

# Oakledge "Hay" Day



Close your eyes and listen as you stand at this site; do you hear the whinnying of horses, the mooing of cows, the creaking of wagons, and the clatter of hooves? Take a deep breath; can you smell fresh hay and manure? For most of the 1900s, barns and a whole assortment of farm buildings stood just across the road, where today there are trees, grass, and condominiums.

In fall 1883, Dr. William Seward Webb (who later built Shelburne Farms), bought Oakledge. He paid Lawrence Barnes, \$22,500 for the 235 acres that made up this lake-side farm. Later that year, he bought 10 more acres from the Home for Destitute Children. The main barn was here before the Webbs came to Oakledge. Webb rebuilt and added to the main barn, shown in this photograph, providing his family with added stables for horses and other live-

stock. During the 20th century, the barn served the Oakledge Manor Resort as employee housing, a recreation center, and summer theatre hosting many community events. A gambrel-roof garage was added as the outbuildings were removed. All are now gone; the only evidence of their former grandeur are these photographs, fading memories, and bits of broken glass and pieces of foundation stone in the woods and gardens you see before you.



In 1883, when the Webbs came to Oakledge, the barn was a far simpler building. Can you pick out what the Webbs changed and what they left alone?



The Burlington Riding Club used the Oakledge barn for events, including this get-together on November 26, 1939.



After many years of use, the barn and garage gave way to bulldozers in May 1975, making space for the Ledgewood development.



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](http://www.uvm.edu/perkins/landscape)). Creation and installation of the signs supported by private donations and grants from the Lintilhac and Henderson Foundations.