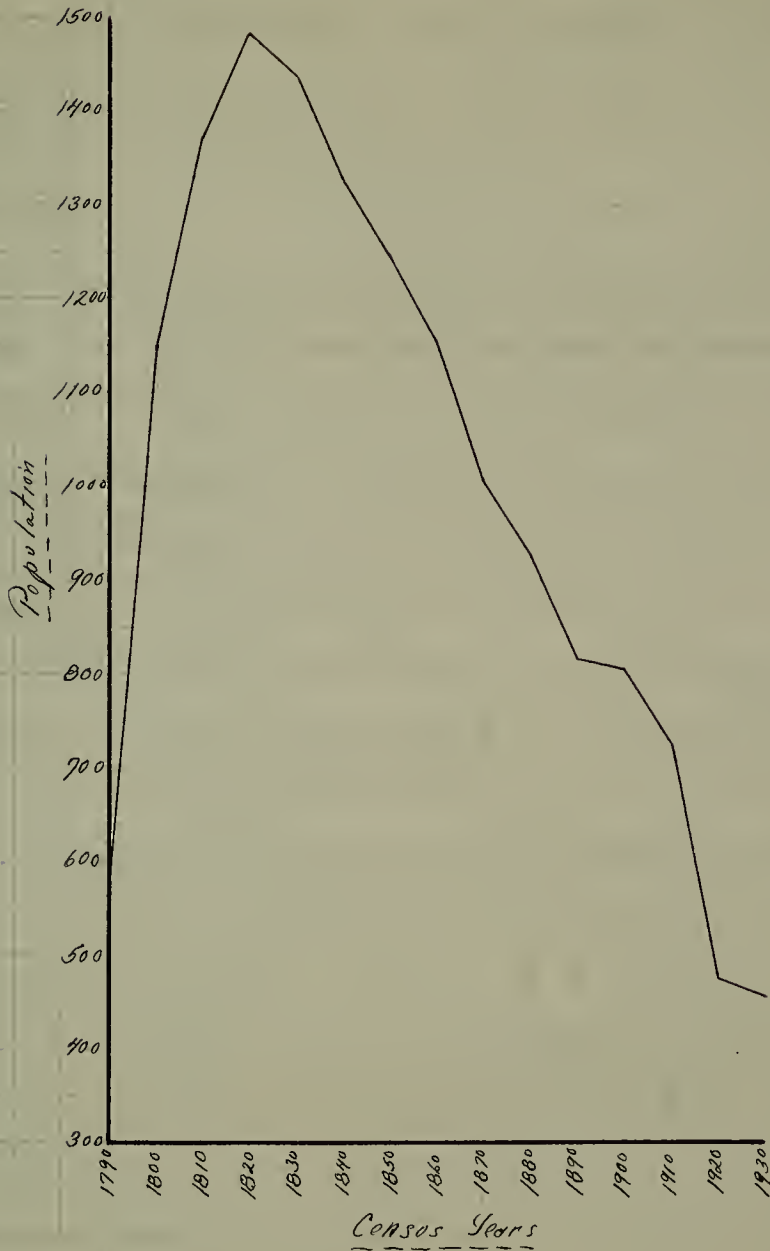
Year	Population
1790	561
1800	1149
1810	1365
1820	1482
1830	1439
1840	1326
1850	1241
1860	1154
1870	1008
1880	929
1890	817
1900	804
1910	729
1920	476
1930	453

VII Guilford. The town was originally chartered by the State of New Hampshire on the second of April, 1754 to fifty-four proprietors. These were mostly from the State of Massachusetts. Thomson, says in regard to this grant.

"When granted, the town was a perfect wilderness, yet by the charter, the grantees were to hold their first meeting for the choice of officers, etc, on the first of May, 1654, and on the first Tuesday of March, ever afterwards. It seems that the town was first organized by and under the very grant itself. Power was given to the grantees to transact the business of the town as a majority shall see fit, subject only to the control of the parliament of England. This enterprising band, composed of Samuel Hunt, John Chandler, David Field, Elijah Williams, Micah Rice, Isa Carpenter and others, having little to fear from the nominal power of parliament, in the wilderness of

GRAPH VI

Showing the Curve of Population in Grafton at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive.



Vermont, assumes the title, which was virtually created by their charter, of a independent republic. By the records of their first meetings they appear to have been governed by certain committees, chosen for the purpose of surveying the lands, laying roads, drawing the shares on lots, taxing the rights, etc., but their greatest object was to procure and encourage settlers. Their meetings were held at Greenfield, Northfield, Hinsdale, or Brattleboro, until 1765, when their first meeting was held at Guilford. There was a condition which, if not performed, went to defeat the grant. The grantees were to settle, clear and cultivate, in five years, five acres for every fifty, in said township. Although much time and money was (sic) spent in making roads and clearing lands, yet on the 20th of March, 1764, the grantees, by a special committee chosen, petitioned the governor of New Hampshire for a confirmation of their grant, and an extension of the time, stating that the intervention of an Indian war had made it impracticable for them to fulfill the conditions of their charter. Their prayer was granted and the time for settling the town was extended to the 1st of January, 1766.

"From the time the charter was confirmed in 1764, the town began to be rapidly settled by emigrants from Massachusetts and other New England states. Through the policy of the original proprietors, the first settlers began upon lots of fifty acres, in order to fulfill the condition of the grant. So rapid was the increase of population, that the town soon became the largest in the state as to numbers. Yet there was not a single village in the township, or rather the whole township was a village--all

the hills and valleys were smoking with huts. By the charter three hundred fifty acres were called a share, and all the proprietors shared alike. The reservations in the charter consisted of one whole share to the society in England for propagating the Gospel in foreign parts, one for the first settled ministers of the Gospel, and one whole share for a glebe for the ministry of the Church of England, as by law established. The Governor was not unmindful of his own interest. He reserved five hundred acres, to be located by itself, for his own. The town was laid out into fifty and one hundred acre lots. The public rights were fairly located, but that of the royal Governor fell upon the only mountain in town, which still bears the name of authority, Governor Mountain. Although no reservation was made in the grant for the use of schools, yet one whole share was located for that purpose. This was a just and generous act of the proprietors, but it was not the same liberality that governed them when they located, sold and settled one whole tier of one hundred acre lots north beyond the extent of their charter. That was the case, however, and the same is held by the town to this day. All the pine trees suitable for masting the royal navy were reserved to his Majesty. This shows the attention the English paid to the navy. One hundred miles from the ocean, where no such timber grew, was that reservation made. What has been related, with a little 'proclamation money', was the price of the charter." (V)

In order to give some idea of the laws passed by the old republic of Guilford, we quote the following, passed during the

year 1777:--

"Voted, Not to let any person vote in this meeting, but such as have forty pounds real or personal estate.

"Voted, That any person who shall, for the future, pretend to hold lands by bush fence possession, shall be dealt with by the town as a breaker of the peace, and a riotous person, etc.

Attest

Elijah Welch, Town Clerk." (I)

Trouble arose as to whether Guilford was to become a part of the new State of Vermont, or the State of New York. Meetings were held by the different factions agitating for the separate ideas--social order was at an end; physicians were not allowed to visit the sick without a pass from the several committees; relatives and neighbors were arrayed against one another. Such was the case in the summer of 1783 when General Ethan Allen was directed to call out the militia for enforcing the laws of Vermont and for suppressing insurrection and disturbances in the county of Windham. Allen, at the head of one hundred Green Mountain Boys, proceeded from Bennington to Guilford and on his arrival at the latter named place issued the following proclamation:--

"I, Ethan Allen, declare that unless the people of Guilford peaceably submit to the authority of Vermont, the town shall be made as desolate as were the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, by God!"

In March of 1791, the town was, for the first time, duly organized under the laws and constitution of Vermont. Since

this year there has been nothing remarkable in the history of the town. The inhabitants have supported the character of free and independent farmers, are very jealous of their rights, and have always been known for their strong prepossessions in favor of the political school of Jefferson.

The increase and decrease in the population of Guilford is illustrated in both the following table and graph.

TABLE IX

Population of the Town of Guilford at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive, Showing the Gain and Loss.

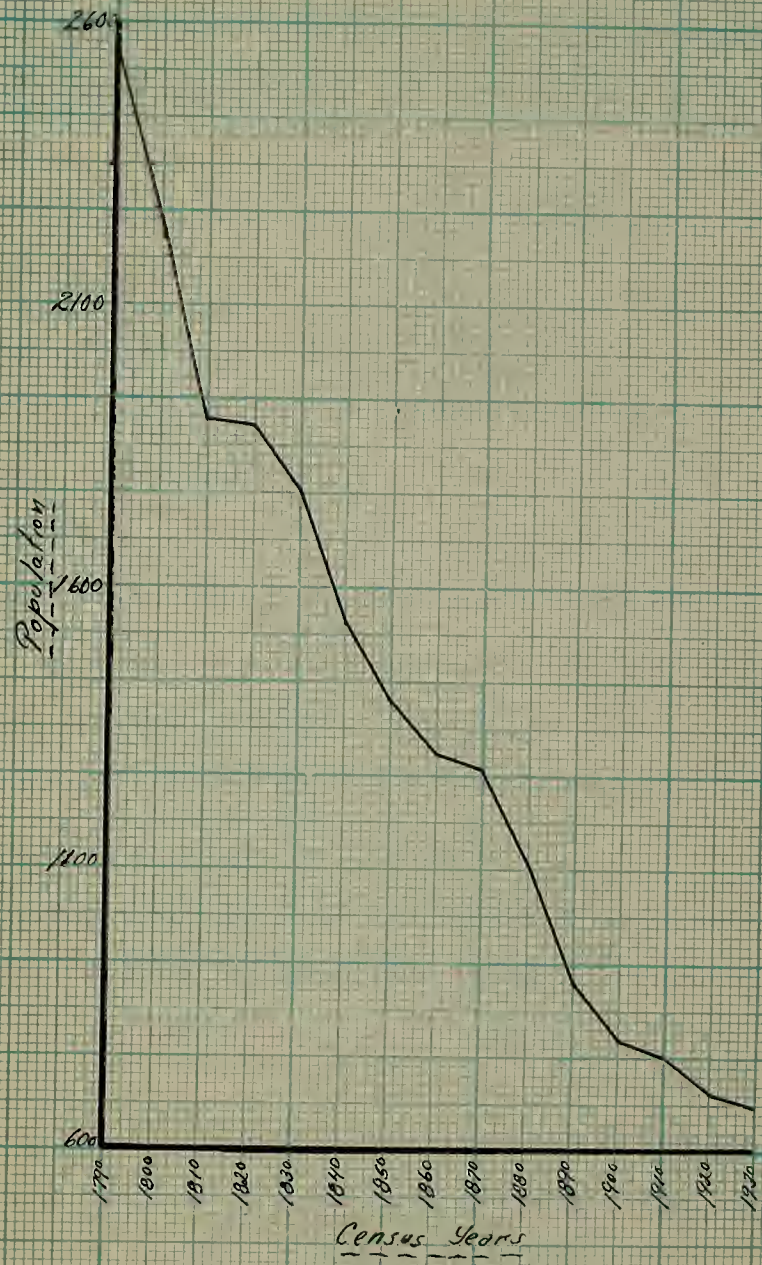
Year	Population
1790	2432
1800	2256
1810	1872
1820	1862
1830	1760
1840	1525
1850	1389
1860	1291
1870	1277
1880	1096
1890	870
1900	782
1910	769
1920	684
1930	663

Guilford reached its highest number of inhabitants early in its history, and since that period has suffered from a continuous and steady decline. The migration has been westward, but also (and this is characteristic of Guilford) to the northward and eastward. Many of the towns in the northern and middle parts of the state contain descendants from the inhabitants of the old town of Guilford.

VIII. Halifax: Halifax was the second town in the State to

GRAPH VII

Showing the Curve of Population in Guilford at Each Census since 1790, Inclusive



receive a charter from New Hampshire, this charter being granted on the eleventh of May, 1750, to Oliver and Samuel Partridge and fifty-seven others. At the request of Oliver Partridge the township was divided into equal shares--numbering sixty-four and each lot was marked at the corners with "lasting boundaries." A large hexagonal space was marked off in the center of the town for public use.

The first settlements in the town were commenced in 1751 but those who undertook them were not able to prosecute their plans on account of the hostility of the Indians. However, after the reduction of Canada the proprietors of more than forty lots renewed their exertions "with a good proficiency", and although the town consisted almost entirely of "mountainous lands", and was then heavily "loaded with timber," the proprietors were optimistic and knew that at some future period the territory would "prove beneficial to the public". The first town meeting recorded was held March 3rd, 1778, at which it was voted to "accept the constitution of the State of Vermont."

Halifax, like most of the other towns, has suffered from a continuous decline in her population. This fact is brought out in both the following table and graph.

TABLE X

Population of the Town of Halifax at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive, Showing the Gain and Loss.

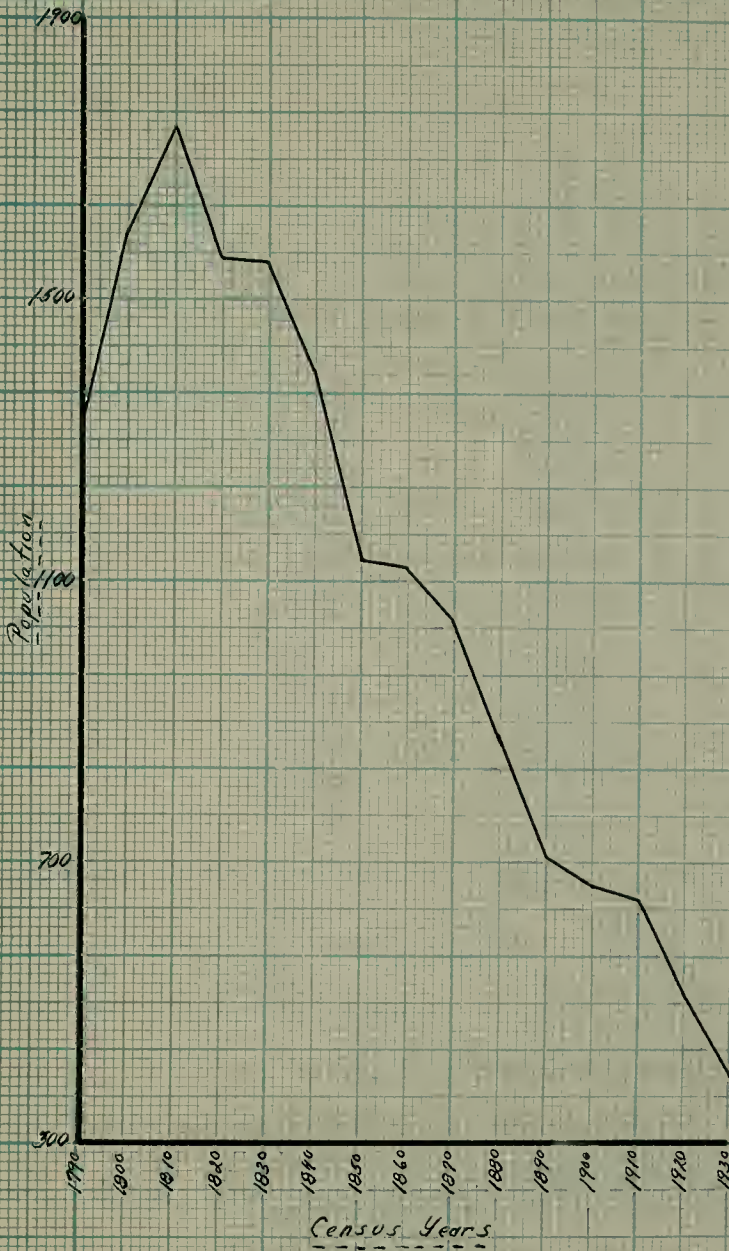
Year	Population
1790	1309
1800	1600
1810	1753
1820	1567
1830	1562
1840	1399
1850	1133
1860	1126
1870	1029
1880	852
1890	702
1900	662
1910	635
1920	504
1930	390

IX. Jamaica. Jamaica, including an area of about twenty-nine thousand and seventeen acres, is made up of portions of six grants made by the Governor of New York between March 31, 1767 and December 8, 1772. One of these grants, named Camden, included the southwesterly corner of the present town and extended south across Wardsboro into Dover. Another grant included the northeasterly corner of the township and the old town of Acton and was called Warrenton. However, nothing seems to have been done toward a settlement of the territory under these grants. The charter of the present town of Jamaica was given by the general assembly of Vermont on November 7th, 1780 to Colonel Samuel Fletch, of Townshend, and sixty-seven associates.

The first clearing made in the town was in 1775. The first proprietors' meeting seems to have been the one held at Newfane, June 5, 1781, where a committee was chosen to lay out the town-

GRAPH VIII

Showing the Curve of Population in Halifax
at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive.



ship into lots. The first town meeting was held on the third of September, 1781.

Jamaica has suffered greatly from the migration--her present population being approximately only one-third of what it was during the most industrious period of the town. The following table and group clearly illustrate this fact.

TABLE XI

Population of the Town of Jamaica at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive, Showing the Gain and Loss.

Year	Population
1790	263
1800	582
1810	996
1820	1313
1830	1553
1840	1586
1850	1606
1860	1541
1870	1223
1880	1252
1890	1074
1900	800
1910	716
1920	566
1930	570

X. Londonderry Town: The township of Londonderry originally included the town of Windham. It was granted by New York to James Rogers on the twenty-third day of February, 1770 and was known as Kent. Rogers, being a colonel of colony militia under King George, was forced to flee to Canada and his property was confiscated. Thus, on the 20th of April, 1780, we find the Vermont legislature chartering the confiscated land to Edward Aiken, Samuel Fletcher, and Joseph Tyler, reserving five sixti-fifths of the territory for religious and educational purposes.

GRAPH IX

Showing the Curve of Population in Jamaica
at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive.



It is at this period that the original name of Kent was changed to Londonderry. In 1792 Londonderry was divided, the eastern part becoming the town of Windham. In 1795, through the efforts of Esquire Arnold who was a member of the Legislature, a portion of Windham was re-annexed to Londonderry and the present boundary line was established. James Rogers, Jr. petitioned the Legislature to grant him one-half of the confiscated lands that remained unsold, which petition was granted. In 1797 he again petitioned the Legislature for the remaining half, stating that it was only right for him to have the whole of it if it was right for him to have half. His logic was recognized by the Legislature and again his petition was granted.

Child, (I) says "Londonderry received its name and early settlers through the following circumstances: About the year 1650 there was a large emigration from Argyllshire, in the west of Scotland, to Londonderry, in the north of Ireland. The emigrants were warmly attached to the Presbyterian doctrine and discipline, in which the Church of Scotland was united. These Scottish Protestants of Ireland were involved in many difficulties during the reign of Charles II, and James II, until 1689, the period known as the British revolution, when William and Mary ascended the throne. They were bound to assist in the support of the Church of England, and many of them suffered in the siege of Londonderry, Ireland, in 1688, when James II, with a powerful force from France, besieged the city. They held to their religious faith with a national tenacity that did not accord with the popular faith of Ireland, nor that of their Eng-

lish masters. Disliking the institutions of tithe and rent--being subjected to the church of England--they resolved to emigrate to America. In 1713 large numbers of these people landed on our shores, some of them near Boston, and others near Casco. Those who landed at Casco settled the towns of Londonderry, Windham, and Manchester, in New Hampshire, bringing with them these names from across the waters of the Atlantic, and also introduced the culture of potatoes, as well as the art of wearing - linen, in this part of the American continent." A little over half a century later, in 1769, three descendants of these people taking the name with them, explored the territory of what is now Londonderry and Windham, in Vermont. Soon work of clearing the wilderness was started and Londonderry received its start.

The first town meeting for the election of officers was held in March, 1775 but the records of this meeting have been lost.

The increase and decrease in the number of inhabitants of the town of Londonderry is brought out in both the following table and graph.

These figures clearly illustrate that Londonderry, like most of her sister towns in Windham County, has had to suffer from a continuous decline in her population. The town today offers great possibilities to the ambitious and industrious type of person--one who has a little capital to begin with. For here are excellent mill-sites--a good railroad--and plenty of virgin territory to capitalize. Here once were saw and shingle mills, a tannery, a tub factory and job shop, and a carriage

manufactory--all idle now but waiting to be utilized.

TABLE XII

Population of the Town of Londonderry at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive, Showing the Gain and Loss.

Year	Population
1790	362
1800	330
1810	637
1820	953
1830	1302
1840	1216
1850	1274
1860	1367
1870	1252
1880	1154
1890	1010
1900	961
1910	962
1920	911
1930	799

XI. Newfane Town. On the 19th of June, 1753, the territory, that now comprises Newfane was chartered by New Hampshire, but by the name of Fane, to Abner Sawyer and sixty-seven of his associates. The name of Fane is derived from Thomas Fane who was one of the "men of Kent" who were engaged in an insurrectionary movement under Sir Thomas Wyatt, in 1554, during the reign of Queen Mary, for the purpose of elevating Lady Jane Grey to the throne of England. The township was, according to the charter, to contain an area of twenty-three thousand and forty acres; but in 1820, that part of the town lying north east of West River was annexed to Brookline and this materially reduced the original chartered area.

In 1754, attempts were made by the proprietors, most of whom were inhabitants of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, to comply

GRAPH X

Showing the Curve of Population of Town of Jansonserry at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive.



with the terms of the charter. These pioneers worked hard, but the state of the times proved too much for them, and the charter was forfeited. In 1761 the charter was returned to New Hampshire; and on the 3rd of November, of the same year, a new one was issued to "Luke Brown and his associates." This charter contained the same conditions embraced by the original deed. However, on the tenth of July, 1765, a committee of the proprietors sent a communication to the Lieutenant-Governor of New York, in which they referred to the second New Hampshire charter, as follows:--

"Your petitioners have, agreeable to the demands of said Charter, made all possible efforts in order effectually to settle said lands so granted, and have already expended Six Dollars upon each right or share, in making Publick (sic) Roads, and in other Publick (sic) Services, and cleared upon the several Lots in said Township more than fifteen hundred acres of Land (as we judge), and were vigorously prosecuting the settlement of said Township. When Your Honor Issued a Proclamation, Laying Claim to all the Land West of Connecticut River (then chartered out by the Governor of New Hampshire) as belonging to the Government of New York" (I)

The memorial also stated that the doubts that had risen in the minds of these settlers regarding the validity of the New Hampshire Charter, had retarded the process of settling the township. To remove all of these obstacles, the petitioners asked for a confirmation grant. However, this petition seems to have remained unnoticed for a long time. Then, finally, the attention of the Governor was directed to the subject, he, instead

of confirming the grant, or New Hampshire charter, made a grant of the township by the name of Newfane, to "Walter Franklin and twenty other persons, principally residing in the city of New York." This grant was made on the eleventh of May, 1772, and was a literal copy of the original Wentworth deed. The following day, that is, May 12, 1772, Franklin and his associates conveyed their rights to Luke Knowlton and John Taylor of Worcester, Massachusetts. So it is that the titles to all the lands in Newfane are derived from the New York charter.

The early rise in the population of Newfane, but the more obvious decline, one that has been steady throughout, is illustrated by both the following table and graph.

TABLE XIII

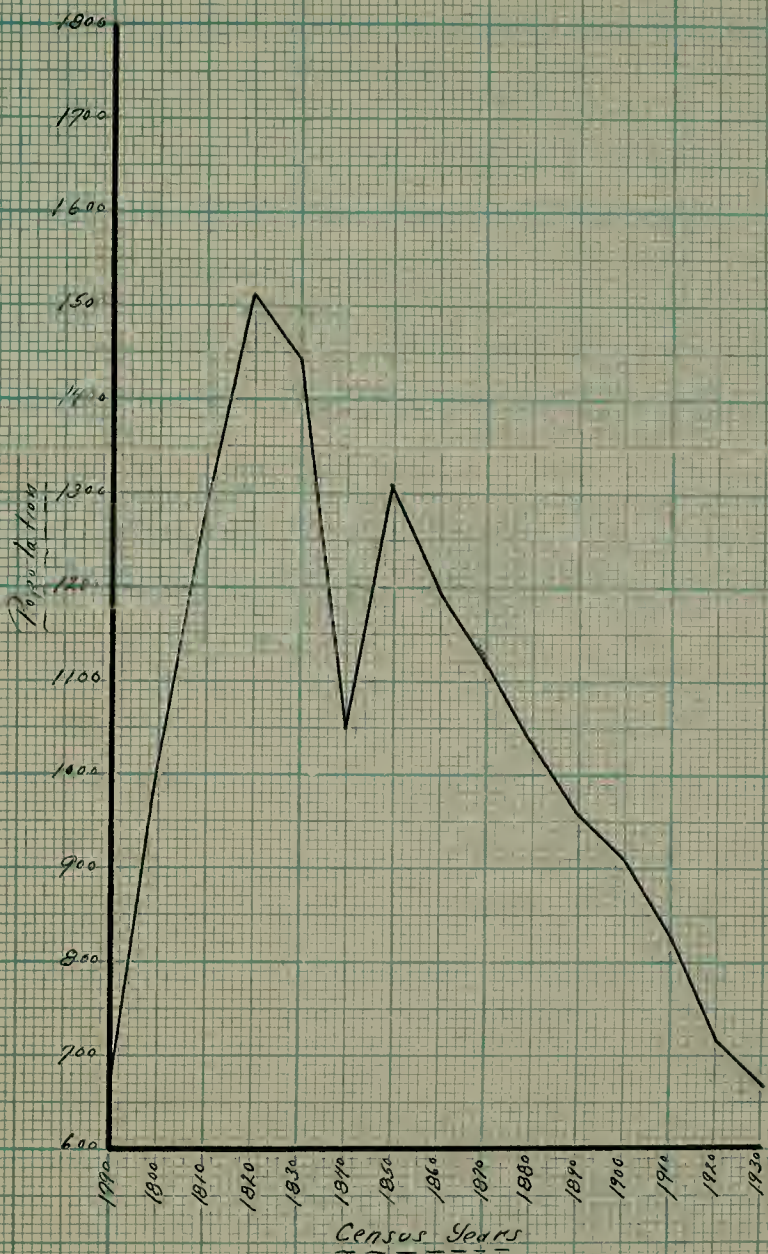
Population of the Town of Newfane at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive, Showing the Gain and the Loss.

Year	Population
1790	660
1800	1000
1810	1276
1820	1506
1830	1441
1840	1043
1850	1304
1860	1192
1870	1113
1880	1031
1890	952
1900	905
1910	820
1920	710
1930	662

XII. Somerset. This little township was chartered by Governor Benning Wentworth, of New Hampshire, on the ninth of September, 1761 and was to contain an area of twenty-three thousand

GRAPH XI

Showing the Curve of Population of Town of Newfare
at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive.



and forty acres. But on November 5th, 1838, a part of this territory was annexed to Wardsboro, and again, on November 11, 1854, by an act of the Legislature, a tract was annexed to Wilmington (since annexed to Dover) and a strip was annexed to Stratton. Thus, the towns original area has been reduced until today it includes about 15,360 acres.

The first settlement in Somerset was made in June, 1776. In 1779 the town held its first town meeting, notice of which was issued in the following manner:

"Whereas, Application hath been made to me, as the law directs, to warn a meeting of all the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Somerset, for the purpose of choosing officers; These are, therefore, to ratify and warn said inhabitants of Somerset to meet at the dwelling house of Oliver Kimpton, in said Somerset, on Monday the 19th day of instant November, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to act as follows, viz: 1st To choose a moderator to govern said meeting. 2nd To choose a clerk. 3rd To choose selectmen of said town. 4th To choose a treasurer. 5th To choose one or more constables. 6th To choose listers, if found necessary, and to transact all other business for the proper organization of said town.
Wilmington November 1, 1732.

Isaac Wheeler, Justice of the Peace" (I)

The following table and graph illustrate the almost utter depopulation that has taken place in the township. It seems difficult to believe that in New England we have a town with, on the average, only one inhabitant to over seven hundred acres.

TABLE XIV

Population of the Town of Somerset at Each Census since 1790, Inclusive, Showing the Gain and Loss.

Year	Population
1790	111
1800	130
1810	199
1820	173
1830	245
1840	262
1850	321
1860	105
1870	80
1880	67
1890	61
1900	67
1910	27
1920	59
1930	20

XIII. Stratton. Stratton was chartered by New Hampshire on the 30th of July, 1761 to an Isaac Searl and sixty-two others. It was divided into sixty-nine shares and was to include an area of twenty-three thousand and forty acres. Stratton Gore was annexed on the 28th of October, 1799, thereby enlargening the territory.

Although the territory was chartered in 1761, the settlement of the town was not commenced until 1784. The town was organized and the first town meeting held in 1788.

Stratton, like Somerset, has suffered severely from the process of depopulation. This is explained to a great extent by the utter wilderness of the territory, it being fitted mostly for raising lumber. The following table and graph clearly illustrate the depopulation that has taken place.

GRAPH XII

Showing the Curve of Population of Town of Somerset at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive.

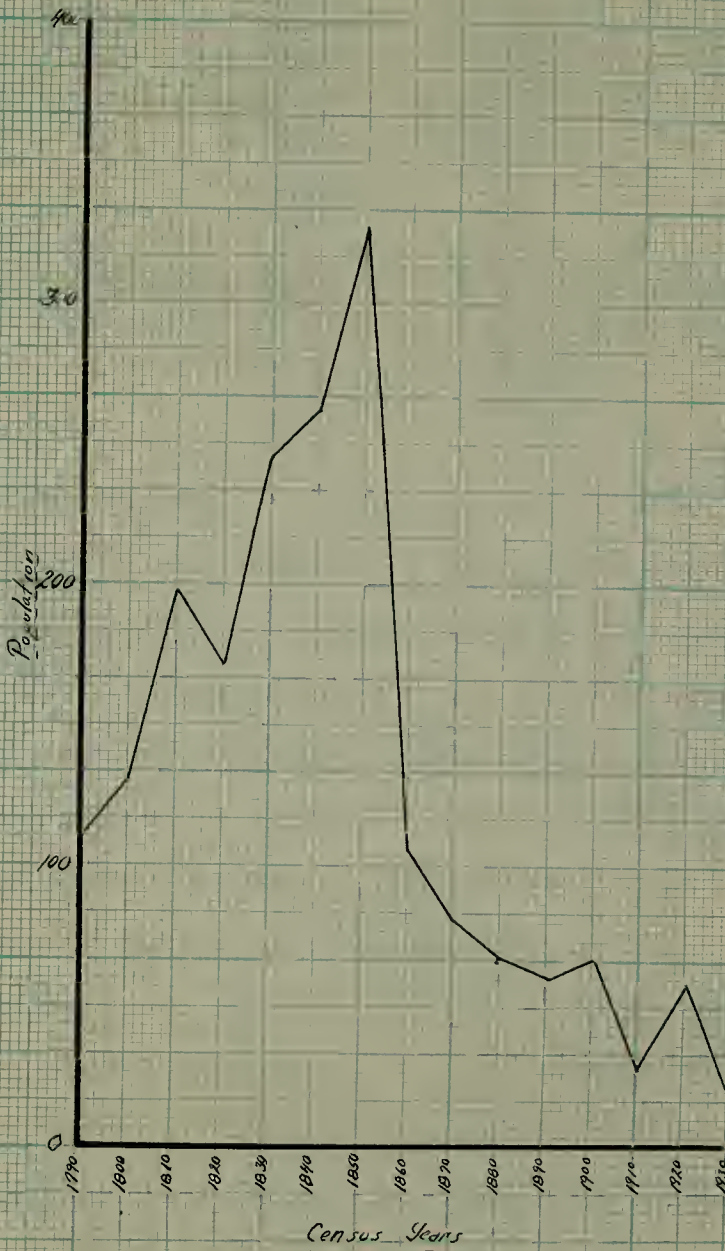


TABLE XV

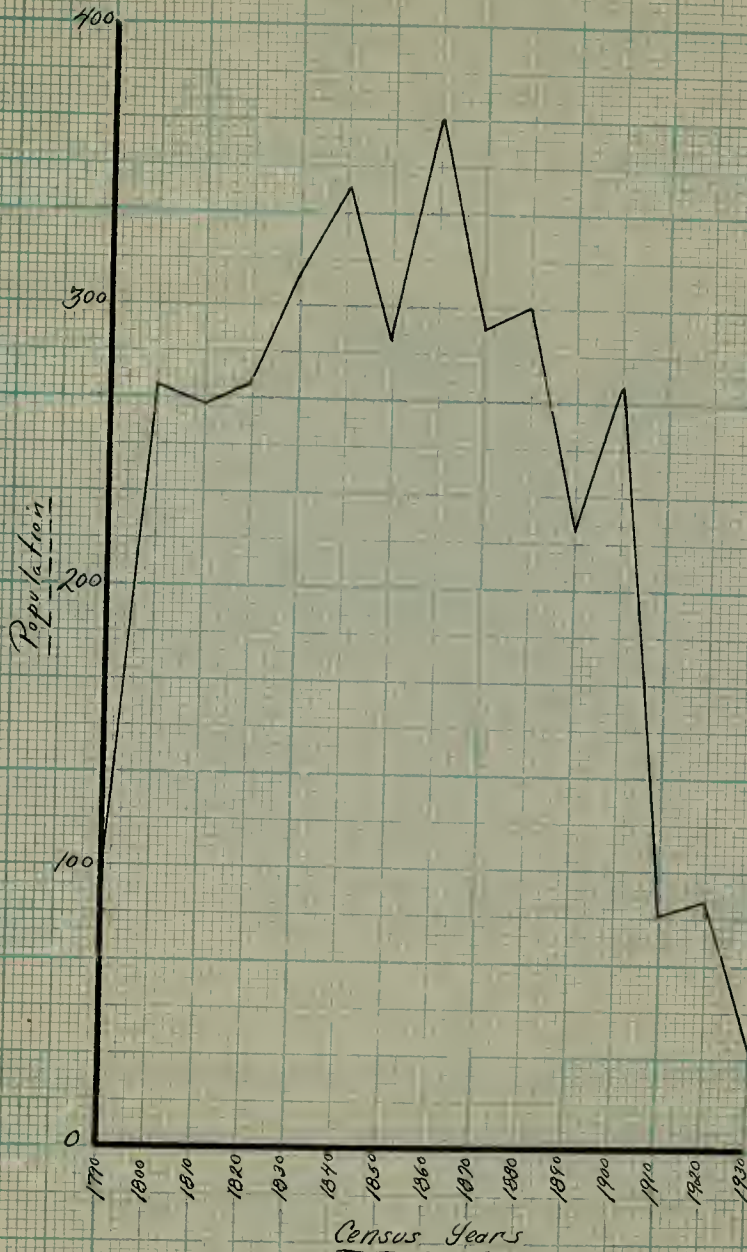
Population of the Town of Stratton at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive, Showing the Gain and the Loss.

Year	Population
1790	95
1800	271
1810	265
1820	272
1830	312
1840	341
1850	286
1860	366
1870	294
1880	302
1890	222
1900	271
1910	86
1920	90
1930	55

XIV. Townshend. This quaint little town was chartered by New Hampshire on June, 1753, to John Haseltine and sixty-three others. It was to contain an area of twenty-three thousand and forty acres; but this original area was increased on October 29th, 1840, by the annexation of the small town of Acton. Acton had been chartered by Vermont to Moses Johnson and thirty-two others the 23rd of February, 1782 and was known as Johnsons' Gore. This territory included an area of five thousand and forty-acres and comprised what is now the northern "leg" of Townshend. On the 2nd of January, 1801, it was incorporated by the name of Acton, but without the right of a representative in the legislature, except in connection with Townshend. The inhabitants discovered, however, that the law provided that every "organized town" had the right of representation in the legislative body, so they proceeded to elect a representative in 1824.

GRAPH XIII

Showing the Curve of Population for Town of Stratton at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive.



The settlement of the town of Townshend was commenced in 1764 by Joseph Tyler, of Upton, Massachusetts. The first town meeting was held May 30, 1771.

Townshend is the seat of Leland and Gray Seminary, incorporated by the legislature on the 31st of October, 1834, as "The Leland Classical and English School of Townshend." This school today attracts most of the boys and girls in the upper West River Valley, who desire to pursue a secondary education.



Although formerly one of the most populous of the towns in the County, Townshend has suffered from the waves of migration and at the present time ranks only as an average town. The following table and graph clearly illustrate the process of depopulation that has taken place.

TABLE XVI

Population of the Town of Townshend at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive, Showing the Gain and the Loss.

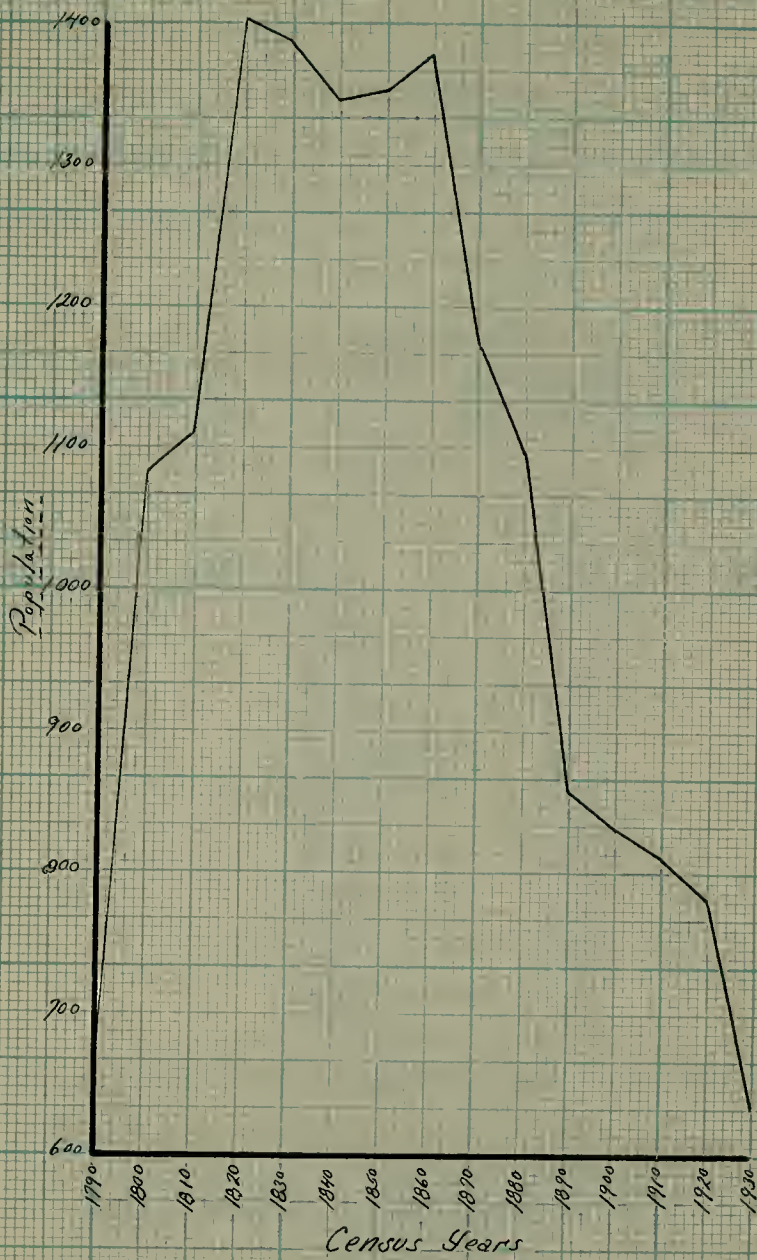
Year	Population
1790	676
1800	1083
1810	1115
1820	1406
1830	1386
1840	1345
1850	1354
1860	1376
1870	1171
1880	1099
1890	865
1900	833
1910	817
1920	786
1930	633

It is interesting to note that after one hundred and forty years of existence (actually more than that) Townshend is almost where she was in 1790 in regard to number of population. More will be said about this later--for Townshend has much that could be used to encourage people to stay, if these materials only were used properly.

XV. Wardsboro Town. This territory originally included an area of twenty-three thousand and forty acres and was chartered by Vermont on the 7th of November, 1780. The charter was given to William Ward, of Newfane, from whom the name of the town is derived. However, on October 18, 1788, an act was passed by the legislature which divided the township into two districts, called the North and South Districts. This act created two separate and distinct towns. On October 30th, 1810, the South District was incorporated into a new town, and named Dover. On November

GRAPH XIV

Showing the Curve of Population for Town of Townshend at Each Census since 1790, inclusive.



5th, 1838, a part of Somerset was annexed to the township and on November 11, 1851, another part of the same town was added.

The first settlement of the town was made in June, 1780 by emigrants from Massachusetts. The town was dully organized on the 14th of March, 1786, and it was during this year that the town had its first representative in the legislature of the State.

The decline in population, although there has been an increase during certain years, is illustrated in both the table and graph.

TABLE XVII

Population of the Town of Wardsboro at Each Census Since 1790, Inclusive, showing the Gain and the Loss.

Year	Population
1790	753
1800	1484
1810	1159
1820	1016
1830	1148
1840	1102
1850	1125
1860	1004
1870	866
1880	766
1890	704
1900	637
1910	559
1920	380
1930	355

It is obvious that Wardsboro has severely suffered from the wave of migration, for in a little over one hundred years it has lost over eleven hundred inhabitants.

XVI. Windham Town. Windham was originally a part of Londonderry, which was chartered by New York on the twenty-third of February, 1770, under the name of Kent. In 1792, however, London-

GRAPH IV

SHOWING THE CURVE OF POPULATION FOR TOWN OF WARDSBORO AT EACH CENSUS SINCE 1790, INCLUSIVE.



derry was divided and the eastern part became the township of Windham on the 22nd of October, 1795. On the 21st of October, 1797, a part of Windham was re-annexed to Londonderry.

As has been pointed out, Windham having been a part of Londonderry until after 1792, the history of this town is necessarily identical with that of Londonderry. (I)

The following table and graph show obviously how Windham, like her sister towns, has suffered from the process of depopulation.

TABLE XVIII

Population of the Town of Windham at Each Census Since 1800, Inclusive, Showing the Gain and the Loss.

Year	Population
1800	429
1810	782
1820	931
1830	847
1840	757
1850	763
1860	680
1870	544
1880	536
1890	379
1900	356
1910	345
1920	261
1930	254

From the above tables it is clearly seen that these towns have constantly declined in population and that some are today where they were one hundred years ago. It is the further purpose of this study now to show the reasons why this decline has taken place. But before the specific causes are listed, along with the extent of migration, etc., it is well to give a brief economic history of a typical town (Jamaica) to illustrate the

GRAPH XVI

Showing the Curve of Population for Town of Windham at Each Census Since 1800, Inclusive.



extent to which these towns have fallen in the field of industry.

Brief Economic History of Jamaica.

As late as 1884 we find Jamaica a busy town. Here were located many industries - all of which have completely disappeared. The chief reason for the complete disappearance of these industries seems to be that the owners died and the descendants just did not care to carry on or these industries became more profitable located in cities. This same reason is accountable for the disappearance of different industries in the other towns that were a part of this survey.

According to Child (I) the following industries were at one time located in the town of Jamaica:

C. M. Nichols' saw and shingle-mill. This mill had a capacity for cutting about 5,000 feet of lumber and 6,000 shingles per day. The mill also did a great deal of both custom and merchant work. At the present time not a sign of this mill exists.

G. F. Richmond's carriage shop - wherein was carried on a general manufacturing and repair business. This industry also has completely disappeared.

C. A. White's butter-tub and shingle factory. This mill was established in 1877 and was equipped with both steam and water-power and gave employment to about six men. The capacity of the mill amounted to about 14,000 butter-tubs and 1,000,000 shingles per annum. Sap buckets also were manufactured. This industry has completely gone out of existence.

B. B. Houghton's saw and planing mill was built about 1834. The mill had a capacity for cutting about 5,000 feet of lumber

per day, and was supplied with circular, board, and chair-back saws, planers, etc., and did a great deal of merchant work.

A. A. Kingsbury's saw and grist-mill. This saw mill was supplied with upright board-saws, circular bench-saws, shingle machine, band saw, and planer. The capacity was about 100,000 shingles a year. The grist-mill had one run of stones and ground about twelve tons of corn per month.

H. H. Felton's saw-mill. The only mill that is in existence in Jamaica today although it has completely changed its line of industry from that of previous years. During the busy years this mill cut about 200,000 feet of lumber annually.

W. H. Wheeler's saw-mill and chair-stock factory. This mill was operated by both steam and water-power and was fitted with circular board-saw, chair-back saw, cutting-off saw, band-saw, planer, and shingle machine, and had the capacity for manufacturing 400,000 chair-backs per annum and about 10,000 shingles per day. This mill, like the others, has completely disappeared.

Farr & Roel's rake factory had all the necessary turning machinery for manufacturing rakes and also was equipped with splitting-saws.

Alvin Frost's tray shop manufactured about 3,000 trays a year.

William Gleason's saw and shingle-mill and chair-stock factory manufactured about 250,000 feet of rough lumber and about 200,000 shingles per year.

F. W. Perry & Son's Tannery turned out about \$75,000.00 worth of hides per year and employed about twelve men. The leather-

was not finished here but was sent to Massachusetts in the rough.

W. L. Barnes' carriage and blacksmith shop.—operated by water-power and was furnished with all the necessary machinery for carrying on a manufacturing and jobbing business.

Edwin F. Russell's chair factory had the capacity for turning out about 100 dozens of cane-seated chairs per month.

Wardwell & Flint's steam saw-mill cut about 1,000,000 feet of lumber per annum, 250,000 feet of which was converted into chair-stock.

O. C. Flint's chair-stock and grist-mill had three lathes, bench-saws, etc., and a mill for grinding meal and feed. The mill usually employed five men in the manufacture of turned chair-stock and in the business of custom grinding.

Edward Magoon's saw-mill cut about 200,000 feet of lumber per year.

As has been said before, all of these mills have disappeared. It seems a pity that they could not have been kept going for the elimination of these lines of industry is perhaps the greatest cause for the migration from this as well as the other towns. As quickly as industry stops, people either have to migrate or change their line of occupation. Here in these towns if a change is to be made it has to be to farming and that field of occupation does not offer any encouraging compensation.

CHAPTER IV

FACTS OF THE MIGRATION FROM THE TOWNS STUDIED:
EXTENT OF THE MIGRATION.

Approximately thirty-eight per cent of the male members that were included in the survey had left the towns surveyed either to different parts of the State or different States. The remaining percentage (62) had migrated to different parts of the County itself.

TABLE XIX

Total Number and Percentage of Males Remaining in the County after having left the Town, and Leaving the Town for Other Localities--either in State or Nation.

Town	Total number 16 or over	Number leaving County	Number remaining in County	Per- cent leaving County	Percent remaining in County
Athens	5	2	3	40.0	60.0
Brookline	4	2	2	50.0	50.0
Dover	7	4	3	37.1	62.9
Dummerston	4	1	3	25.0	75.0
Grafton	19	9	10	47.3	52.6
Guilford	21	7	14	33.3	66.7
Halifax	5	2	3	40.0	60.0
Londonderry Town	9	3	6	33.3	66.7
Jamaica	26	6	20	23.1	76.9
Newfane Town	17	6	11	35.3	64.7
Somerset	7	4	3	37.1	62.9
Stratton	3	1	2	33.3	66.7
Townshend Town	23	10	13	43.4	56.6
Wardsboro Town	8	2	6	25.0	75.0
Windham Town	11	5	6	45.4	54.6
Totals	169	64	105	37.9	62.1

It was found that on the whole a larger percentage of females migrate to other localities than do the males.

TABLE XX

Total Number and Percentage of Females Remaining in the County after having left the Town, and Leaving the Town for other Localities--either in State or Nation.

Town	Total number 16 or over	Number leaving County	Number remaining in County	Percent leaving County	Percent remaining in County
Athens	5	2	3	40.0	60.0
Brookline	3	1	2	33.3	66.7
Dover	6	4	2	66.6	33.4
Dummerston	2	1	1	50.0	50.0
Grafton	13	9	4	69.2	30.8
Guilford	20	12	8	60.0	40.0
Halifax	3	2	1	66.6	33.4
Londonderry Town	5	3	2	60.0	40.0
Jamaica	17	9	8	52.9	47.1
Newfane Town	4	5	4	55.5	44.5
Somerset	4	2	2	50.0	50.0
Stratton	2	1	1	50.0	50.0
Townshend Town	12	7	5	58.3	41.7
Wardsboro Town	7	4	3	37.1	62.9
Windham Town	9	5	4	55.5	44.5
Totals	117	67	50	57.2	42.8

The figures are partly explained by the fact that the industries of the towns in the County seem to offer little opportunity for the single woman. Then, too, many have the ambition to enter a profession.

TABLE XXI

Total Number and Percentage of Persons Remaining in the County after having left the Town, and Leaving the Town for other Localities--either in State or Nation.

Town	Total number 16 or over	Number leaving County	Number remaining in County	Percent leaving County	Percent remaining in County
Athens	10	4	6	40.0	60.0
Brookline	7	3	4	42.8	57.2
Dover	13	8	5	61.5	38.5
Dummerston	6	2	4	33.3	66.7
Grafton	32	18	14	56.2	43.8
Guilford	41	19	22	46.3	53.7
Halifax	8	4	4	50.0	50.0
Londonderry Town	14	6	8	42.8	57.2
Jamaica	43	15	28	34.8	65.2
Newfane Town	26	11	15	42.3	57.7
Somerset	11	6	5	54.5	45.5
Stratton	5	2	3	40.0	60.0
Townshend Town	35	17	18	48.5	51.5
Wardsboro Town	15	6	9	40.0	60.0
Windham Town	20	10	10	50.0	50.0
Totals	286	131	155	45.8	54.2

In order to make the above percentages representative of migrants from all the small towns of the County, the decimal limits (P.E.) for 45.8% are presented.

$$P.E. (\text{Rep. sample}) = 0.6745 \frac{p'(1-p')}{N} = 8.6\%$$

Therefore chances are even that a percentage falling between 37.2% and 54.4% is representative of the migration from all the small towns of Windham County. The sample exceeds four times its P.E.

It is obvious that as a result of this migration the other localities (other States, etc.) gain in population and productive power. Furthermore, the towns that entered into this survey,

after having stood the expense of educating and raising the boys and girls, lose them just at the time when they are ready to enter upon the most productive period.

Another outstanding effect of the migration is that it takes the most vital element of a community. Most of the migration takes place during the age period from sixteen to thirty-five when people are in their "prime." As a result the towns are left with a population in which children and old people predominate.

Age at which Men Migrate. Of one hundred and three males migrating, whose ages at the time of leaving the town were known, the majority left before they were thirty-five years of age.

TABLE XXII

Age Group at Which Men Migrate

Age Group	Number Migrating
Under 20	29
20-30	41
30-40	22
40 and over	11
Total	<u>103</u>

Occupations After Leaving Towns. Of the sixty-four males who had left the towns for other localities, information was received for occupations engaged in by fifty-nine. It was brought out by the returns received that by far the largest number of these are classified as laborers. Furthermore, perhaps it would be safe to assume that a goodly percentage of those listed as miscellaneous should be listed under the laborer's division.

Although the returns from some of the towns were so small that they would be of little significance in respect to occupations after having left the town, the following table is, never-

theless, presented, but this table is followed by another that summarizes the complete returns.

TABLE XXIII

Occupations of Males After Leaving Towns

Town	Professions	Laborers	Mechanics	Clerks	Merchants	Miscellaneous	Total-Giving Occupations
Athens	1						1
Brookline		1				1	2
Dover		1			1	2	4
Dummerston		1					1
Grafton	1	3		1		2	7
Guilford	1	2		1	1	2	7
Halifax	1	1					2
Londonderry Town		2		1		1	4
Jamaica	2	3	1			2	8
Newfane Town	1	2	1	1	1	2	8
Somerset		1				1	2
Stratton		1					1
Townshend Town	2	3	1	1	1	1	9
Wardsboro Town		1					1
Windham Town		1				1	2
Totals	9	23	3	5	4	15	59

TABLE XXIV

Summary of Occupations of Males after Leaving Towns.

Occupation	Number
Laborers	23
Miscellaneous	15
Professions	9
Clerks	5
Merchants	4
Mechanics	<u>3</u>
Total	59

These above figures show that the professions, which included ministers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, etc. ranked second in number (excluding those listed as miscellaneous). Clerks, merchants, and mechanics came next. Approximately 63% of the females who had left the towns are married. The chief occupations entered upon by the unmarried women who had left the towns are nursing, teaching, clerical work, and secretarial work.

CHAPTER V

FACTORS INFLUENCING MIGRATION

Reasons Given for Leaving. The most difficult part of the survey was to discover the reasons why people had left the towns. The method resorted to, in order to secure this information, was to send a questionnaire to the people that had left, and to record the answers given. In some cases, the kinsman of the people who had left were asked to give the reason, but in all cases the reasons given were checked by the result of the questionnaire. Approximately two hundred questionnaires were sent out. In the case of the women it was extremely difficult to get the reasons for their leaving because a great majority of them had married men living in the city or in other localities--and of the number who had left but were not married, some had not taken up permanent residence in their present location.

So that a relation can be drawn between the population movements indicated by the census returns for the entire United States, the causes of which are known, and the observed migration in these small towns, the following table is presented which gives the total number of population in the nation, and the sum total of the population in the towns, in successive decades. By the use of the following data we are able to solve for the coefficient of correlation and thereby relate our observations to causes already known. The high negative correlation that results indicates that the same economic and social causes that are and have been effective in building up American cities and populating the West, operate to drain population away from rural Vermont.

TABLE XXV

Population in same decades of entire United States
and Fifteen Towns of Windham County

Year	United States	Towns
1810	7,239,881	14,896
1820	9,638,453	15,971
1830	12,866,020	17,109
1840	17,069,453	14,600
1850	23,191,876	14,794
1860	31,443,321	13,498
1870	38,558,371	11,906
1880	50,155,783	11,010
1890	62,622,250	9,407
1900	75,568,686	8,658
1910	91,972,266	7,823
1920	105,710,620	6,510
1930	122,775,046	5,969

TABLE XXVI

Summary of Formulas and Calculations for Coefficient of Correlation, with Probable Error

$$A = 647,822,026$$

$$M_A = 49,832,464$$

$$A^2 = 49,470,861,000,000,000$$

$$(A)M_A = 32,282,000,000,000,000$$

$$A^2 - (A)M_A = 17,188,861,000,000,000$$

$$A^2 - ()M_A = 131,110,000$$

$$X = 152,151$$

$$M_X = 11,627$$

$$X^2 = 1,949,360,000$$

$$(X)M_X = 1,768,300,000$$

$$X^2 - (X)M_X = 181,060,000$$

$$X^2 - (X)M_X = 13,456$$

$$AX = 5,871,472,000,000$$

$$(A)M_X = \frac{7,528,900,000,000}{-1,657,428,000,000}$$

$$r = \frac{AX - (A)M_X}{A^2 - (A)M_A} \frac{X^2 - (X)M_X}{X^2 - (X)M_X} = -.9395$$

r (The coefficient of correlation) - -.9395

$$P.E. = .6745 \frac{1-r^2}{N} = .0238$$

In checking the reasons given by the men, who answered that part of the questionnaire, the following reasons were prominent:

TABLE XXVII

Reasons Given by the Men for Leaving the Towns

- More money
- Poor health
- Could make more money in other locality
- Lacked land with which to begin farming
- Other interests more appealing
- Wife preferred city
- Educational betterment
- Better social life
- Better opportunity for scientific career
- Present occupation depleted
- Lack of opportunity.

The outstanding reasons given by the women who answered that part of the questionnaire were as follows:

TABLE XXVIII

Reasons Give by the Women for Leaving the Towns.

- Could make more money in the new locality
- Married to some one other than a farmer
- Poor health
- Other interests more appealing
- Disliked farming
- Better social opportunity
- Better educational facilities
- Lack of opportunity
- Change in husband's business

Of eighty-six men who definitely answered that part of the questionnaire, the following table records the results given:

TABLE XXIX

Reasons Given by the Men for Leaving Towns

Towns	More Money	Poor Health	Lacked Capital to begin Farming	Other Interests for Appealing	Wife Preferred City	Educational Betterment	Better Social Life	Better Opportunity for Scientific Career	Present Occupation depleted	Lack of Opportunity	Lacked Land with which to begin Farming	Change in Business	Total
Athens	1						1						2
Brookline			1			1				1			3
Dover	2				1	1				1			5
Dummerston			1										1
Grafton	3	1		1		2				1	1	1	10
Guilford	2	2	1		1		1			1		1	9
Halifax	1											1	2
Londonderry Town	2	1	1				2					1	7
Jamaica	5	2			3					2		1	13
Newfane Town	3		1			2		1				1	8
Somerset						1			1				2
Stratton									1				1
Townshend Town	5	1		1		3	2	1		2			15
Wardsboro Town	1					1	1						3
Windham Town	2					1				1		1	5
Totals	27	7	5	2	5	12	7	2	2	9	1	7	86

This table shows that most of the men left because they could receive more money elsewhere, while the second reason that received the greatest number of answers was educational betterment.

The reasons given by forty-six women who answered that part

of the questionnaire are given in the following table.

TABLE XXX

Reasons Given by the Women for Leaving Towns

Towns	More Money	Married to other than farmer	Poor Health	Disliked Farming	Better Social Opportunity	Better Educational Opportunity	Lack of Opportunity	Change in Husband's Business	Other Interests more Appealing	Totals
Athens	1									1
Brookline	1				1					2
Dover		1								1
Dummerston	1					1	1			3
Grafton	1	1	1				1		1	5
Guilford	2		1	1		1	1	1		7
Halifax								1		1
Londonderry Town	1							1		2
Jamaica	2	1	1		1	1	1			7
Newfane Town	1		1			2	1			5
Somerset										0
Stratton										0
Townshend Town	3	1		1	1	1	1			7
Wardsboro Town		1						1		2
Windham Town	1			1			1			3
Totals	14	5	4	2	3	6	7	3	2	46

The reasons common to both the male and the female answers to the questionnaires are presented in the following table:

TABLE XXXI

Reasons Given by Both Males and Females who had Left
the Towns (Reasons Common to Both)

Towns	More Money	Better Educational Opportunity	Lack of Opportunity	Poor Health	Better Social Opportunity	Other Interest more Appealing	Totals
Athens	2				1		3
Brookline	1	1	1		1		4
Dover	2	1	1				4
Dummerston	1	1	1				3
Grafton	4	2	2	2		2	12
Guilford	4	1	2	3	1		11
Halifax	1						1
Londonderry Town	3			1	2		6
Jamaica	7	1	3	3	1		15
Newfane Town	4	4	1	1			10
Somerset		1					1
Stratton							0
Townshend Town	8	4	3	1	3	1	20
Wardsboro Town	2	1	1		1		5
Windham Town	2	1	1			1	5
Totals	41	18	16	11	10	4	100

Nature of the Migration. How these emigrants have moved and where they have gone reveal certain characteristics and tendencies. The most obvious of these is the uncertainty and timidity with which man migrates. Few of the emigrants have gone away alone, or if they have done so, they have gone where they had neither friends nor relatives. Few have gone any great distance but have, as a

rule, moved by slow stages, to the next town and to the nearest job. The following table presents evidence that a good percentage have not moved alone.

TABLE XXXII

Manner of Leaving of Emigrants Classified According to Whether They Left Independently or as Members of a Group.

Unit	Towns Studied	
	Number	Percent
Individuals within Family group	156	58.0
Independent Individuals	130	42.0

The above table shows that migration today from these towns is still largely a family movement. This is significant in that it may mean a loss to the towns of entire family strains. "Such a migration does not imply a loss of future citizens with the qualities which have marked members of these families in the past but it may also mean loss of mating possibilities and a disappearing of the entire stock from the towns." (VII)

Means of Livelihood in the Towns. One of the interesting, and important, factors that enters into the cause of migration from these towns is that of "means of earning a livelihood," while in town. This factor tends to discourage the younger generation to stay--for this generation is willing to improve itself. To a great many of the older residents of the town "earning a livelihood" means to raise just enough just for themselves by farming and then to make a little money by other means than farming.

The different ways in which the inhabitants earn money to carry on illustrates the ingenuity of man. In a great many of

the towns the citizens usually tap maple trees on their "farms" in the spring and boil down maple sap to sell. During the summer and fall many go ferning. "This has been an industry for many years. Sometimes a "boss" rents a whole side of a mountain and hires men and women to pick a special variety of ferns which he ships to florists in Boston, or else people do this "on their own." For every neat bunch of twenty-four fresh, perfect ferns twelve inches long, the pickers earn one cent. On a especially good day fast pickers occasionally earn as much as six dollars but the average daily earning is nearer three dollars. In the winter there is little work to be had except occasionally to cut some timber and sell a few loads of wood." (VII)

However, there is a much more ingenious and profitable means of livelihood that is practiced to a great extent in the towns located in the northern end of the West River Valley. People on remote farms, those who are beyond the area served by a school district, sometimes have as their chief source of income the money paid them by the town for driving their children (sometimes their neighbors children also) back and forth to school. There are cases where people have chosen to live at a considerable distance from school so that they may be assured of this steady income.

Schools. One of the outstanding reasons given for leaving these towns was for educational betterment. All of these towns place a great responsibility upon the schools and almost all need mature, experienced teachers. But, as in all rural communities, such teachers are seldom found. In Jamaica, for in-

stance is found one isolated school where a young, inexperienced teacher does her best to instruct nearly fifty children in all the elementary school grades. "In another remote school is a young teacher who is concerned with the responsibility of providing for her home and caring for her twin babies while she teaches school. Few of the schools are equipped well enough to measure up to standard" (VII) Is it any wonder, then, that these people who want to "get ahead"--who want their children to have better opportunities--migrate from these towns?

However, the Parent Teachers' Associations strive to do all they can to raise the standard of the schools. "Many parents deprive themselves in order to send their children to high schools in neighboring towns." But, it is discouraging to note the utter lack of ambition displayed by some of their children. Among even those who have finished high school there are some who have little desire to do anything other than work at whatever chance jobs may arise in town. If only the initiative and healthy discontent that is found in the progressive towns of the Union existed in these towns--how encouraging it would be to the future of these towns!

Recreation and Amusements. most of the social activities of these towns are centered around the Masonic Lodge, the Eastern Star, Ladies Society and Home Club. Some of the towns have Community Clubs that are active in agitating improvements. Good Community Halls are found in practically all of the towns and these are used often for dances, suppers, and plays. But, it is

discouraging and even aggravating to find a town like Townshend that has, as has been said before, much to work with but little use made of the material available. Here is found a Town Hall that would be a credit to any community. It is little used, however, as the town fathers have placed such exaggerated and expensive requirements upon its use that few societies dare to rent it for their entertainments. Even the schools in this town are required to pay for its use--to pay the janitor, light, heat, etc. Is it surprising, then that Townshend loses its younger people



Town Hall and Opera House, Townshend, Vt.

Furthermore, this town has a gymnasium that is an asset to any progressive community--but most of the time it is locked so that only the school can use it. Both the Town Hall and gymnasium were presented to the town for the use of its townspeople but neither can be used because the present controlling parties think otherwise. As a result, the town hall is decaying, the

gymnasium is used only a few hours each day by the school, and the younger generation spends its time on the street corner.



Church, Sunday School, and Young Peoples' Meetings. One of the forms of social life for persons in the rural communities center around the Church, Sunday School, and Young Peoples' Meetings in the Church. It has been shown by A. A. Snick and F. R. Yoder (IV) that the persons who leave the rural sections are the ones that have had most social contacts and thus had more of a chance to develop new desires.

Although the churches are in a position to be of great service to the younger people of a community in both a social and religious way, the churches in these towns have not fully taken advantage of this opportunity.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Certain important facts have come out in this study.

1. Out of a grand total of two hundred and eighty-six persons studied, one hundred and thirty-one, or 45.8 per cent had left these towns for other localities, either in the State of Vermont, or in other parts of the Union. The percent of males migrating was 37.9, and the percent of females 57.2.

2. The age at which persons migrate varies. Most of the migrations occur before the age of thirty-five.

3. The largest percentage of the persons who have migrated enter either the professional or laboring classes. This seems to indicate that the two extremes, so far as occupational status is concerned, leave the towns.

4. The reasons for the migration, from these towns as given by the persons migrating are largely economic. Educational betterment is an outstanding reason.

5. The process of migration seems to be that of a group movement.

6. From the facts brought out in the study it is clear that the social problem of these communities is not how to keep a higher percentage of the younger people in the town, but to provide the richest opportunities for the growth and development of those young people who will remain in the town.

This can be accomplished by:

- (a) efficient elementary and high schools that provide modernized courses of study that train for farm

- life and broad citizenship.
- (b) ample opportunities for college education.
 - (c) progressive churches and wide-awake church leaders.
 - (d) boys' and girls' clubs that develop a vital interest in problems of rural life.
 - (e) organizations and facilities that provide wholesome amusement and educational programs.
 - (f) better use of the available facilities for amusement and educational program.
 - (g) the elimination of most of the present "old men" that hold public office and the substitution of youth.
 - (h) improve economic conditions - roads, phones, autos, electric conveniences in the home, etc.

Questionnaire used.

Emigrants

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Name of Township _____

Date of Coming _____ From what Township _____

State, if on farm, whether you are Owner, Tenant or Manager _____

*(1) No. of Boys _____ *(1) No. of Girls _____ Ages of Boys _____

Ages of Girls _____ Age of Father _____ Age of Mother _____

Present Occupation _____ Yearly Income _____

Occupation previous residence _____ Income Previous Occupation _____

Nationality { Mother _____ Church Preference (if willing to give it) _____
Father _____

Member of what Societies { Previous Residence _____
Present Residence _____

Education		
Father	Mother	Children

*(2) Living on Farm (No.) _____ Parents (No.) _____ Children (No.) _____
Relatives (No.) _____

*(3) Living Elsewhere (No.) _____ Children (No.) _____ *(3) Out of Town _____
*(3) In Town _____

No.	Reasons for Leaving Previous Residence.
1	
2	
3	
4	

Further comments (use back of sheet if necessary)

Informant _____ Address _____ Relation to emigrant _____

Signature (if willing) _____

*(1) In family *(2) Total number on farm including help
*(3) Members of family

Questionnaire used.

Emigrants

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Name of Township _____

Date of Coming _____ From what Township _____

State, if on farm, whether you are Owner, Tenant or Manager _____

*(1) No. of Boys _____ *(1) No. of Girls _____ Ages of Boys _____

Ages of Girls _____ Age of Father _____ Age of Mother _____

Present Occupation _____ Yearly Income _____

Occupation previous residence _____ Income Previous Occupation _____

Nationality { Mother _____ Church Preference (if willing to give it) _____
Father _____

Member of what Societies { Previous Residence _____
Present Residence _____

Education		
Father	Mother	Children

*(2) Living on Farm (No.) _____ Parents (No.) _____ Children (No.) _____
Relatives (No.) _____

*(3) Living Elsewhere (No.) _____ Children (No.) _____ *(3) Out of Town _____
*(3) In Town _____

No.	Reasons for Leaving Previous Residence.
1	
2	
3	
4	

Further comments (use back of sheet if necessary)

Informant _____ Address _____ Relation to emigrant _____

Signature (if willing) _____

*(1) In family *(2) Total number on farm including help
*(3) Members of family

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Lauri S. Ronka

Runkin's thesis

Approved by:

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Graduate Committee

Date *May 23rd. 33*



