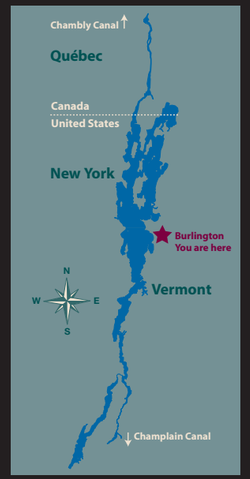
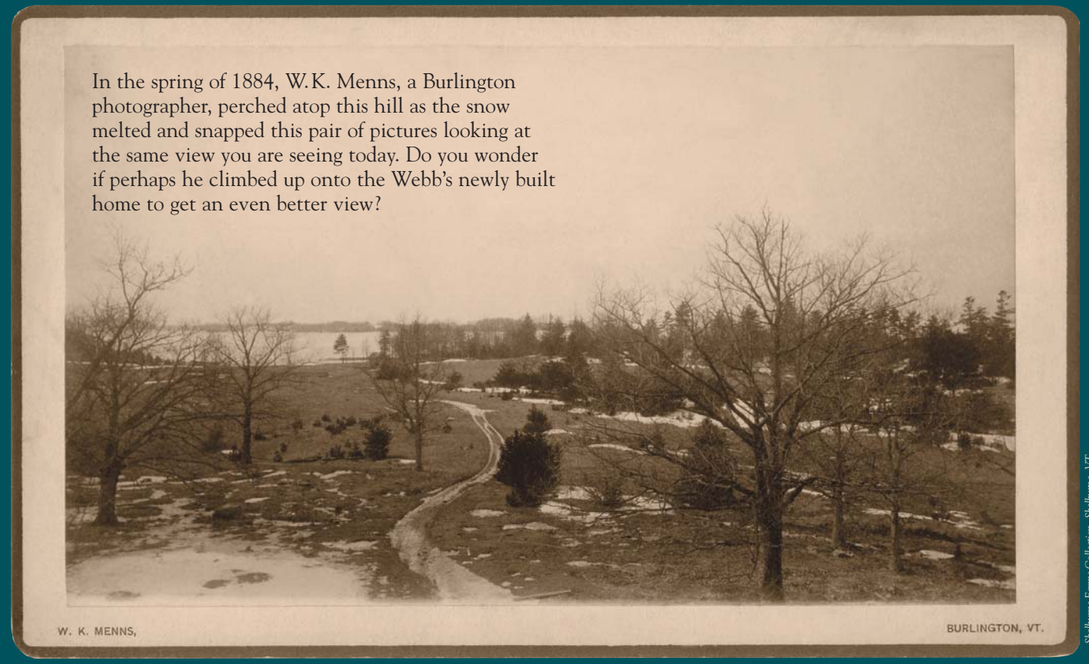
A Familiar Site

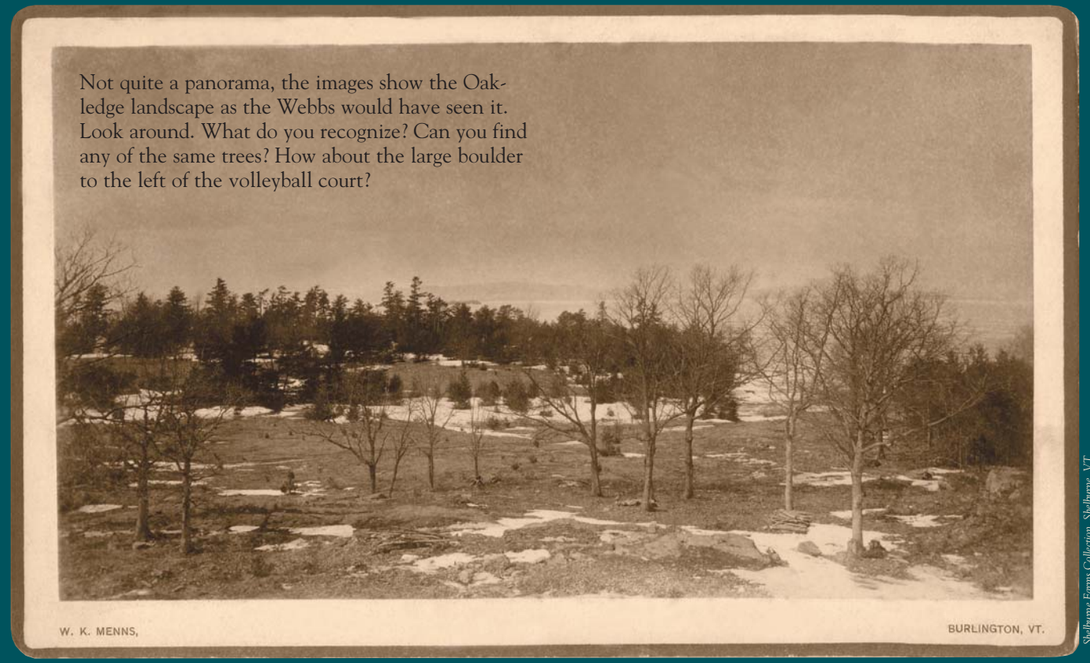


This sign and others in Oakledge Park evolved from research done by students and staff of the 2003 Science and Technology strand of the Governor's Institutes of Vermont, a week-long residential program for highly motivated Vermont High School students. Image collection and analysis supported by the UVM Geology Department's Landscape Change Program, an NSF and Lintilhac Foundation supported initiative to archive images of Vermont landscapes (www.uvm.edu/perkins/landscape). Creation and installation of the signs supported by private donations and grants from the Lintilhac and Henderson Foundations.



Shelburne Farms Collection, Shelburne, VT

1884 - Looking southwest toward Shelburne Bay and Shelburne Point.



Shelburne Farms Collection, Shelburne, VT

1884 - Looking west toward South Cove and Lake Champlain.

The four aerial images to the right illustrate the land-use changes south of Burlington since the height of the Great Depression. How many differences can you find between when Oakledge was a resort in 1937 and a city park in 1999? Do the changes continue today? The red star in each picture marks the former location of the main house at Oakledge, now the location of the picnic shelter just behind you.

University of Vermont, Bailey/Howe Library

1937 - The landscape around Oakledge is mostly open. Neighborhoods to the east are set in a "grid pattern" of streets running at right angles to each other.

University of Vermont, Bailey/Howe Library

1962 - Open land around Oakledge is developed during the post World War II prosperity of the 1950s. Oil tanks appear on the northern edge of the property. Interstate construction begins to the east.

University of Vermont, Bailey/Howe Library

1988 - Suburban-style neighborhoods built on winding roads appear around Oakledge. Development fills in around Interstate-89.

University of Vermont, Bailey/Howe Library

1999 - The surrounding land appears to be filled with houses, streets, and commercial buildings. Oakledge is a thriving city park, a green oasis serving the recreation needs of Burlington's residents.