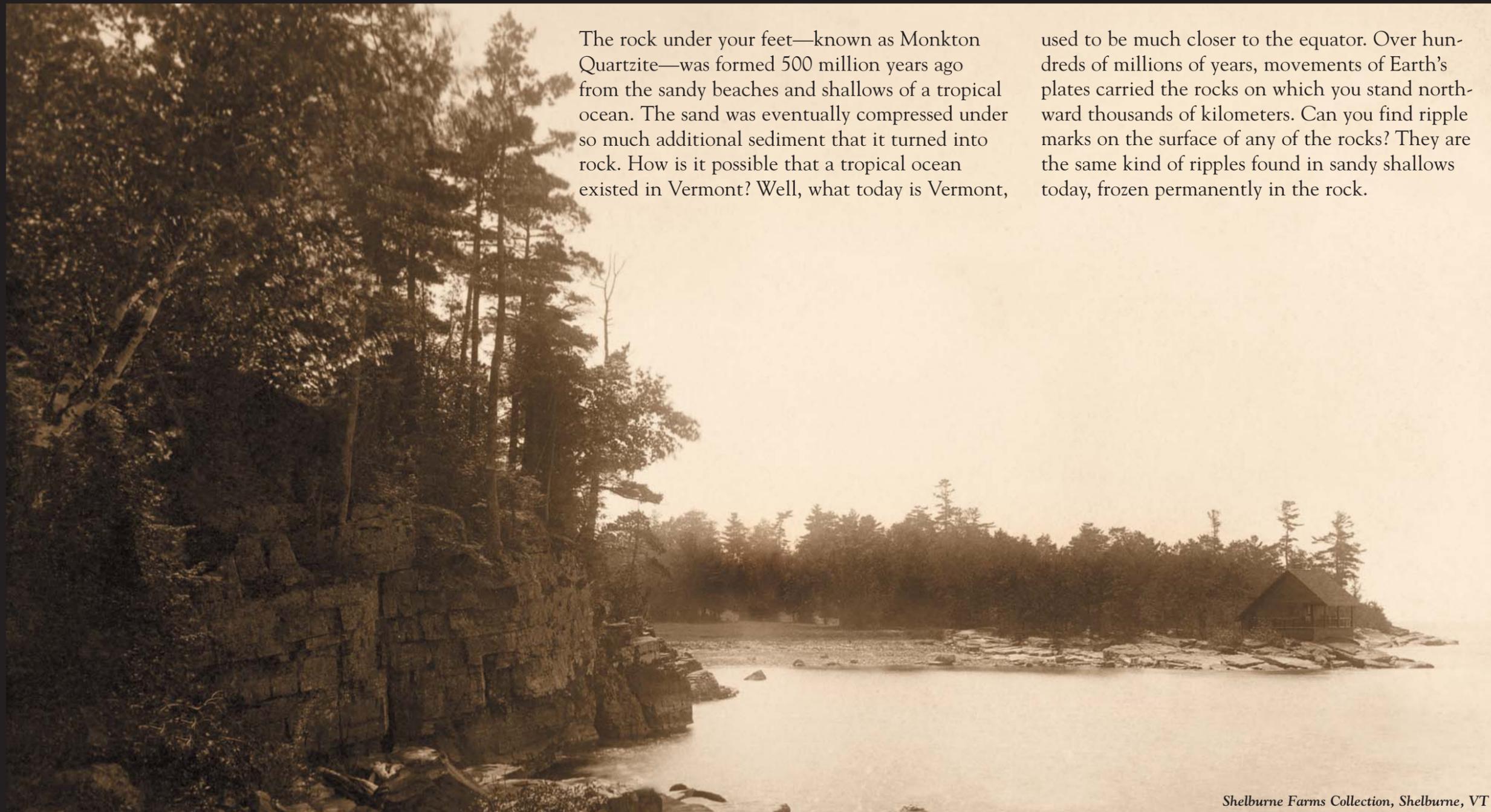


History on the Rocks



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.



The rock under your feet—known as Monkton Quartzite—was formed 500 million years ago from the sandy beaches and shallows of a tropical ocean. The sand was eventually compressed under so much additional sediment that it turned into rock. How is it possible that a tropical ocean existed in Vermont? Well, what today is Vermont,

used to be much closer to the equator. Over hundreds of millions of years, movements of Earth's plates carried the rocks on which you stand northward thousands of kilometers. Can you find ripple marks on the surface of any of the rocks? They are the same kind of ripples found in sandy shallows today, frozen permanently in the rock.



University of Vermont, Bailey/Howe Library, Special Collections

Ready for a swim? South Cove, this sheltered little bay, has always beckoned to folks looking to hit the water. Just down the hill from the main house, South Cove was used by guests of the Oakledge Manor Resort. Traces of the past can still be found along the rocky shore, from the foundations of an early cabin to a stone fireplace built for cookouts.



Carolyn Hodgdon

Visitors to the Oakledge Manor Resort used South Cove for swimming, boating, and other forms of summertime aquatic fun just as people do today. Can you find some things that have changed over the past 50 years?



University of Vermont, Bailey/Howe Library, Special Collections

The red Monkton Quartzite is a very hard rock, standing up to the pounding storm waves of Lake Champlain as shown so well in this hand colored postcard.

Shelburne Farms Collection, Shelburne, VT