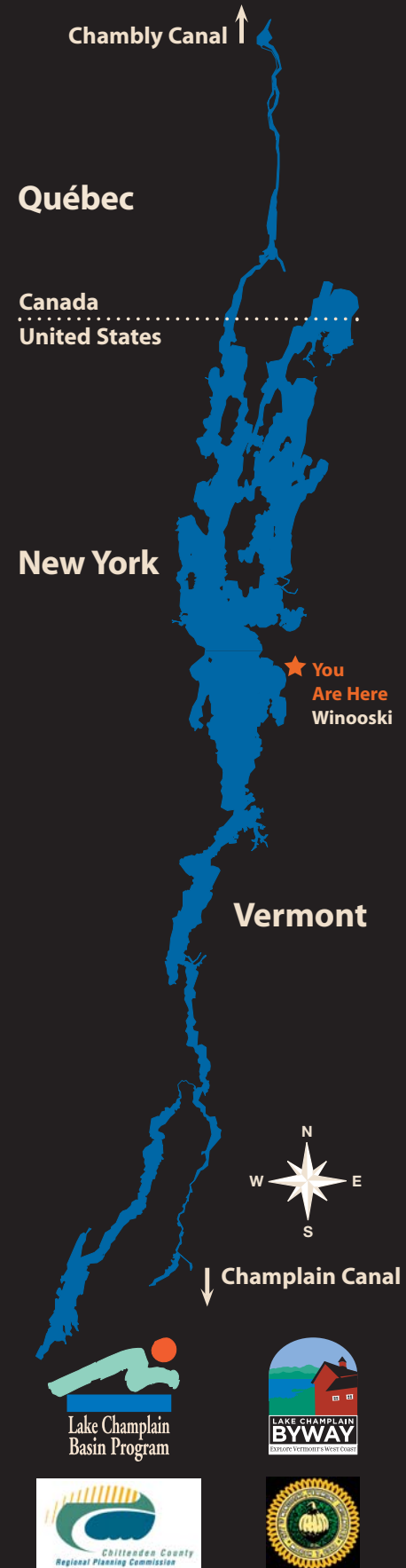


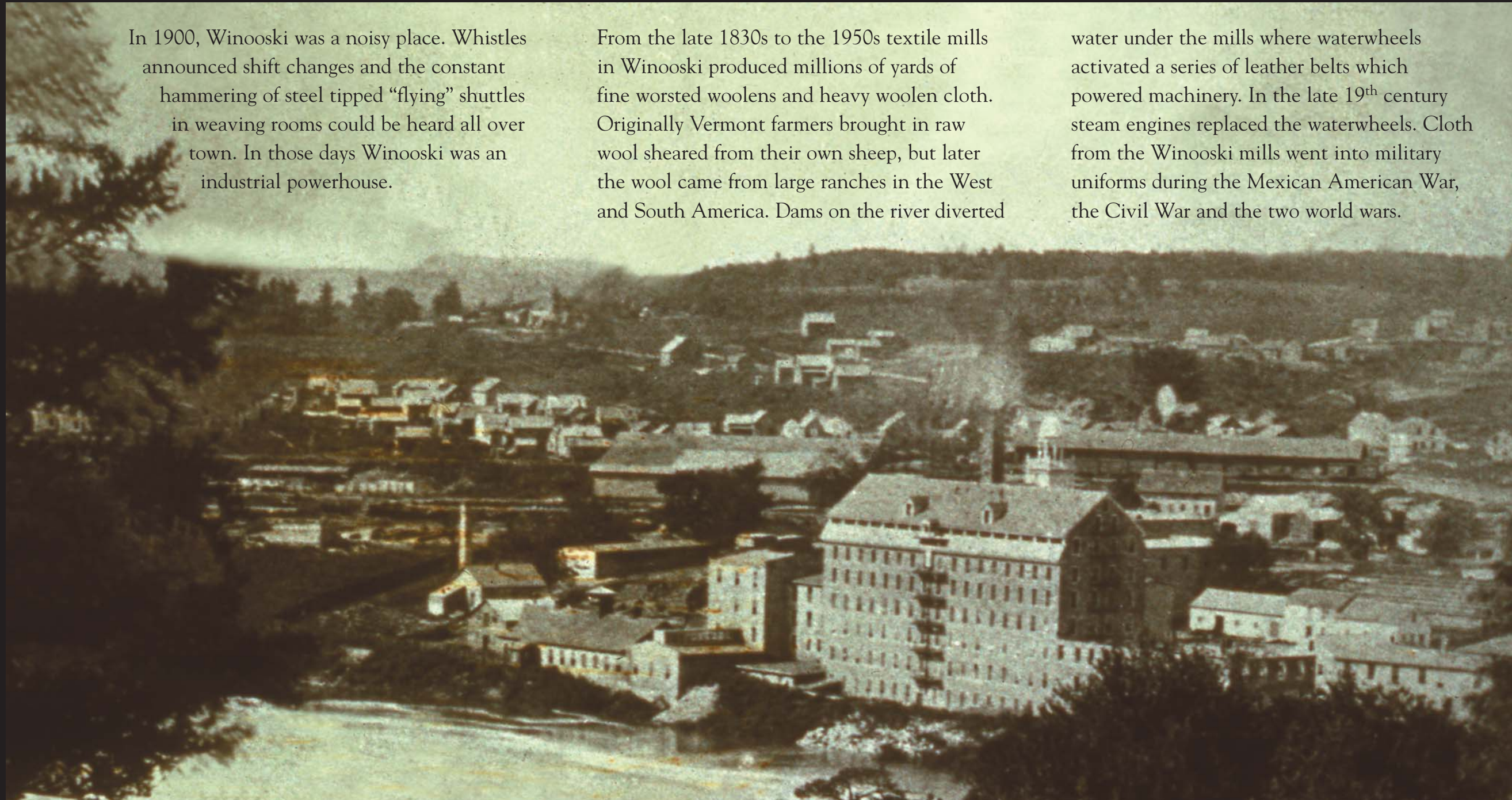
# Industrial Winooski



In 1900, Winooski was a noisy place. Whistles announced shift changes and the constant hammering of steel tipped “flying” shuttles in weaving rooms could be heard all over town. In those days Winooski was an industrial powerhouse.

From the late 1830s to the 1950s textile mills in Winooski produced millions of yards of fine worsted woolens and heavy woolen cloth. Originally Vermont farmers brought in raw wool sheared from their own sheep, but later the wool came from large ranches in the West and South America. Dams on the river diverted

water under the mills where waterwheels activated a series of leather belts which powered machinery. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century steam engines replaced the waterwheels. Cloth from the Winooski mills went into military uniforms during the Mexican American War, the Civil War and the two world wars.



Companies that complimented the textile industry located their work places next to the Winooski mills. The Stevens Machine Shop created machinery used in the mills as well as equipment used to produce paper, saws and lathes. (Courtesy of the Winooski Historical Society.)



From the late 1700s to the early 1900s milling lumber was an important industry in Winooski. Logs cut upstream were floated down river to Winooski where they collected in the pond behind the dam at the upper falls. There workmen hauled them out and milled them on saws powered by water. In the early days the finished boards were stacked on large rafts and floated down river to Lake Champlain and then to Québec. Later most of the wood was used locally, in the construction of furniture, window frames and doors. (This image and main image of Winooski courtesy of the Winooski Historical Society.)