

# A Manor For All Seasons



## Where Did it Go?

Times change! The house you see in these images was built in 1883-84 by Dr. William Seward Webb and his wife Lila, who lived here with their family before building and then moving to Shelburne Farms. The property stayed in the Webb family until 1926, when it was sold to Burlington investors interested in developing what became Oakledge Manor Resort.



Shelburne Farms Collection, Shelburne, VT

The Webbs enjoyed a quality of life not many Vermonters could even imagine. Here, in the 1880s on the porch at Oakledge are Dr. William Seward Webb next to his wife, Lila Osgood Webb. Their children, Frederica and James are seated in the center. At the left is Laura Webb. Wearing a black hat is Mrs. Walter Webb holding Walter Webb, Jr.



Burlington Parks and Recreation

After years of serving as the home to various Webbs (1883-1926), the hub of the Oakledge Manor Resort (1929-1961), and the center of the Cliffside Country Club (1961-1970), the manor was burned on July 19, 1971 by the Burlington Fire Department – as a training exercise. At 9:15 a.m., firemen dropped a match on floors soaked with gasoline and kerosene. In little more than an hour, the abandoned historic structure was reduced to ashes and charred rubble.



Shelburne Farms Collection, Shelburne, VT

Can you imagine that this house stood here, right where the picnic shelter is today? This was the Webbs' first experiment with creating a country estate. The 245-acre "Farm" at Oakledge reflected their interests in informal country living, agriculture, and livestock. Known in the press as a "fine country seat" and "one of the handsomest places in Burlington," their estate consisted of a large Queen Anne-style residence and an ambitious farm complex of one- and two-story barns, which housed horses, Jersey dairy cattle, and sheep.



Shelburne Farms Collection, Shelburne, VT

It's a toboggan run at Oakledge just in front of the main house. Although this photo was taken in 1885, some things, like the way people have fun in the winter, just don't change! The Webbs really enjoyed winter sports; they built an even larger run at Shelburne Farms.



Faith Emerson

A postcard from the last days of the resort, after the dining room addition was built in 1953. Can you find the addition?



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.