

Interviewee: Barbara Kent
Interviewer: Answers were written by Barbara Kent
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Barbara Kent arrived in Shelburne with her family in the 1920s when her father came to work for Shelburne Farms

Topics Discussed: Shelburne Farms, Schools, Roads, Life at home, Shelburne Museum, Flood of 1927, Town Meetings, Farms, Shopping, Post Office

Q: What is your full name?

A: Barbara Jean Adams Kent

Q: How long have you lived in Shelburne?

A: I have lived in Shelburne from 1927 to the present, the exception of a short time in Charlotte.

Q: When and where were you born?

A: I was born at home in a brick farmhouse on Bixby Hill (named for my mother's family) in Essex Center, Vermont on April 6, 1923.

Q: Who were your parents? Where were your parents born? Where did your parents go to school? What did your parents do for a living?

A: My father was born at home on the family farm in Westford, Vermont, on August 12, 1894. He attended a one-room schoolhouse thru the 8th grade, then remained at home to help on the farm. Before entering WWI in 1917, he worked at many jobs, reforestation, roadwork, farming. Upon returning home in 1919, he did pretty much the same things, until he became employed by Shelburne Farms in 1927. When physically he needed a change, he worked for a short time at Gardenside Nurseries in Shelburne, then became employed at Bell Aircraft and then General Electric until his retirement in 1960s.



Picture 1 Ring Barn, Shelburne Farms

My mother was born at home on the family farm in Essex Center, Vermont on June 3, 1900. She attended one—room schoolhouses and Essex Classical Institute, and then became a teacher. On June 9, 1920, she married my father and became a homemaker.

Q: Did you have any brothers or sisters? How many? How did you get along? Where do/did they live?

A: I had an older sister, a brother and a younger sister, all of us born at home in Essex, Vermont, with the exception of my younger sister. We were not close as children but we did get along well. We all graduated from Shelburne High School and some of us attended college. We were all married and lived mostly in Vermont, with the exception of our brother. When he returned from WWII, he continued his education, was married and moved to New York. He was employed by Eastman Kodak, where he remained until his retirement to Florida.

Q: How many generations of your family have lived in Shelburne? Where do you live now?

A: Up to the present, four generations of my family have lived in Shelburne. My father and mother are both deceased. I still live here, as do three of my children and two grandchildren. I live at 1101 Falls Road on property that once belonged to Ira Allen, in a 1794-year-old house.

Q: Where were you before arriving in Shelburne? What prompted you to move to Shelburne? What is your first memory of Shelburne?

A: I lived in Essex Center from 1923 until we moved to Shelburne in 1927. We came here because of father's employment. We moved into a small tenant cottage, with no electricity or indoor bathroom. My recollections at four years of age are few. My most vivid one being the walk to the end of a short lane for the mail, carried by rural delivery, and seeing a bear a few hundred feet away. We were both surprised and I ran home as fast as I could.

Q: What was life like at home?

A: Perhaps our one real luxury during those depression years was a car. It was a black and gray Chevrolet, seldom used for pleasure. My mother used a wooden, hand operated washing machine, heated many containers of water, and made many meals on a black iron wood—burning stove, also used for heat. We children were pretty much free to play, indoors or out, with little watching from our mother, as we were far removed from traffic and animals. I do recall a wonderful red wagon (possible Radio Flyer) wood and wooden wheel barrel. And always we wore rubber boots out to play until well into summer! It was about a mile into town and school. My older sister began first grade. She and others in the neighborhood of three other cottages walked to school, very little traffic to contend with. My father crossed over the stile on the back fence and walked up the hill to the dairy barn where he worked.

Q: Where else did you live in Shelburne?

A: Shortly, we moved up the hill into a larger version of the cottage, with more heat, electricity and hot water. And there began a rather idyllic everyday life, my father being the only actual participant in the life of the farm, we basically only left home to go to school. We had a pony to ride and pull that same red wooden wagon, a beach for swimming, woods to play in, an abundance of wild flowers to pick, and fruit trees to eat from. Also, many small hills and ponds for winter sports. We had two pairs of skis, one small and one large. Also, a great toboggan which in later years became a sled for my father's ice fishing equipment.

Q: What kind of household chores did you have to perform?

A: We had few small household or out door chores to perform, with four children, the burden on any one was minimal. There was care for your own room, weekend dusting of family rooms, but worst of all, doing the dishes! Older sister and I were two short for the high kitchen sink, so our father made stools for us.

Q: Where were your closest neighbors?

A: Mostly neighbors were within walking distance and all Farm employees, actually pretty secluded.

Q: How are holidays celebrated in your family? What holidays are most important--national, religious, or family?

A: Christmas was a most important holiday. Father searched the woods for the perfect tree. We had real candles on it some years, with a bucket of water standing by. I still have one of our oldest tree bulbs. Presents were very special, as they were maybe the only ones we would receive. Some years we went all the way to Essex Center to my grandparents for the day, however, our father would have to be back at the Farms by two o'clock to prepare for last days' milking. It would be a large family gathering, with many aunts, uncles and cousins. And always songs around the piano, many family members being especially musical. Fourth of July was also special. We each had our own private stock of sparklers; firecrackers and snakes, then went to the neighbors who had rockets to shoot into the air. Memorial Day at school we would walk across Rte. 7 from school to the cemetery and put lilacs on soldier's graves. In much later days, there is a more elaborate service on the village green in front of the two churches, with a canon salute from the cemetery. Prominent speakers.

Q: What kind of meals did you eat at home?

A: Father trapped muskrat and fished both summer and winter. Fish, potatoes and garden vegetables were our staples for meals. Mother made bread every other day, we still have our grandmother's bread making pail. Jell-O was new to us, as was margarine. We had a huge, handsome oak icebox which father filled from the icehouse on the Farms, a large building layered with saw dust and huge cakes of ice.

Q: What was your kitchen like?

A: We had a pantry, a long narrow room off the kitchen, with shelves along both sides. Good for storing seldom used dishes, out-dated magazines, canning jars, cooling food on the windowsill, etc. Also, mother used a long narrow hall from the woodshed to the kitchen as a summer kitchen, with a kerosene stove instead of wood heat. And there was a wonderful cellar, full of mother's canned fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs in water glass and a huge bin full of potatoes, which needed to be "de-rooted" from time to time. Our father also had a large metal tub full of minnows for fishing, in water, of course. Also, kept a plentiful supply of worms for fishing and fed them coffee grounds.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: My sisters, brother and I just missed the one-room schoolhouses. In 1926 a large brick school was built in town on Route 7 after fire destroyed the previous building. We attended all twelve grades in the same building. It is now the Town Center, having been added onto these many past years.

Q: How did you get to school?

A: We traveled to school by way of vans or station wagons, funded by town money, I believe, until high school. Then we car-pooled or financed our own transportation, as well as textbooks. Basketball, School Dances.

Q: Did you take any field trips?

A: In the early grades, I remember trips to the Pierson Library on the village green. We walked down the sidewalk, a teacher to help us across Rte. 7. A short recess in the morning meant a real rush to put on roller skates and ride down the walk next to the road in front of the school.

And at year's end, the big picnic trip to Ethan Allen Park to roller skate the day away in the Pavilion, with time out for the great over-sized slide, swings hanging high from giant trees and a climb to the look-out Tower. And a very fitting celebration to end twelve years of school and graduation, a ride on the Ticonderoga!

Q: What did children do for fun?

A: A good part of Shelburne town, village and falls was made up of farms. Young people often had little time for "hanging out". They were needed at home on the farms. However, there were long snowy back roads for riding traverses, toboggans and jack jumpers. Also, a big country kitchen was great for dancing, sometimes called a kitchen trunk. Almost always there was some body in the family to play the fiddle, with piano accompaniment.

Q: Did you ever go to Burlington?

A: It was possible to travel by train to Burlington where one could find many and varied stores and four movie houses. Also, at one time and for many years, Howard Miller, a local citizen, ran a jitney several times a day to Burlington, a great boon for shoppers and workers alike. Cost, 35 cents!

Q: Was there a feeling of separation between the Falls and Village?

A: There was a feeling of separateness between the Falls and the village, not unkindly, just almost like two different villages. Supposedly, the town began in the Falls because industry began with the waterpower from the Falls. And later, when the railroad came, a lot of that changed in order to be closer for the transportation of goods.

Q: How has Shelburne Point changed over the years?

A: I know very little about Shelburne Point. Except when I was a child we only know it as a long, dusty dirt road, five miles to the end. Eventually, as everything improved, use of cars, better jobs and more money, the property became more populated and valuable.

Q: Who were some of the large families in Shelburne?

A: There were many large families, as was the custom in days gone by, presumably to work on the farm as they grew older, also, farmers such as the Irish, Thomas, Marsett, etc. were probably the largest land owners with many acres under cultivation and livestock room to graze. Others ran and sometimes owned the black smith shop, local grocery stores and later on small service and gas stations

Q: Who were the biggest landowners in Shelburne?

A: The largest landowners were members of the Webb family. They were very cordial towards the town people, financially generous and employed many of the town folks. My family's years spent on Shelburne Farms were always pleasant and productive, and my father was most happy to have job security in a period of depression.

Q: Who were the doctors in Shelburne?

A: The first doctor that I remember in Shelburne and the one who saw us all thru childhood diseases and my sister thru pneumonia was Dr. James Norton. When your household contracted measles or other communicable diseases (there were no preventative shots back then) he came and placed a sign on your door. This meant that you didn't venture out among others for two weeks or when he came back and removed the sign. His former home in Shelburne now belongs to the Museum and contains offices.

Q: What do you remember of the early post offices?

A: The first post office that I remember stood on the corner in town and was replaced by a gas station. The building is now on Shelburne Museum grounds where I can still find our family name on the box. When we children went to school, we given written permission to

collect our mail during the school noon hour. Miss Neary and Marie Hamilton were two of the early Postmistresses.

Q: Who were some Shelburne's earlier librarians?

A: Earliest remembered and one of longest standing librarian was Marjorie Marsett. Molly Deyette and James Berry were school principals. My earliest teachers were Miss Fox (she had red hair), Mrs.

Hugh McKenzie, Theresa Dillon Muzzy and John McGee. Mary Noonan, another teacher of long standing, as was her brother Edward as custodian. Most of them lived in Shelburne.

Q: Who were some of Shelburne's memorable personalities?

A: Two memorable personalities in Shelburne were John Tracy and Walter Maeck, related by marriage. John ran a large garden bordering the railroad tracks on the west side and provided many of the village children with their first paying job. Wage scale was five to thirty-five cents an hour, depending upon age and skill. Walter owned and ran a farm on Spear for many years and helped John on occasion.

In accordance with typical small-town behavior, shop keepers, librarians, etc. were always cordial, mostly knew you by name and were happy to pass the time of day.

Q: What makes Shelburne so appealing?

A: The town of Shelburne was and still is a most desirable place in which to live. It's appealing to the eye in every direction and still not overpopulated yet. It borders on an abundance of river and lakeshores, has several parks and fishing areas and many walking trails. There are places to eat and a number of overnight accommodations.

Q: Have there been any disasters in Shelburne?

A: In 1938 a hurricane traveled thru flow England, once again it was while we lived on Shelburne Farms. It was so fierce that we couldn't see out the windows. My mother remembered a treetop broke off by our house and went up over our roof. And to this day there is a faint path thru the small woods made by the hurricane.

Snow always seem to be extra deep. I remember a lesser-traveled road down hack of our house that often did not get plowed till spring. And we came up hill from time to time in a horse or tractor drawn farm wagon because the ice did not lend itself to travel by car. Chains for cars were a necessity.

Q: How did you celebrate holidays in Shelburne?

A: In my very early childhood days, the major holidays were celebrated pretty much family style, each in his own way. Sometimes picnics and ball games, fishing trips to the local river and most always mentioned in church. However, there were Firemen's dances, church bazaars, etc., these celebrations all became more elaborate in years to come.

Q: Did Shelburne ever celebrate its own birthday?

A: In 1938, our town celebrated its 175th birthday with a grand costume ball held at the Town Hall, with many in attendance. Town citizens, schoolteachers, children all came, many of them in costume. If there were other activities, I do not know. And another 25 years later, a very special 200th Bicentennial celebration was held, featuring a guest from England, the Earl of Shelburne, for whose family our town was named.

Q: How has Shelburne changed?

A: Very gradually, as the owners of farms grew older and couldn't continue working and perhaps did not have children who wished to, began to sell them. The change was pretty apparent as Shelburne village still contained several large farms. Also, village homes gradually became places of business. A new home was built by the postmaster to hold the post office down stairs and his family up stairs. It was the 4th such move for the post office in 50 years, each time the town out grew it in size.

And eventually the village became the hub of activity instead of life home on the farm. Business and services became diversified and eliminated trips to more distant places.

Q: What were Shelburne Town Meetings like?

A: Town meetings were very special and entertaining. I believe they started at ten o'clock, broke at noon for a hearty dinner cooked by the town ladies at the town hall on an extra large black iron stove. The meeting then came to order and continued on thru the afternoon until the business at hand was finished. There was much discussion and all items were given importance. School was not in session and we students occupied the balcony. James Norton was a long time moderator, as well as doctor. B. H. Maeck also was moderator for a number of years.

Q: What have been some major decisions made at Town Meeting?

A: People pretty much managed their property as the saw fit, then one year zoning was voted into place and things were different ever after.

Q: What is the biggest event that you lived through?

A: The first important event in history that I lived thru was the 1927 Flood. I was 4 years old, living on Shelburne Farms and so quite removed from actual danger. My one direct contact was crossing the Winooski River on a pontoon bridge made of small boats tied together and covered over with a flat surface. The Great Depression was something we were all in together. We had little variety in clothing but always enough food and heat. World War II was something else. My brother, two brothers-in-law and my husband all enlisted and were gone for several years. It was a terribly anxious time and the only way thru it was to keep busy. I took over my husband's job at Shelburne Cooperative Creamery. There were special church services and we helped with "Bundles for Britain", knitting and sewing for citizens and servicemen, held over at Shelburne House on the Farms. Also contributed blood.

Q: What have been some of the important inventions that you have witnessed?

A: Important inventions over the years were the fantastic improvements and kinds of airplane. Just the difference between what the Air Force flew in WWII and now is unbelievable. The advances in drugs and medicine are also unbelievable. Life span when I was young could have been 40 to 45 years for my parents. And computers. Even the simplest seems beyond comprehension at times, also cell phones. It seems as though no one just sits quietly any more.

Q: What kind of stories have been passed down through your family?

A: Family history was recorded in my mother's diaries, in which she continued to write from her early teens. Her's was a large and close-knit family. There was much socializing, either on family farms, attending Grange, baseball games, sometimes to movies in Essex Junction to see "The Perils of Pauline", a long running serial. And always there was a baby sitter handy in the form of a family member. However, life pretty much changed when we moved to Shelburne Farms. Father had a steady job, requiring much energy and mother began caring for a home and four children, also an all-consuming task. It seemed pretty much removed, with 15 miles from Essex Center and with not much time for travel, even though we had a car. All of this began in 1927.

Later, in June of 1943, our family was to make another move from the Farms into Shelburne Village. Father purchased a large, older home next to the Craft School from Henry and Charlotte Tracy. It was built in the late 1800's by John Duduc, a local blacksmith and built from farmhouses purchased by William Webb, who no longer wished to keep them standing. It was continuously in the family until June 1994 when my sister sold it, and now continues to rent from the current owner.

Q: What was your first job in Shelburne?

A: My first job in Shelburne was in the summer of 1941 at Gardenside Nurseries, money saved for college. Later I held my husband's job at Shelburne Cooperative Creamery until his return from WWII. I worked a short time at Champlain Container located in Shelburne. In late years, I worked 10 years at Shelburne Country Store, then 15 years at Shelburne Museum.

Q: What church did you belong to?

A: I am a 66-year member of Shelburne Methodist Church, having joined when I was 13. Oftentimes, ministers spent their early years with us, then went on to larger parishes, became superintendents, etc. Also, sometimes it was necessary to serve two small churches at the same time, as it was still depression and budgets were tight. Mostly, church was a place for church meetings and church activities: Sunday school, Bible school, Summer Vacation Bible school, suppers, rummage sales, hymn sings, all in the back parlors. We were fortunate enough to have grand pipe organ and almost always a church choir. Church was not always heated through the week, and held instead in a small back room, to save on fuel in the coldest part of the winter. Mostly, folks went home to Sunday dinner after church. Sometimes, there was a picnic outside on the lawn. The town was somewhat divided in numbers between Catholic and Protestant. However, thru the years we became to be comfortable with each other.

Q: Are there any Shelburne Ghost Stories?

A: And like many small towns, we have several resident ghosts. At Shelburne Inn on the Farms where the cars are parked in the back lot, a servant in livery is sometimes seen. And upstairs in the playroom a ghostly nanny sometimes turns lights on and off and adjusts window shades. The Shelburne Museum ghost haunts Dutton House which came from Cavendish, Vermont and brought the ghost with it. Upstairs flashes of lights and noises are seen and heard. And sometimes a cold wind is felt thru the rooms, and a bed is disturbed, evidence of occupancy in the night. Pierson Library's prankster moves heavy bags of books about on the worktable and heavy boxes across the floor. Also, heavy windows are moved up, closed and locked, seemingly by themselves.

Q: What were the roads like?

A: In early years, roads were not paved, however, they were kept in reasonable repair. There were instances when roads might become impassable in the spring, such as bay road on the Eastern end of the bridge, something that required a major effort to correct in years to come. At such times, travel continued by detour onto the next available road. Mostly, farmers could be pretty independent on the farm in winter, as necessary, with the exception of getting milk to the creamer. Hopefully, if roads were not passable, milk could be refrigerated on the farm. Usually, farmers had their own means of plowing and any roads not really necessary were not always plowed. There were large wooden rollers used to pack the snow down sometimes. Mostly, big old editions of modern day plows were used. Some times traffic was not possible to Shelburne Point for school children, etc. but roads were opened as soon as possible.

Q: What Roads have closed?

A: In late years, a very short road in front of Pierson Library to Rte. 7 was closed off to eliminate a traffic hazard. Old- rural route Limerick Road located off Depot St. is still in use but only marginally. The road to the brick house on the Farms was not always plowed, as sometimes no one lived there in the winter. Also, the Farms had their own style of speed bumps two slender pieces of wood ran parallel across the road, with a narrow channel between. This done to accommodate slow moving farm machinery.

Q: What do you think are Shelburne's landmarks?

A: The following are what I consider to be the landmarks in Shelburne: the Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist churches, Pierson Library, Marsett farm house, Strong farm house (also site of underground railroad in Shelburne) Limerick cottages, Cemetery, Sycamore tree in the Falls, the Town Hall and the Route 7 school house, now the town center.

Q: What is your favorite historic building?

A: My favorite historic building is the Pierson Library, having served as the Pierson home, Methodist parsonage and then as the town library. It's lovely, timeless exterior, many winding shelves of books, ending in surprises or quiet corners, pleases me. The beginning of the library in Shelburne is credited to Hannah Egerton Tracy. She gathered about 40 books from a shelf in the post office and thru much interest and effort brought about the small beginnings of a library. And thru continued effort thru the years, it became the foundation of the present library.

Q: Where did your family buy clothes?

A: In earlier days, my mother did most of our family shopping in Burlington on Church Street, including a Skinner satin wedding dress, floor length with train, at Abernath's \$21.95, Kresges, Sears Roebuck, Kinney Shoe store. By mail order to L.L. Bean, my father bought his hunting and fishing equipment and great Maine hunting boots which the company still sells today. My mother and grandmother sewed most of my sisters' and my clothes. Also, it was still possible to make small things from sugar and grain bags.

Q: How did you get your news?

A: We got our news from the Burlington Free Press and the six o'clock evening news on the radio. Local news came word of mouth, also possible to have paid announcements included in the Free Press. And years later, Shelburne was privileged to have its own small town newsletter, which, has continued with some interruption thru the years.

Q: Where did your family buy its provisions?

A: Early days in Shelburne, it was possible to provide a family with food, children with jeans, sneakers, boots, small toys and lightweight hardware for family repairs, all at the local grocery store on the corner. Gradually, Route 7 became lined on both sides to Burlington with hardware store, building supplies, and later; cars and places to eat. Over the years, there appeared in Shelburne Falls and outskirts of town what came to be called Mom and Pop stores, selling bread, ice cream, some meat, tobacco, etc.

Q: What was the first paved road?

A: First paved road in Shelburne was Route 7 going thru town, sometime after 1929. My father's car was stuck in the muddy road on his way to Mary Fletcher Hospital for the birth of my younger sister!

Q: When was the first traffic light installed?

A: First traffic light was installed in the Mid 1960s in the center of town, after at least one bad accident. And sometime in the early 1950's the road in front of the Bostwick home was rerouted. Shelburne's problem of a main road thru town is still not solved, after years of painstaking study. Almost no dirt roads left in Shelburne. Folks building homes in the country object to dusty roads. Just as a matter of curiosity, there are at least four cross roads on the road between Route 7 and Hinesburg: Route 7 to Marsett Road, to Shelburne Falls, across Spear Street then over Dorset onto Pond Road. Spear Street experienced most accidents.

Q: How has tourism in Shelburne evolved?

A: I don't recall early tourism, we were pretty much a picture perfect New England town, good to look at but no real drawing card. Our good school attracted families to move here.

Q: What do remember of the Shelburne Museum?

A: That was to change in later years. I remember the big open field on rte. 7 with only one small building out behind a brick house that was to become the Shelburne Museum. And then watched the old post office, blacksmith shop, and various other buildings being dismantled and brought to the grounds, most of them traveling down rte. 7. And the days the Ticonderoga traveled 9000 feet over land to the spot on which it now rests. It afforded some of the best entertainment Shelburne had to offer, as it moved along on railroad ties thru fields, across roads, small farms and streams. That route is now a walking trail.

Q: Do you remember the Webbs?

A: My family and I had casual acquaintance with J. Watson and Electra Webb from our years of living on Shelburne Farms. We found them both gracious, interested in employees. And I believe this carried over into their relationship with the Museum.

Q: What were some of the big events held at the Museum?

A: There were numerous events celebrated thru the years at the Museum. One of the first and most memorable celebrated the 30th anniversary. J. Watson Webb, Jr. managed this one in fine style. With his connections in Hollywood, he made it a most festive affair. Celebrities arrived and made their way around the Museum, Shelburne and Burlington for several days, with great newspaper coverage. And the Museum looked its very best. Several times over the years the Ticonderoga was refurbished, with each occasion for celebration. Ralph Nading Hill and the McClures always in attendance, as they were most interested, having donated money and offered much encouragement. We were most fortunate to watch the growth and development of the Museum from its earliest years to the present. It was awesome and entertaining to watch, a one of a kind experience. And it continues to grow each year.

Q: What happened to "western Shelburne"?

A: To the best of my knowledge, "western" Shelburne was a group of farms individually owned, some bordering on Lake Champlain, which were bought by William Seward and Lila Vanderbilt Webb and became known as Shelburne Farms in the late 1890's.

Q: How did Lone Tree Hill get its name?

A: Lone Tree Hill, so called because it was the highest point on the Farms and had one tree on top. The tree is gone, instead there is a handsome stone monument to Derrick Webb facing Lake Champlain.

Q: Where was Bay Road?

A: Bay Road was the location of the Red Iron Bridge.

Q: Where was the Union Poor Farm?

A: Location of the Union Poor Farm was the hollow on Bostwick Road.

Q: What can you tell us about the history of Shelburne Point?

A: Shelburne Point so named by the Indians, was Quineska-Took which meant “long point” as the Indians thought the land extending into Lake Champlain looked like a man’s forearm.

Q: What do you remember of the Shelburne Cooperative Creamery?

A: Shelburne Cooperative Creamery in the 40s was a noisy and exciting place thru the mornings, as farmer after farmer pulled up to the door of the unloading dock and proceeded to send their cans of milk thru into the creamery building, later to be picked up by one of the larger milk companies, Hoods, perhaps. Also, there was a cottage cheese company upstairs. And a small company store, separate from the creamery building, which sold grain, tobacco, etc. ~

Q: What do you remember of the Dutch Wind Mill?

A: The Dutch Wind Mill on the edge of town was another busy and going concern. It contained about a dozen tourist cabins in a half circle, with the windmill, actually blowing in the wind, in the center. It was operated by a family and another woman friend, this woman also interested in antiques.

Q: How has Shelburne changed?

A: Shelburne has changed in many ways over the years, from a town of many farms to almost none, to limited industry, a wide mix of people, all expecting more services for the same money, perhaps.

One of the nicer changes came about many years ago when the “Ever-Ready Circle of the Kings Daughters” a group encompassing the women of all churches, were first with the idea of improving the town. They gave approximately \$60.00 as a starter fund, which encouraged others and the end result was sidewalks and streetlights in the village. Several generations of a family lived in the same house at once, especially on farms. And later when farms were not being worked, the homes were passed down from generation to generation, still maintaining the nice large lots. Very few buildings were torn down, maybe just used in a different way, also disappeared from deterioration. Also, town cemeteries are still intact, and possible family plots on the farms.

Q: How has the landscape changed?

A: Basically the landscape in Shelburne changed thru housing development. Woods only partially reclaimed the fields as each of the farms ceased to exist. Often time children built their homes on the family farmland. Just as a guess, I would say that there are more than a dozen developments in Shelburne.

Q: How has Shelburne not changed?

A: There are very few ways in which Shelburne has not changed in recent years. I believe we could live with it if we could stay “as is” for a while, with no more radical change for a time. The things I miss most about Shelburne is the unity, also the tranquility, there wasn’t always a constant feeling of upheaval. There are a large number of attractions in Shelburne which make it unique: Museums, antique shops, orchards, specialty shops, overnight accommodations, library, Craft School, art galleries, Shelburne Farms tours, to name a few.

Q: What are Shelburne's green spaces?

A: Shelburne is most fortunate to have a number of parks and greens in and around town. Townspeople seem always to be willing to put aside necessary funds to make this possible. The sizeable green in front of two churches on land donated to the town by the Harrington family is the scene of skating in the winter and selling of Christmas trees. In spring and summer, the location of the Memorial Day service, later ball games, picnics, etc. and a gathering place at Halloween for the parade assembling. There is a small green in front of the Pierson Library which creates a pretty and fitting entrance to the center of town.

Q: What are Shelburne's recreation opportunities?

A: There are several parks, all of which are well used. Davis Park down by the Community School has tennis courts, ice rinks in winter, picnic tables. Another in Hullcrest, used in the same ways, I believe. LaPlatte Nature Park along the LaPlatte River, walking trail, picnics, fishing. And Shelburne Bay Park, along Lake Champlain, with fishing, boat access, walking trail, lots of available shore, fire works on 4th July, picnics.

Q: What kind of Wildlife can you see in Shelburne?

A: There is the usual variety of small wild life to be seen but not as close to home, they have taken to the woods pretty much by choice, as their habitat became crowded; skunks, variety of birds, turkeys, deer, possum, coons, partridge and squirrels.