

Green Mountains



Marble Everywhere
From the rock quarries to
national monuments

July 2019

Vermont conjures images of fall foliage, dairy farms, maple syrup and the Revolutionary war. Some time back, a family friend who visits Vermont frequently brought back maple syrup. We kept the maple syrup container, which is pictured to the right. In conversations with our friend, we discussed the day when we could visit Vermont and have him give us the local tour. We finally got the chance to travel to Vermont in 2019, and our friend joined us in Manchester. This writing is a recap of our visit.



The Abenaki and Mohican tribes inhabited this area when Europeans made contact in 1535. French explorer Jaques Cartier is credited for being the first French explorer to be in the area that is currently the state of Vermont. Samuel de Champlain claimed it for France in 1609 as part of New France. The French called it the "Les Monts Verts" (The Green Mountains). The British defeated the French in the French Indian War (Seven Year War) in 1763, and France ceded its territory east of Mississippi to Great Britain. Under the British, this area was called the New Hampshire Grants. New York and New Hampshire both claimed it. On January 15, 1777, New Hampshire Grants declared independence and called their new Republic the Republic of New Connecticut. On June 2, 1777, the name of the territory was changed to The Republic of Vermont. Vermont was admitted to the Union as the 14th State on March 4, 1791, after New York and New Hampshire dropped their land claims.



Manchester

We flew into Albany, New York, which is the closest airport to Manchester. We drove about



58 miles to the west. The drive is very scenic. From Bennington, you have a choice to stay on US 7 or take Vermont Route 7a. We took Route 7a and saw the rural beauty of Vermont. As a word of caution, do not speed on these roads; go the posted speed limit. Vermont has a lot of history, and there are markers on the roads that tell you what you are driving by. Close to Bennington, you can drive by the

house of Seth Warner (Revolutionary War hero and Colonel of the Green Mountain Boys) and the first house in Vermont, both on Murphy Road. Below are pictures from around Manchester.



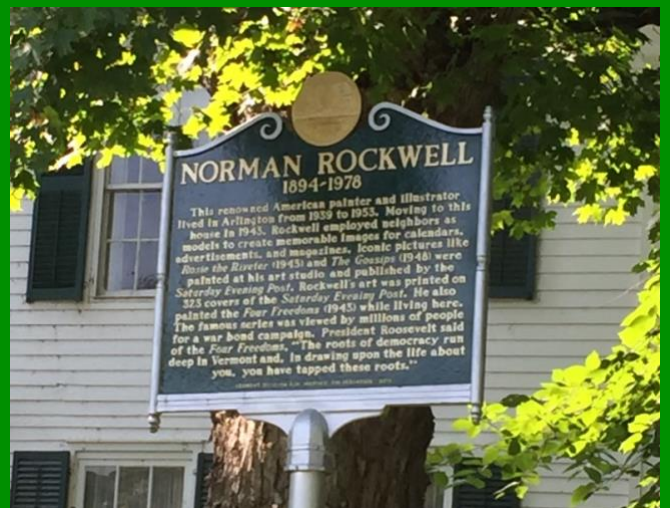
Chiselville Marker



Arlington Bridge over Battenkill River



Norman Rockwell's house on Battenkill River



Marker for Norman Rockwell's house



On the way towards Bromley Mountain – Peru, about 10 miles northeast of Burlington. There is a ski resort on Bromley Mountain.

Below are distances from other airports that you can fly into and drive to Manchester.

- Boston, MA: 153 miles
- Burlington, VT 112 miles. (The Burlington airport is home to the Vermont Air National Guard's 134th Fighter Squadron, "the Green Mountain Boys" who have roots in pre-revolutionary war era.)
- Hartford, CT: 133 miles
- New York, NY: 205 miles

Bennington County is the only County in Vermont that has two county seats (Manchester in the north and Bennington in the south), which are known as shire town. This picture to the right is of the Court House in Manchester. Manchester has two areas Manchester and Manchester Commons. Manchester Commons appears to be the old commercial center, and you can still see old retail buildings (Original Orvis, site of Johnny Appleseed Bookstore). It also has nice residential areas, the Courthouse, and Equinox Golf Resort. The Appalachian Trail, (that you can hike from Georgia to Maine), and Long Trail (that runs the length of Vermont) overlap for about 100 miles in the southern half of Vermont) run along the ridge near Manchester, and that makes Manchester a popular spot for thru-hikers to stop and resupply and experience some civilization.





Johnny Appleseed Bookstore



Original Orvis Store



Residential Area

Manchester is home to the original Orvis outdoor store. The Orvis store is an absolute must



to visit! The store has home decor and outdoor clothing. The second floor has everything you could imagine for your dog, and dogs are welcomed in the store. Orvis has a Fly Rod Shop where the rods are made, and you can take a tour of the shop. Orvis also provides fly fishing



lessons on the property. The pond next to the store is well stocked with fish. The American Museum of Fly Fishing is next to the Orvis store and should be on the list for all fly-fishing aficionados.



Museum



Pond by Orvis Store and Fly fishing



Sitting area to enjoy the pond and fly fishing

Manchester has a quaint downtown (Manchester Center) that has restaurants and shops.



Manchester also has some high-end outlet shopping in addition to Orvis, which is unusual for Vermont. There are local owned shops and some national stores. One of the shops that we believe is worth a stop is the Northshire Bookstore. The store has a speaker's series by authors that have written books about Vermont's history and people.

If you are in the market for rugs, we have the store for you, pictured on the left. The Land Rover Off Road Driving Experience is located by The Equinox Golf Resort & Spa. We didn't sign up for the experience, but people that did it thoroughly enjoyed it. Equinox also offers packages for an engagement experience, so if anyone wants to



redo their engagement, or if you are a single and you need ideas, the picture on the right describes what the experience offers.



Battenkill River



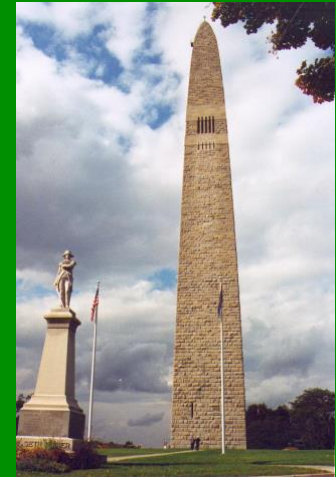
Water locks downtown

Revolutionary War

The Battle

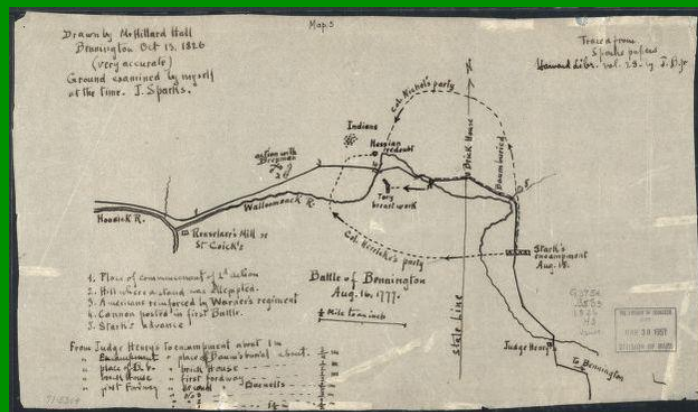
On August 16, 1777, militias from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, together with volunteers from Vermont under General John Stark (from New Hampshire) and the Green Mountain Boys, successfully defeated the British army in Bennington, NY. The Green Mountain Boys were led by Colonel Seth Warner and were volunteers from present day Vermont. Ethan Allen, another Revolutionary War hero, was the original leader of the Green Mountain Boys when they were established in 1770. This win was a turning point for the Revolutionary War. Throughout this part of Vermont, there are many sites that acknowledge Vermont's contribution to the Revolutionary War. In Bennington, VT, there is a monument for the battle, and August 16 is a Vermont state holiday to commemorate the battle.

Bennington Battle Monument, 15 Monument Road, Bennington, VT. The monument is an obelisk approximately 306 feet tall. You can go to the top of the monument to see good views from the top of the surrounding areas. You can see three States: New York, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. The grounds also has a gift shop and various other monuments including statutes of Seth Warner and General John Stark. The monument is a Vermont State Historic Site.



Bennington Battlefield State Historic, 5157 Route 67, Walloomsac, NY

The actual battlefield is in the state of New York about 9 miles



northwest from the monument in Bennington. The battlefield site has a trail with interpretative signs.

Map source: Hall, Hillard. *Battle of Bennington*. [1826] Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/gm71005309/.

We didn't have enough time to properly explore both sites, instead we drove around. We have it on our list for our next visit.

Monuments/Tributes

The area also has various other tributes to the Revolutionary War and the men from the area that served in various wars.



President Thomas Jefferson Sculpture – Outside Northshire Bookstore



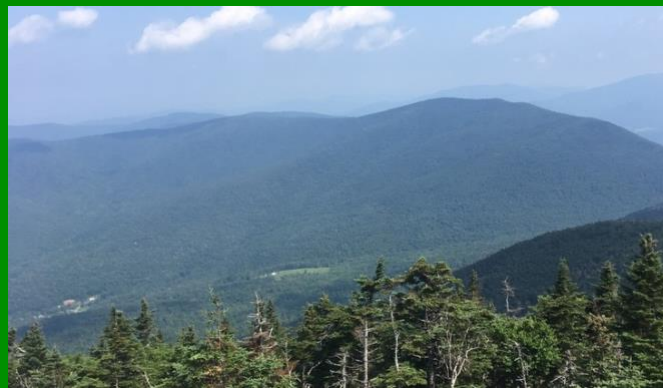
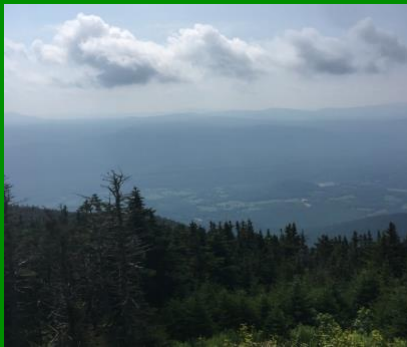
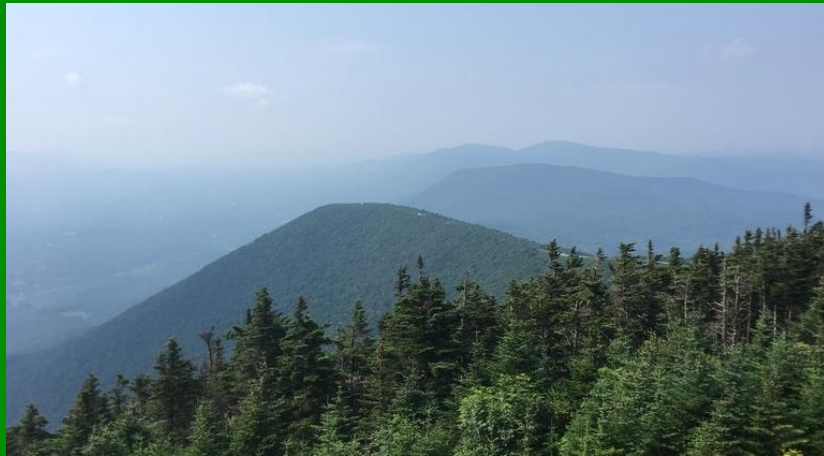
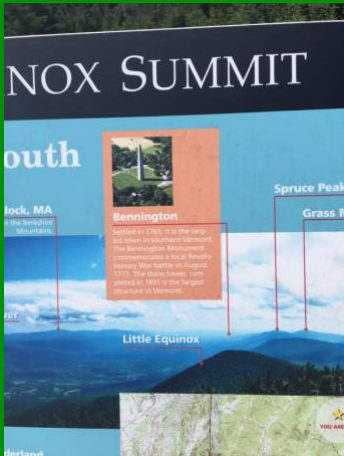
The Soldiers' Monument – Inscription reads "In memory of the men of Manchester who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War and Civil War"

Mount Equinox

Mount Equinox is four miles south from Manchester. Equinox is the highest mountain, 3,840 feet, in the Taconic Range. You can drive up a toll road to the lookout spot or hike up. We drove up the toll road about 5 miles, with an elevation gain of 3,200 feet, it is a steep drive. You can also hike up to the summit. The hike is about 4 miles with a similar elevation gain as driving up. Once at the summit, you are rewarded with views of three states, New York, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Also, on the top there are also marble benches (pictured to the right). There is a Visitor Center at the summit of Mount Equinox called the Saint Bruno Viewing Center.

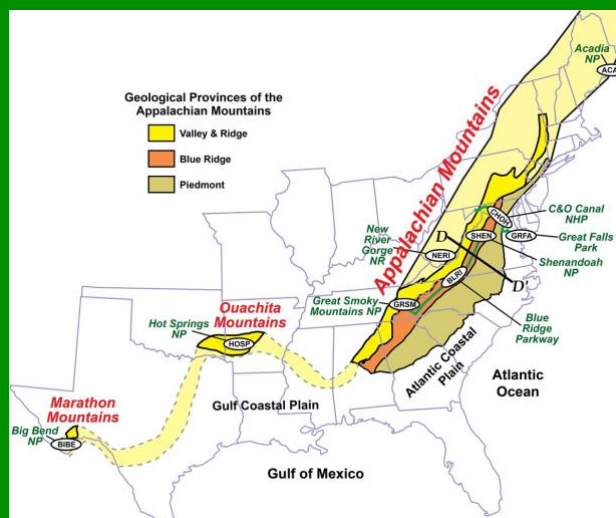


Below are some pictures from the Summit.





These mountains are a part of the Appalachian Mountains that stretches from Georgia to Maine. The Appalachian Mountains are an ancient mountain chain that were formed 480 million years ago with the formation of super continent of Pangea. They were once called the Central Pangea Mountains. 175 million years ago, as the continents started to split apart, the Central Pangea mountains ended on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The eastern side includes the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, mountains in the British Isles and the Caldenonian mountains in Greenway and Norway. The western side includes the Appalacian mountains, the Ouachita mountains in Arkansas and Oklahoma and the Marathon mountains in west Texas. As I stood on top of Mount Equinox, I allowed my mind to wander on how much things change around us that we have no control over, on one side there is a link to west texas and across the ocean to Morrocco and as far north as Norway and at one time all linked and now seperated by thousands of miles and an ocean.



Source: Modified from "Parks and Plates: The Geology of our National Parks, Monuments and Seashores," by Robert J. Lillie, New York, W. W. Norton, and Company, 298 pp., 2005, www.amazon.com/dp/0134905172.

Marble Quarries

We noticed that there were marble sidewalks, at Mount Equinox there were marble benches and a beautiful marble wall that used to have drinking fountains. We found out that in Dorsett there are marble quarries and marble from Dorsett was used at US Capital building and other federal buildings in Washington, DC. You can go swimming at the quarries, but you must get to the site early enough to get a parking spot, as they are very popular. You can also visit the Dorsett Mabel Quarry located at 1848 Vermont Route 30, Dorsett. If you plan on going, visit their [web page](#) to register each visitor for the visit to the quarry.



Marble sidewalk in Manchester



Viewing area on Summit of Mount Equinox

Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home

President Abraham Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, had a summer house about 2.6 miles south of Manchester. The Lincolns named it Hildene, (old English hil for hill, dene for valley

with a stream). There is a fee to access the property, which consists of the house, gardens, an observatory, and a Pullman rail car. The property is very scenic with views of the mountains and the Battenkill River. Robert Lincoln was an attorney in private practice and was special counsel to the Pullman Palace Car Company. He eventually became President of Pullman, which explains the reason for the Pullman car on the property. It is worth going to see the car, as it is only a five-minute walk from the house.



View of the House from the gardens



Front of the house



Front of house



Front lawn with a view of the house



President Abraham Lincoln's top hat



President Abraham Lincoln's inauguration



A room in the house



Pullman railcar



Observatory to the left of the house

Bennington Museum - Hemmings Motor News

As we were driving around Vermont, we needed to stop to refuel. My friend said that he knew of a gas station that we can go to, so we went into Bennington at a Sunoco station (222 Main Street, Bennington). As he was refueling, I went inside to get some water and noticed that the store had Hemmings Motor News magazine referred to as “the Bible of the Collector Car Hobby”. I mentioned it and he said, “look what is on the wall” (pictured right). He had brought me to where Hemmings Motor News magazine is published, and there is a museum on the premises. We toured the museum, and the pictures below are some of the vintage cars and engines on display. It is a treat seeing old engines and cars.





1937 Hudson Terraplane Panel Truck



1928 Ford Model A Roadster Pickup Truck,
with a convertible top



Bentley car and engine in the museum

Dining

Bennington

- [Madison Brewing](#) – Yes, we did find a brewery, and Vermont is known for some great local breweries. Picture to the right is public art on display in front of the brewery.



Dorsett

- [Dorsett Inn at the Green](#) - The Inn was established in 1796 and has a great restaurant for a proper or fine dining.

Manchester



- [Chop House Grill](#) in Equinox Resort and Spa - another restaurant that has good fine dining.
- [Mulligans Pub & Restaurant](#)
- [The Marsh Tavern](#) in Equinox Resort and Spa
- [Seasons Restaurant](#), a good restaurant with a great selection of Vermont breweries beer as depicted by the beer glass above.



Final thoughts

Manchester has something for everyone, hiking, history, off road driving, information for car enthusiast, fly fishing, fishing shopping, breweries, and biking. (There was also a horse show nearby, as we saw young girls with show clothes coming back to the hotel with their families.) We enjoyed our visit and want to visit more of Vermont, especially Lake Champlain and Fort Ticonderoga, both sites of a naval battle during the Revolutionary War.



View of Mountains



Equinox Resort and Spa