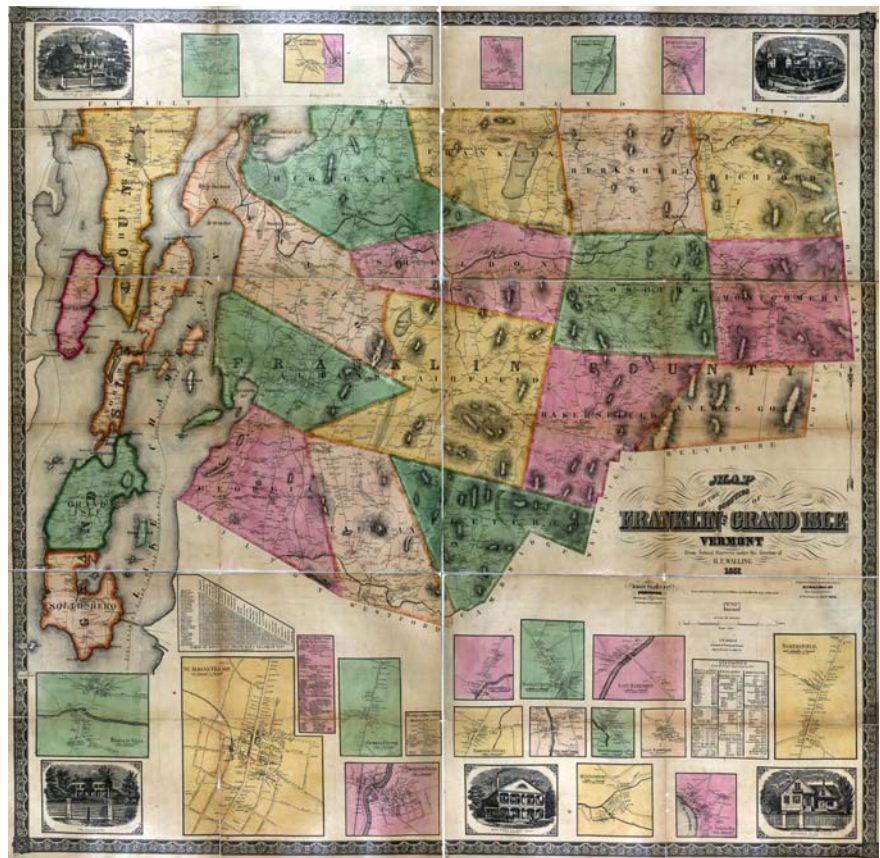
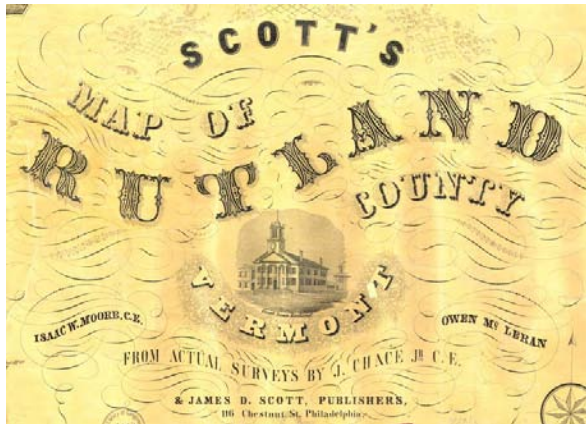


The Vermont County

Maps 1854-1859

Preliminary May 2007

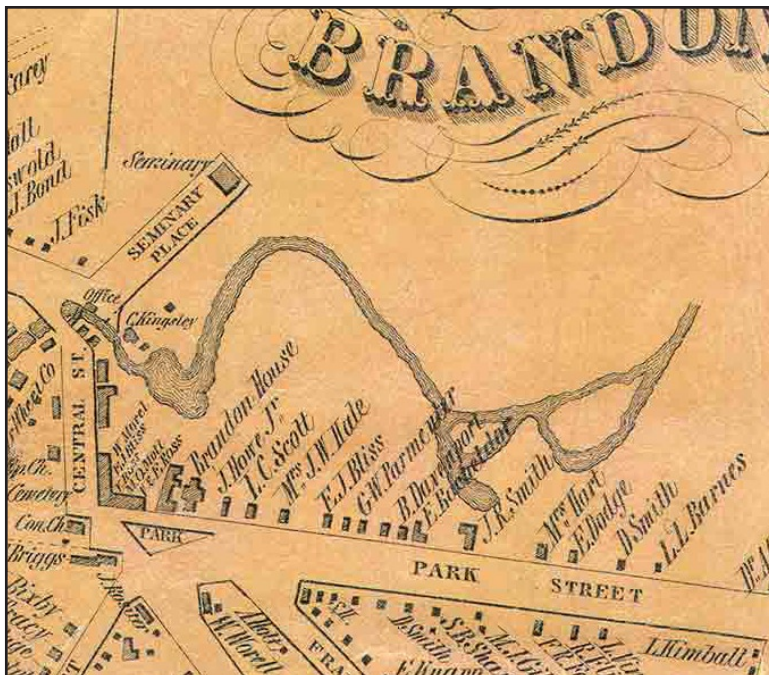
The state of Vermont was mapped in extraordinary detail 150 years ago. Between 1854-1859 mapmakers from Philadelphia, New York and Boston descended upon this rural area and made the first complete road maps of Vermont.¹ The



The 1857 Map of Franklin & Grand Isle Counties is one of eleven Vermont county wall maps published between 1854 and 1859. These were the first complete road maps. This map measures about 5' x 5'. The original maps were hand colored, varnished, and mounted on wooden rollers.

results of their work were eleven large wall maps which pictured the state in remarkable detail. Not only were all the roads mapped for the first time, but the maps showed the names and

locations of all homes, churches, schools and businesses.

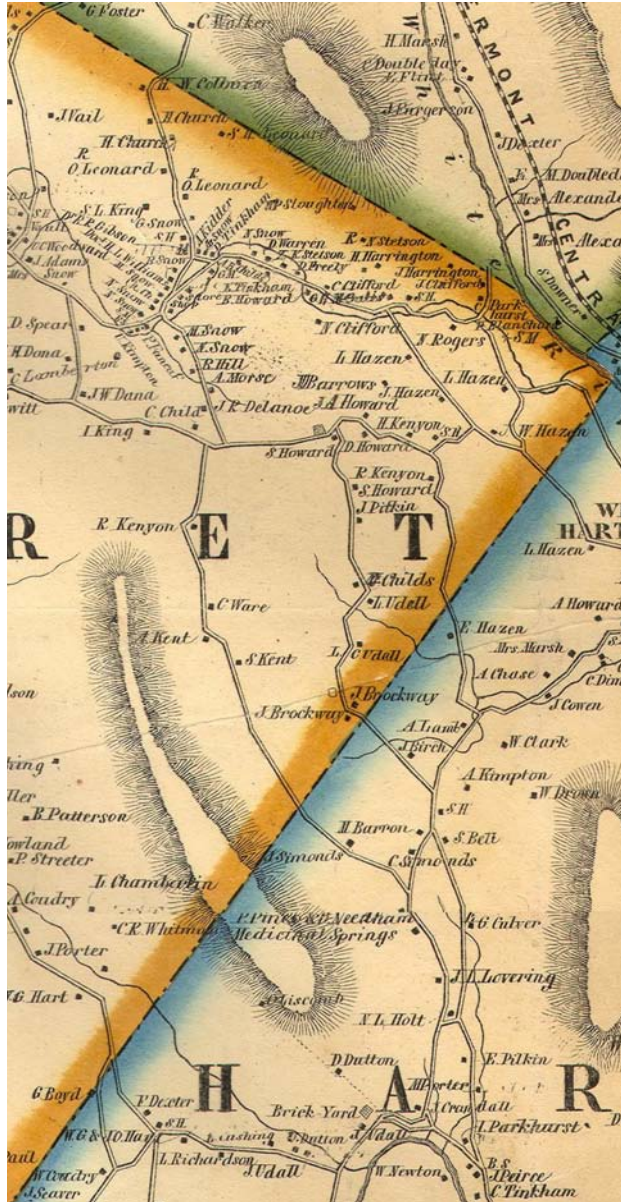


These old maps are a remarkable snapshot of a moment in time in Vermont's history. No maps today are made with the sort of detail these 19th century mapmakers made for us. Today these old maps help us learn who lived in our houses in centuries past or whose house once set upon an old foundation far off into the woods. Every road is supposed to be mapped, as are all of the homes, churches, schools and businesses.

These maps are filled with interesting entries such as the "Medicinal Springs" in Hartford...[more cute] Many of the roads shown on the 1850s maps are just footpaths today. A main road between North Pomfret and Hartford, known locally as the Kings Highway, is one such example. The Windsor County map clearly shows this road with the names of five 19th century homeowners. Those families are long gone, and the road, washed out in places, is best travelled on foot. Modern topographical maps show the road as a dashed line. Interestingly, there

¹ Prior to these wall maps there were a few detailed road maps made for Vermont's larger town centers, such as Burlington, Rutland, and Brattleboro, but the most of the states roads were unmapped. The federal governments road mapping (topographic maps) did not begin until the end of the 19th century.

is a new route passing near the old Kings Highway - the Appalachian Trail crosses it just north of one of the old cellarholes.



Portion of the Pomfret and Hartford maps from the Windsor County Map (1856). The north-south road in the middle of this view is now just a footpath in the woods. Only the foundations remain of the homes of C. Ware, A. Kent and S. Kent. Not shown on the old map is a new route - the Appalachian Trail - which courses notheasterly across the old road near the large "E".

Making the Maps

A typical map measured about 5' x 5', and mapped all of the roads in one county. The map consisted of a main section with all of the towns mapped as a continuous palette, and several village inset maps scattered about the edges. The map's margins include a few pictorial views of prominent buildings or scenes. Decorative borders surround many of the

maps, and each was offered to the public hand-colored, varnished, and mounted on wooden rollers.

The southern counties were the first mapped - Rutland in 1854, followed by Bennington, Windham and Windsor Counties in 1856. The last map was issued in 1859 and covered the Northeast Kingdom area - Orleans, Lamoille and Essex Counties. The more populous Vermont counties each merited a single map. Two maps combined more than one county: Franklin and Grand Isle which were shown on a single map, and Lamoille, Orleans & Essex counties were combined onto one large map with 48 towns. The Chittenden County map (1857) by contrast, has only 15 towns.

The mapmakers - lithography

The mapmakers were businessmen from coastal cities - principally Philadelphia and New York - who took advantage of a change in printing technology to make money by wandering the back roads of Vermont to make and sell maps. In earlier years maps and other non-text depictions were hard to print - they had to be engraved backwards on metal plates before they could be printed in quantity. Transfer lithography, a process which allowed maps to be drawn in positive form, was developed in the mid 1800s, and one of the notable results was the county wall map. Most of the rural north-eastern United States was mapped in detail for the first time in the decade of the 1850s.

The 11 Vermont wall maps list a variety of surveyors, publishers and printers, but one firm was responsible for most of them: the map publishing house of Henry Francis Walling. Eight Vermont maps list H.F. Walling as the surveyor and printer and various people as publishers. Walling was a notable surveyor/engineer whose main office was in New York City. Shortly after he completed his last Vermont county map (1859 - Orleans, Essex and Lamoille Counties) Walling issued a comprehensive road map of the whole state in 1860. The first three Vermont county maps, Rutland, Windham and Windsor, appear to have been printed in Philadelphia with origins a little less certain.

There aren't many known records of how the Vermont maps were made and published, but we do know the general methods used for these projects. Publication was announced in local newspapers, and local offices were set up where advance orders for the new map

could be taken.

A typical mid-1850s price was five dollars per copy. The Addison County map, for example, was advertised in the Middlebury Register for seven weeks in the summer and fall of 1856. The prominent two-column advertisement described the details of the map and stated that all property owners would be shown on the map

A New Topographical Map
AND
DIRECTORY OF ADDISON COUNTY, Vt.
BY BAKER & TILDEN,
From actual measurement by Instrumental
surveys throughout the county,
BY H. F. WALLING, State Engineer of Mass.

The undersigned propose to publish by order, a large and accurate *Topographical Map of Addison County*, from thorough and careful surveys, by H. F. WALLING, Civil Engineer.

Every Road has been carefully surveyed by course and distance, and the locations noted of all the *Public Roads, Dwellings, Churches, Post Offices, Hotels, Stores, School Houses, Factories, Mills, Shops, Hills, Ponds, Marshes, Streams, &c.* The names of *Property Holders* generally—carefully including those who order the work—will be engraved upon the Map, showing the exact location of each.

Extra Maps of the *Principal Villages* will be engraved upon the margin of the Map; also a *Table of Distances*, showing the number of miles from each Post Office to every other throughout the county, together with the latest statistical information. An ornamental border will surround the Map.

The Map will be engraved by the most skilful artists in the country, handsomely colored and mounted, and will be delivered to those who order for **FIVE DOLLARS** per copy.

This advertisement for the Map of Addison County ran for seven weeks in the summer of 1856 in the Middlebury Register.

“...carefully including those who order the work...”. On July 16th of that year the newspaper reported that the surveys had been completed (during the previous two years) and that draft copies of the map were available. The story stated that

“...doubtless many of our county friends have observed the surveyor (commonly known as the wheel-barrow man) perambulating the county...”. The road surveyors used a wheel odometer, similar to the device pictured

here, or one drawn by horse and buggy. The odometer wheel recorded distances, and road angles were measured with a compass.. The surveyor would ask the names of farmstead owners as he



THE ODOMETER.

19th century mapmakers measured roads with a wheeled odometer and a compass like those pictured here.

passed by, and no doubt added a brief sales pitch for the new map... ..after all, the map would carry the name of the resident.

The July 1856 newspaper story reported that the publishers, Baker and Tilden from Boston, were going to be showing the drafts of the map about the county to make additions and to take orders for the map.

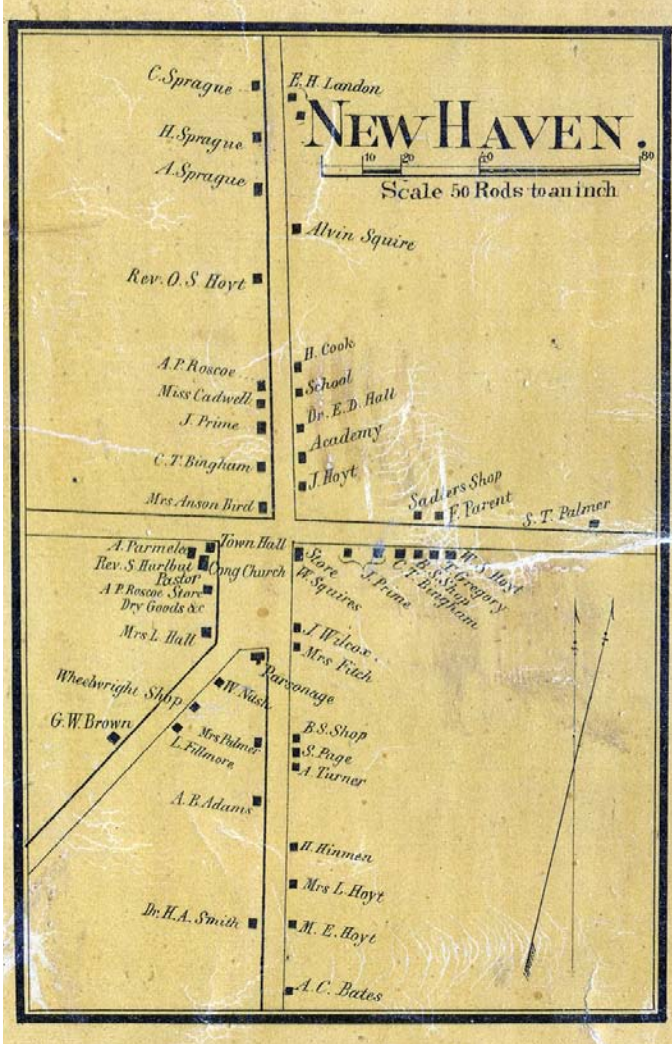
Pre-publication sales were crucial to the success of these maps because producing them was quite an effort. The producers would not make these maps in quantity trusting that they could be sold later. The maps were large affairs, typically 5 feet square. They were printed on 4 separate sheets which were glued together onto a linen backing. Each map was then hand-colored with extra shading added to accentuate the town boundaries. A protective coating of varnish was applied and two wooden rollers affixed. From the limited records available it is generally believed that very few extra maps were ever printed beyond those ordered before publication. So the salesman was at least as important as the surveyor in making these wonderful maps available to us today.

The 1856 advertisements for the Addison county map also had personal testimonials. Prominent citizens allowed their names to be used in the ad-

vertisements, testifying to the merits of the forthcoming map. Twenty-eight residents of Middlebury and others from nearby towns listed their names and stated in print:

“We feel confident they will furnish an accurate, reliable and useful Map....We hope the citizens of this county will interests themselves sufficiently in this enterprise, so that the publishers may engrave ...Extra Plans of the villages...”

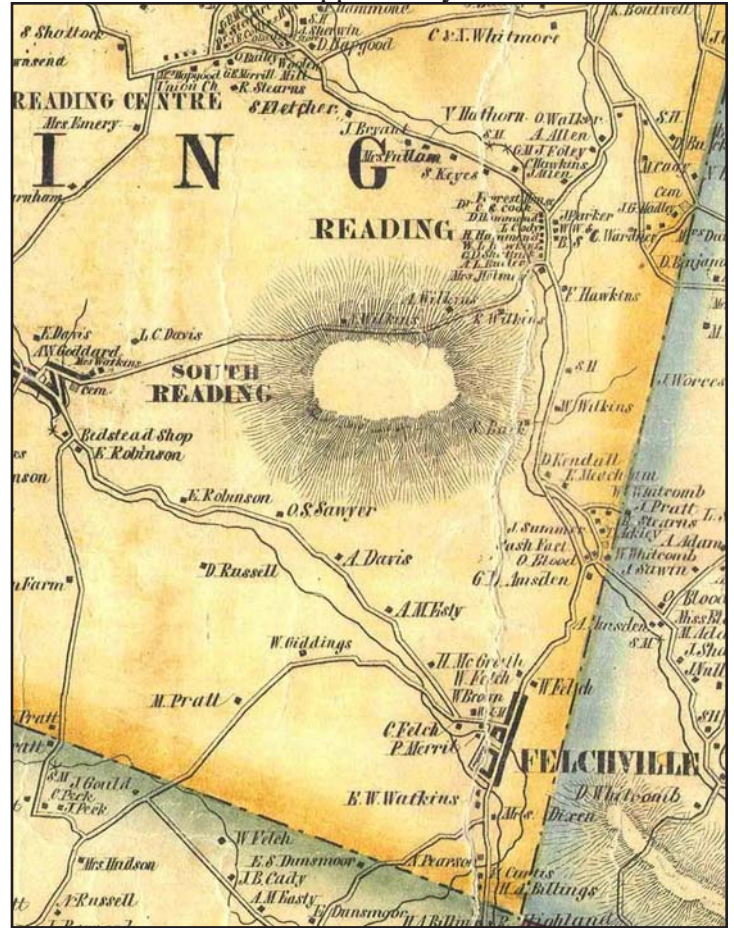
That last sentence refers to the village inset detail maps which appear in the margins of the wall maps. The publisher seems to be saying that, if sales are good, they will make village detail maps. The houses in densely settled areas could be shown in a



Enlarged detail map of New Haven (Addison County - 1857)

more attractive manner with an enlarged detail map. The extra space available on an inset map also allowed the mapmakers to provide more information about the buildings, such as the uses of a store or

a mill. The detail map for New Haven Village, for example, shows the Congregational Church building, but also adds the name of the Pastor. The Addison County map has 15 such detail maps of the larger villages. At least one of the other Vermont maps, however, may not have been as well supported by the citizens. The



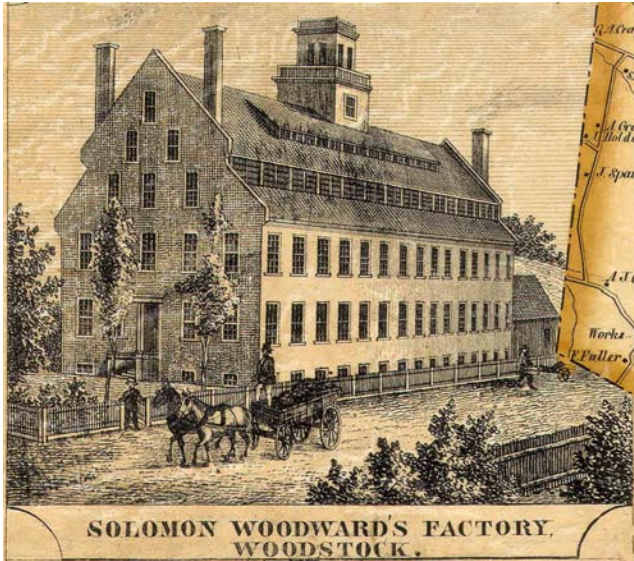
Portion of the Town of Reading from the 1856 Windsor County map. The dark lines in the villages of South Reading and Felchville suggest that there are separate village detail maps. Felchville does have such a map, but no detail map exists for South Reading. No explanation is found for this omission.

Windsor County map (1856) is missing several village detail maps. The main body of that county map shows, for example, the village of South Reading with several buildings indicated, but there is no enlarged map showing the names of the owners. The nearby village of Felchville does have an enlarged inset.

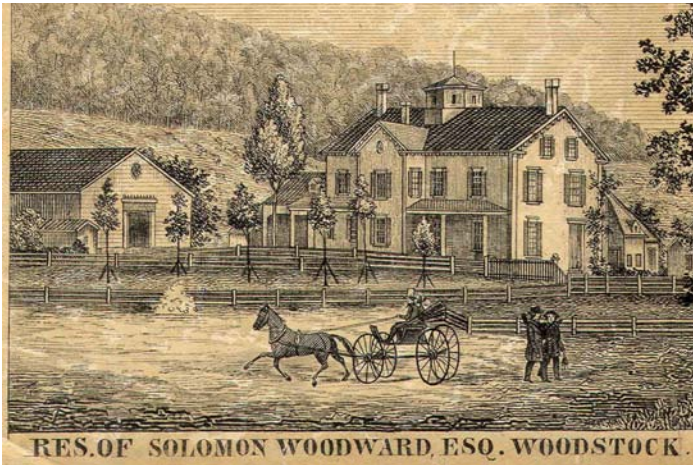
Also missing from the Windsor County map are detail maps for North Hartland, Hartland Four Corners, and Brownsville (West Windsor). Do these omissions suggest that the publishers were not as successful in pre-selling their map as they wanted, or just that they weren't as caring as the later mapmakers. ?

The pictures

All of the Vermont maps feature some pictures in their margins. These images make the maps more visually interesting, and also provide some clues as to the financial success of the publication. On some of the county maps the homes or businesses of prominent



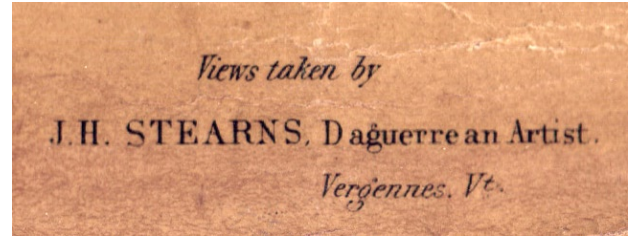
people appear. These were paid for. The Windsor County map, for example has ten pictures, seven of which depict businesses or private homes. Woodstock's Solomon Woodward paid for two renderings:



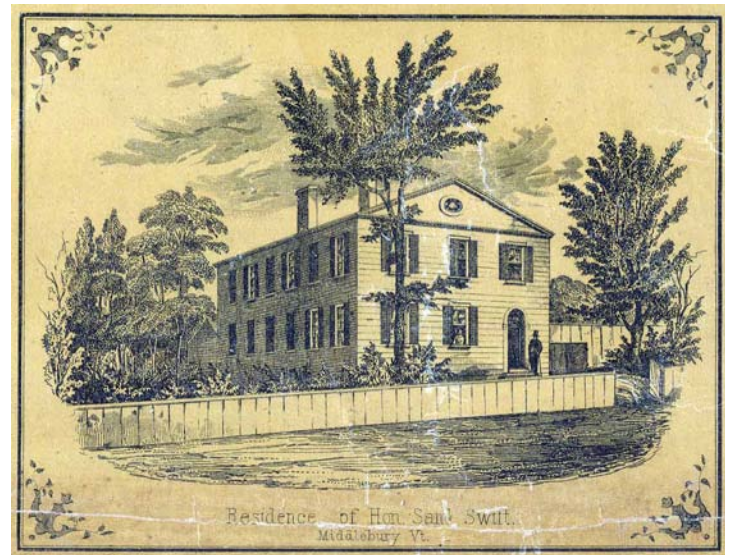
his four-story brick factory building and his private residence.

The Chittenden County map (1857) may have been quite successful, as there are fifteen private properties shown among the seventeen pictures on that map. This stands in sharp contrast to the Caledonia County map and the Orleans, Lamoille & Essex Counties map, each of which had only two pictures - both of public buildings.

The pictures were probably based on photographs made by local businessmen. Evidence for this



is found on the Addison County map, where the "Daguerrean Artist" J.H. Stearns is credited on the surface of the map. Thirteen views from (presumably) Stearn's photographs adorn the Addison County map.



Some of the 1850s buildings still stand today. The house of the "Hon[orable] Sam'l Swift" in Middlebury, is now the Swift House Inn. Mr. Swift was among the Middlebury men who allowed his name to be used in the newspaper advertisements.

Photographer Stearns' compensation may have included his special treatment in the Business Directory for Vergennes. His name appears at the top of the list in the "Artists, Manufrs..." category in the Directory. And his address is listed, while most of the other entries just have the businessman's name and vocation.

More on the mapmakers

As noted earlier there were two principal map printing centers in the northeastern US - Philadelphia and New York (Boston also had map publishers). Henry F. Walling of New York (formerly of Boston) had significant involvement with eight Vermont county maps (1856-1859). His name appears as the surveyor on seven (all except Bennington) and his print shop's address (90 Fulton Street usually) is printed on all eight. Also, H.F. Walling is the copyright claimant for all of those eight maps. The maps have three different publishers listed, principally Baker & Tilden, who published six maps.¹ The publishers may have been investors who put up part of the money for each map. They would have had the primary responsibility for selling the maps. The Addison County advertisement noted above has statements by both H.F. Walling and Baker & Tilden. It seems reasonable to credit H.F. Walling as the author of those eight maps, even though different publishers appear on the titles.

The first three Vermont maps, Rutland, Windsor and Windham, are less well documented. The lettering style is quite different than the Walling maps. It appears that they were printed in Philadelphia. The Windham and Rutland county maps list Philadelphia printers, and the Windsor County map, while it has no printer listed on the map, has a copyright record at the Library of Congress in the name of Robert P. Smith of Philadelphia, a major map printer.²

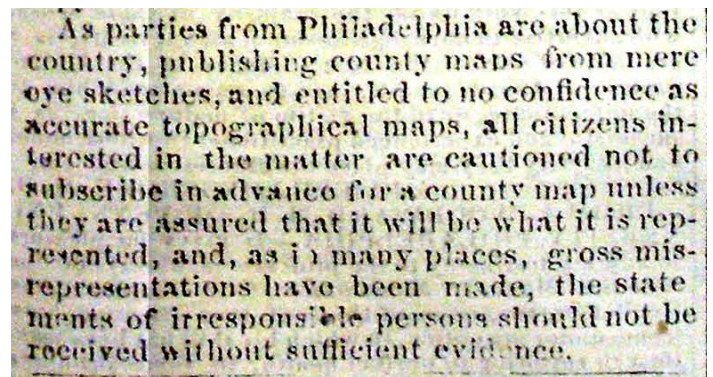
Smith may not have been involved with the other two maps however, though he certainly would have known about the projects. John Chace Jr., who collaborated with Smith on several county maps in other locales, is the surveyor for the Rutland and Windham county maps. He was very active in the county map business - he is the principal or sole surveyor on 18 different county maps in the period 1854-1858. The Rutland map is titled "Scott's Map..." after its publisher, James D. Scott, who is

1 C.B. Peckham is the Publisher for the Bennington County Map; his address is listed as "H.F. Wallings Map Store" in New York. Loomis & May (New York) published the Orleans, Lamoille & Essex Counties map. Baker & Tilden are the Publishers for Addison, Franklin/Grand Isle, Chittenden, Orange, Washington, and Caledonia counties - with a Boston address for the first three, and New York address for the last three.

2 Microfilm of District Court records, Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Robert Pearsall Smith filed a "title" with the court for the Map of Windsor County, 1856, by Hosea Doton, on April 4, 1856

listed on both the Rutland and the Windham county maps as copyright claimant.³ Scott also worked with Robert P. Smith on other map projects, but the Chestnut Street address on the Windham and Rutland maps is not known to be a Smith printing location. Chace and Scott partnered on some other maps, including one of Hampshire County Massachusetts, which resulted in a dispute with Henry F. Walling. Walling found their Massachusetts work to be of poor quality; and he printed a highly critical broadside documenting numerous errors on their 1854 Hampshire County map.⁴ Since the Rutland County map was made at the same time by the same publisher, we are left to wonder if that map has some shortcomings.

There is more evidence of competing map-makers in Vermont. Walling caused a notice to be printed in the Middlebury Register in November of 1854. In that article Walling announces that he is going to make a map of Addison County and promises to carefully



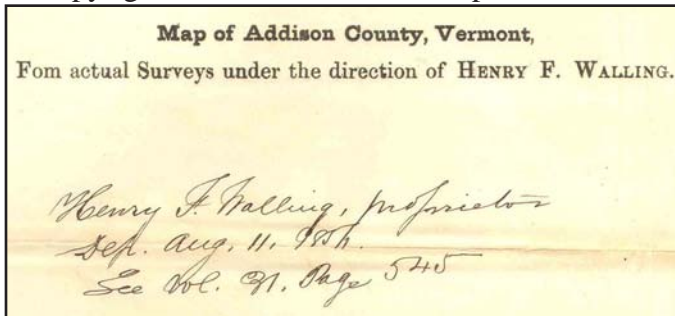
Nov 1 1854 notice by H.F. Walling, warning the public to be cautious about dealing with competing mapmakers from Philadelphia.

survey every road. He then warns that "...parties from Philadelphia are about the country, publishing county maps from mere eye sketches..." and that people should not buy their maps. He is probably referring to Chace and Scott.

3 The copyright records are not as clear as we would like. All three of these maps have the claim of copyright printed on their surface, but initial research at the Library of Congress has not yielded copyright registration records for these Vermont county maps.

4 Chace and Scott produced a Map of Hampshire County in 1854, apparently in direct competition with an H.F. Walling effort. Walling printed a highly critical leaflet after the Scott map appeared, criticizing the quality and telling the public that Scott had promised Walling, that he, Scott, would not to make a competing map. The Walling critique cites dozens of errors on the Scott map. Walling may have won this contest, as the Scott Map of Hampshire County is quite rare, while Walling made two maps of that county in 1856 and 1860. "Scott's Map of Rutland County" has similar lettering, the same printer and a co-author (Owen McCleran) as Scott's Hampshire County map.

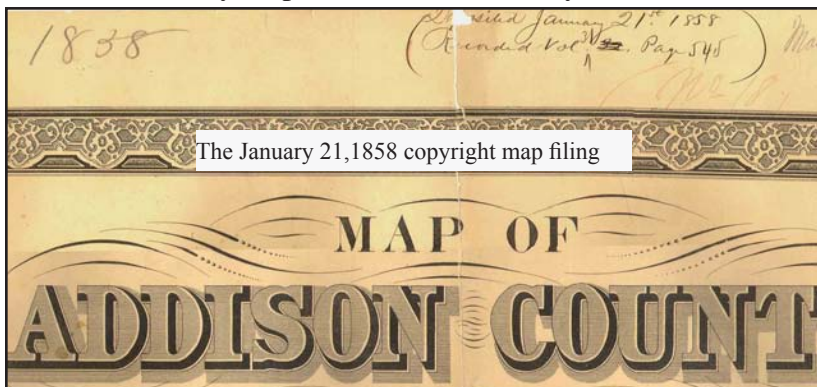
H.F. Walling was a professional surveyor/engineer, and it is generally accepted that his maps were well done. He did spend a lot of time making his maps. His 1854 notice states that he is starting the surveys for the Addison County map, and it is almost two years later, in summer of 1856, that the surveys are completed and the sales effort begun (see above). Walling and his publishers are advertising the map in August and September of 1856. Walling files a copyright claim for the title of the map on August 11. In the 1850s there was a two-stage process used to secure map copyrights. First, a “title” was deposited with the



The Aug 11, 1856 copyright “title” filing

Federal District Court, followed by a deposit of the finished copy of the map¹. These records are now stored at the Library of Congress.

For Addison county both the actual “title” , a small piece of paper with two lines of typeset text, and the final published map are on file. Both have hand-written entries indicating when they were received by the court. The final copy of the Addison County map was received January 21, 1858.



1 Now copyright applications are sent to the Copyright Office in Washington D.C. In the mid 1800s the filings were made at the nearest Federal District Court.

Different Versions of County maps

It seems a odd that it would take 15 months to produce the finished Addison County map after the surveys were completed (summer, 1856). It is possible that the copyright-filed map at the Library of Congress is a second state of the map.. This would explain the time gap. There are at least two versions of the Map of Addison County, both dated 1857, and neither with any month of publication.. One state of the map is published by “Wm. E. Baker”; the other by “Baker & Tilden”. The Baker & Tilden copies have rectangular boxes added around the 13 pictures. The Library of Congress has copies of both versions; the “Baker & Tilden” being the one with the January 1858 copyright receipt note. This and other evidence on the maps suggests that the “Baker & Tilden” version is the later of the two.²

At least one of the other Vermont county maps exists in multiple versions. The Windsor County map is seen with 1856 and 1855 imprints, both surveyed by Hosea Doton, and, oddly, a second 1856 version with J. Chace Jr. as the surveyor. The 1855 Doton version is more commonly seen today. The Library of Congress has two copies of the 1856 Doton version, one of which is the copyright file copy. There are at least two copies of the 1856 “Chace” version of the map extant - one at the Vermont Historical Society and one at the Library of Congress. The LC copy of the Chace map has a receipt note dated April 16, 1856, a few days after the Doton version was filed for copyright registration. The Chace and Doton versions are identical in many respects, clearly based on the same original plates, yet the name beneath the “From Actual Surveys By” is different. The Chace version has no date, and is less complete. At this writing this is a mystery wanting further research.

--- Dave Allen

Feb 15, 2006 / May 2007

2 The Wm. E. Baker state has a shaded rectangle which makes the imprint look pasted in, but other evidence suggests it is the older state of the map. It is more commonly seen, and the pictures are all borderless. I’ve noted two other features suggesting that it is older. The Wm. E. Baker version shows a diagonal road in the Monkton village map which is in fact not a road. It is a driveway to a private house per road maps today. This road does not appear on the Baker & Tilden map. Also, Dead Creek in Pantou is unlabelled on the Wm. E. Baker maps; the Baker & Tilden map bears the name “Dead Creek”.

<u>County(s)</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Surveyor</u>	<u>Publisher / City</u>	<u>Printer/City/Street</u>	<u>Copyright on Map</u>	<u>Copr. Title Filed</u>	<u>Copyright Deposit (Map)</u>	<u># of Pictures / Private houses or</u>
8 Rutland	1854	Chace, J., Jr.; Moore, Isaac; McCleran, Owen	Chace & Scott	Herrlein, E. / Phila. / 116 Chestnut	Scott, James D. / Phila. / 1854	n.a.	n.a.	12 (1)
11 Windsor	1855/6	Doton, Hosea	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.			10(7)
11 Windsor	1856	Doton, Hosea	[Smith, R.P.*]	n.a.	n.a.	Apr 4, 1856	Apr 7, 1856	10(7)
2 Bennington	1856	Walling, H.F.	Peckham, C.B. / NY	Walling, H.F. / NY	Walling, H.F. / NYC / 1856	n.a.	n.a.	21(17)
10 Windham	1856	Chace, J., Jr.	McClellan, C., & Co.	Rease, W.H. / Phila. / 4th & Chestnut	Scott, J.D. / Phila.	n.a.	n.a.	7(4)
1 Addison	1857	Walling, H.F.	Baker, Wm. & Co. / Bos	Walling, H.F. / NY	Walling, H.F.	Aug 11, 1856	Jan 21, 1858	13(11)
Franklin & Grand Isle	1857	Walling, H.F.	Baker, Tilden & / Bos / NY	Walling, H.F. / NY	Walling, H.F. / Bos / 1857	Aug 11, 1856	Jan 21, 1858	5(4)
4 Chittenden	1857	Walling, H.F.	Baker, Tilden & / Bos / NY	Walling, H.F. / NY	Walling, H.F.	Aug 11, 1856	Jan 21, 1858	17(15)
6 Orange	1858	Walling, H.F.	Baker & Tilden / NY	Walling, H.F. / NY	Walling, H.F.	Aug 11, 1856	Oct 16, 1858	4(1)
9 Washington	1858	Walling, H.F.	Baker & Tilden / NY	Walling, H.F. / NY	Walling, H.F. / Bos / 1858		Jul 27, 1858	4(0)
3 Caledonia	1858	Walling, H.F.	Baker & Tilden / NY	Walling, H.F. / NY	Walling, H.F. / Bos / 1858	Aug 11, 1856	Aug 11, 1858	2(0)
Orleans, Lamoille & Essex	1859	Walling, H.F.	Loomis & May / NY	Walling, H.F. / NY	Walling, H.F.		Sep 6, 1858	2(0)

