

GENERAL STORE OF  
E. W. GILMAN  
MARSHFIELD, V.

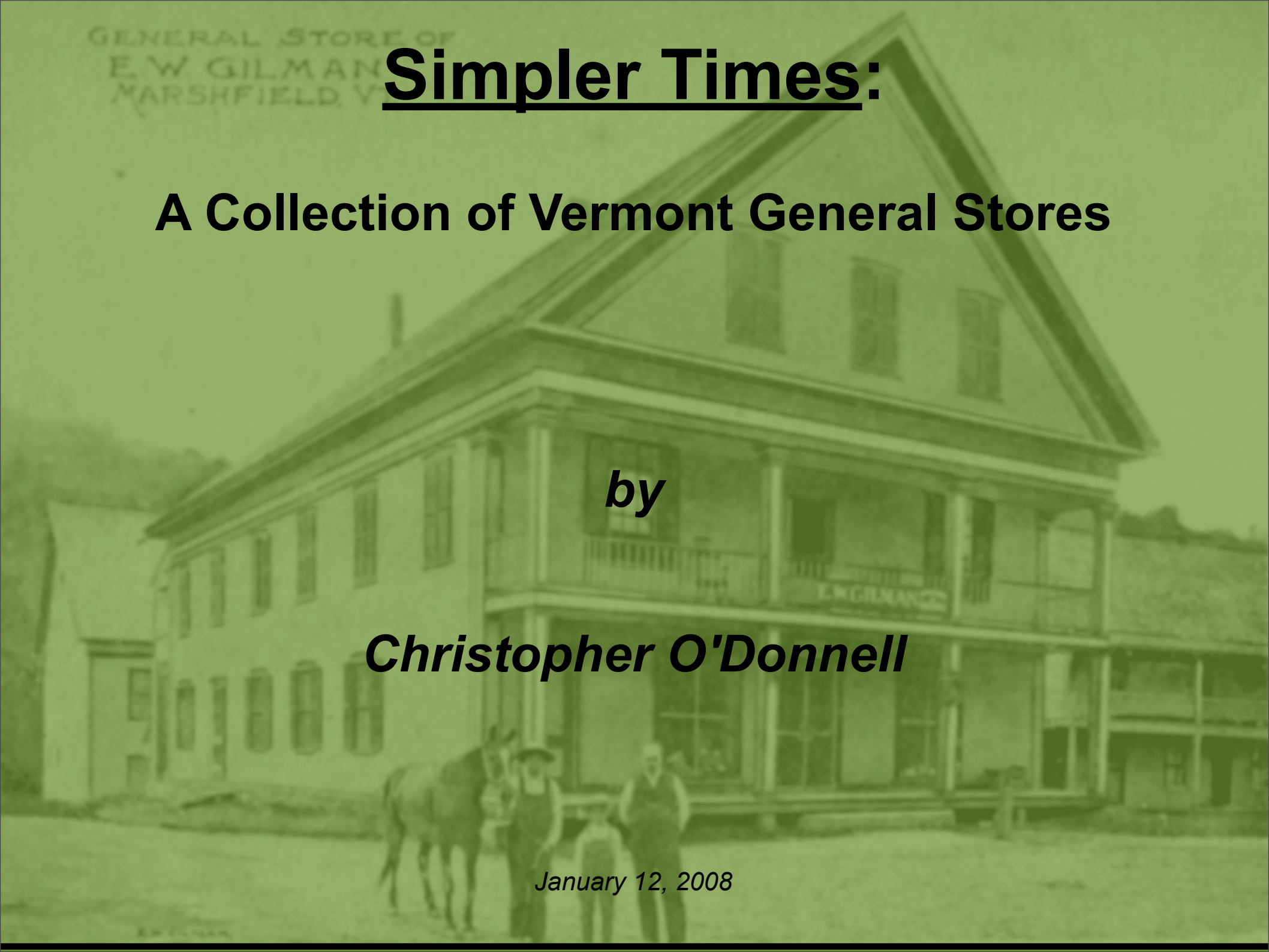
# **Simpler Times:**

## **A Collection of Vermont General Stores**

*by*

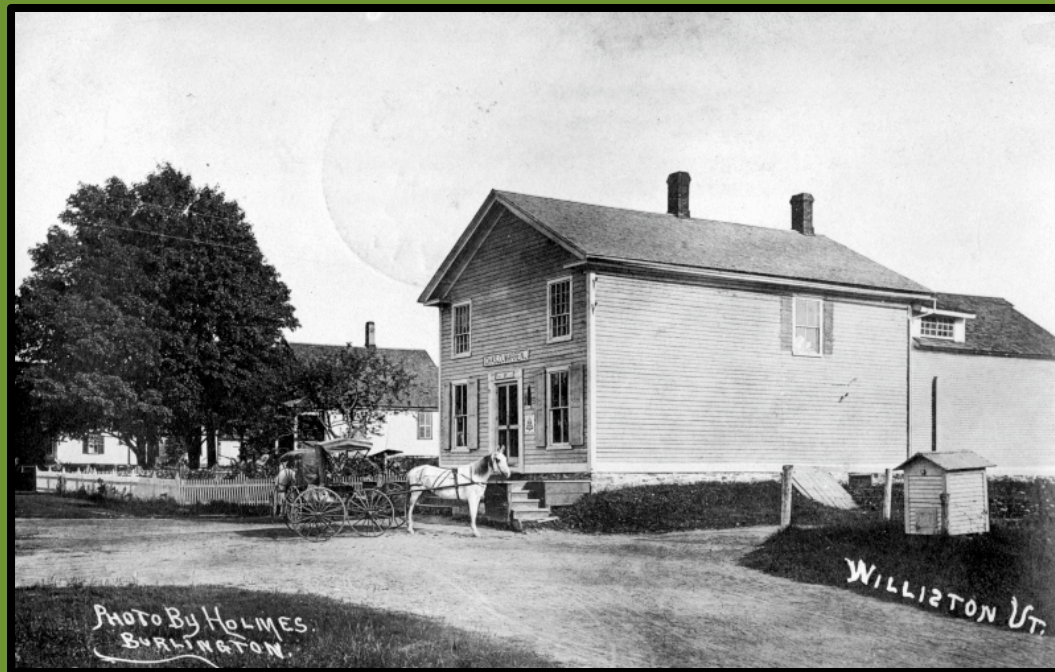
***Christopher O'Donnell***

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# Statement of Importance

Vermont is known for many things: maple syrup, autumn, great cheese, and the small town friendliness and ambiance that many communities across Vermont possess. Part of that small town ambiance is the presence of a general store, where the locals gather, shop, and converse. Historically, general stores served in absence of the many specialty stores that we see today. A general store was not only a place to obtain food, but clothing, hardware and other general household supplies, locksmith services, often the local post office was located in a general store, and many other services housed under one roof. Many people from outside of Vermont envy this gathering place where personal relationships develop, since it is lacking from so many larger communities. In the following slideshow, I will show several historical examples of Vermont general stores, where you can see how these iconic establishments looked in the past.



Charles D. Warren General  
Store

Williston, Vermont

1898-1905

LCP #: LS02587\_000

# East Braintree General Store

## East Braintree, Vermont



The above images display how the East Braintree General Store looked around 1907, and compares it to how it looked in 2007. With 100 years passed, not much has changed in the overall structure, with the farmer's porch still intact. In the midsts of modernization and corporate box stores, many of Vermont's general stores are still open today, providing their community with goods and services, along with helping the local economy.

*Foreground Image LCP #: LS01776\_000*

*Background Image LCP #: LS01776\_001*

# Lincoln General Store

## Lincoln, Vermont



Time can prove to be a huge influence in general store architecture. This picture, taken sometime between 1870 and 1900, depicts a very common architecture style for that time period, with second floor balconies and a farmer's porch.

# Lincoln General Store

## Lincoln, Vermont



Also, time can prove to change the architecture drastically. The Lincoln General Store, displayed above in 1994, has undergone a serious makeover compared to the previous historical photograph.

# General Store of E.W. Gilman Marshfield, Vermont



This photograph was taken on or around 1912 for a postcard. The Greek Revival style of the store indicates that it was most likely constructed in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

# General Store of E.W. Gilman Marshfield, Vermont



Time does not always prove to change the appearance of a general store. This image was taken in 2005. While some signs of modernity are apparent, the overall structure has seen minimal change.

# Johnson & Green General Store Canaan, Vermont



This photograph, taken between 1900 and 1910, depicts a very common aspect of general stores: housing the local post office. What is not so typical of general stores that is shown here is the selling of fur coats. North Star Furs was a featured product at Johnson & Green.

LCP #: LS00127\_000

# The Green Brother's Store

## Burlington, Vermont



Unfortunately, not all general stores survive the test of time. This picture taken in 1929 shows the remains of The Green Brother's Store, located in downtown Burlington.

# The Kellogg Store

## Plainfield, Vermont



**This photograph displays the Kellogg Store as it looked in 1879. The store was built in 1804 by Andrew Wheatley, and is the second oldest continuous business in all of New England.**

# Pope's Store

## Greensboro, Vermont



In this rare image, the interior of a general store dated around 1910 is displayed. The store has an emphasis on sugaring equipment, which provides an insight as to how prevalent maple sugaring was to the local economy during this time frame.

# Barnard General Store

## Barnard, Vermont



A Vermont general store would not be complete without a picturesque setting. The Barnard General Store and post office, located in the same building, is displayed in this photograph on the bank of a river in 1943.

# South Peacham General Store

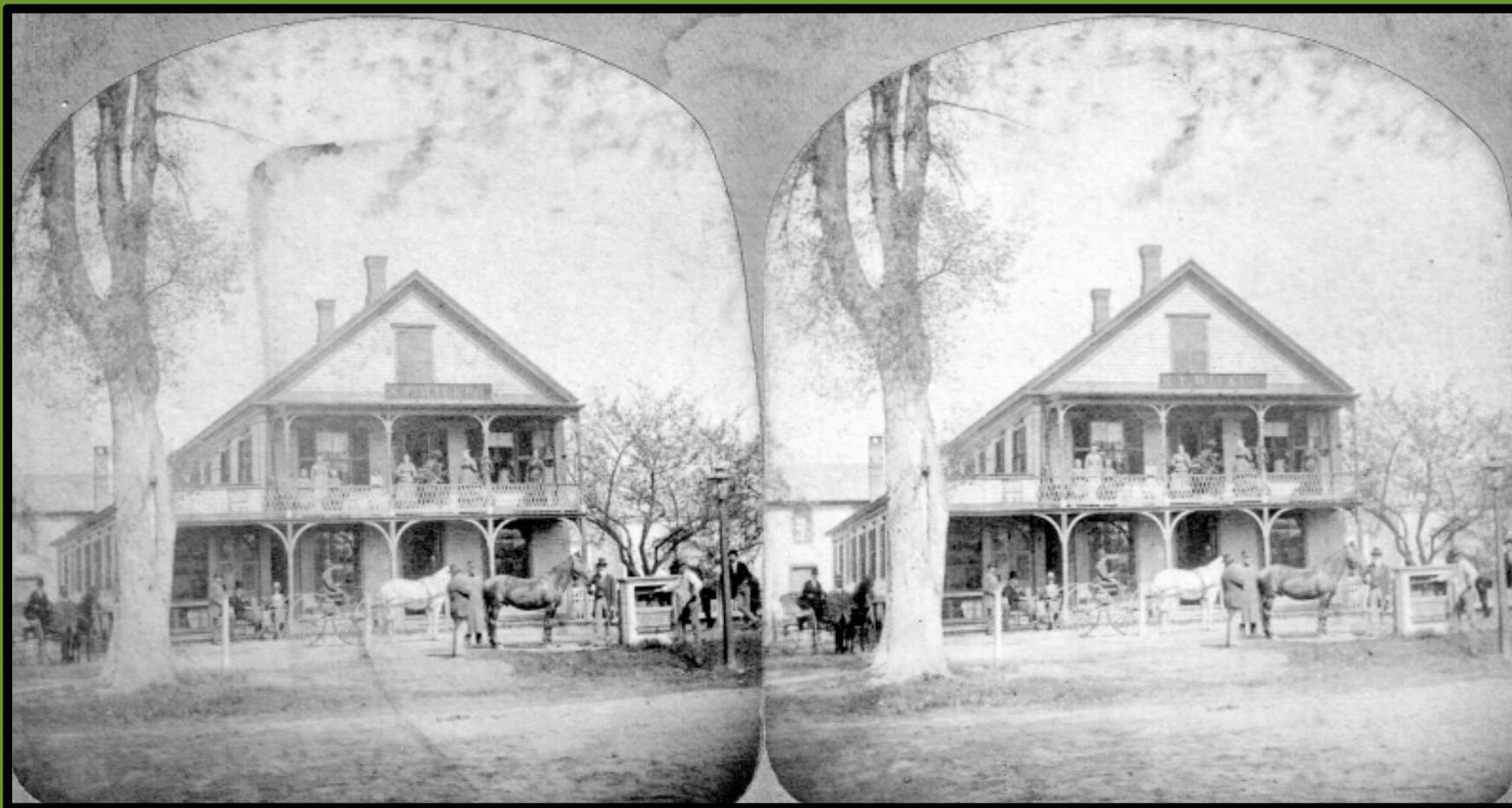
## South Peacham, Vermont



Historically, general stores of Vermont have been a place to display local advertisements and fliers, as seen in this early 20<sup>th</sup> century photo of the South Peacham General Store. Today, this is still a time-honoured tradition to convey news and promote local businesses.

# S.Y. Walker's Store

## Brattleboro, Vermont



The above image is a stereoview of S.Y. Walker's Store between 1870 and 1880. Stereoview was a popular image format during this period, as it allowed people to view a photograph in 3D form.

# Londonderry General Store

## Londonderry, Vermont



This picture, taken in 1916, displays the newly constructed general store for the town of Londonderry, adjacent to a covered bridge displayed on the far left. The postcard is appropriately named "The New Store."

# Londonderry General Store

## Londonderry, Vermont



The F.A. Morse Store was the general store of Rutland when this photograph was taken, some time between 1860 and 1870. The porch is decorated with products, signs, and advertisements, making it a welcoming establishment.

# New Maple Corner Store

## Calais, Vermont



This last slide displays the Maple Corner Store located in Calais. The historical photograph shows what the store looked like in 1913, before the devastating fire that destroyed the store in 1948. However, the fire would prove to be ineffective in closing the store. It was quickly rebuilt and the background picture shows what it looked like in 2000.

# Conclusion

Vermont general stores have been vital to many communities. While some stores have either closed down due to financial reasons or have been transformed into another establishment, many are still thriving businesses and assets to their community. They serve as the town gathering place, the best store to get chicken at, a tourist attraction, the local locksmith, or possibly even the local 911 dispatch. Either way, the general stores of Vermont are well established within their community, and the loss of such a store would be much more than the loss of a place to buy milk and eggs from.

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