

Gone Hunting: A Look at Vermont's Heritage

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LS09086



- Vermont is a state that many would consider to be very culturally rich, and proud to celebrate its heritage. For centuries one such celebration, for many Vermonters, has been hunting. Although hunting is very deeply rooted in Vermont, it is not celebrated by all, for reasons which are vast. So let's spend a day in the woods and try to see what hunting has to offer.

Ah, deer camp, and it looks like all the boys have arrived early. Is anybody else cold, let's go inside. (LS07066)



- This picture is dated 1935 and highlights the outside of the Barre Hunting Club with a group of its members. This location is still believed to be an active hunting club.

No better way to catch up and plan for the next day then with a game of cards and a drink. Looks like our hunter is tired and is going to bed. (LS07074)



- This picture highlights a group of hunters in 1935, but the act of hunting is actually centuries old. Hunting was originally done as a method of proving food, shelter and clothing (JNH), but is now considered a source of recreation (Microsoft Encarta).

5 AM, everybody up, its time for breakfast. Don't want to hunt all day on an empty stomach. (LS07064)



- While in the woods, hunters usually hunt by themselves or in small groups. But while back at camp, there is no better time then to sit around and converse with friends.

Look at the time, 6 AM. It's time to go. Good luck boys, we're headed to find the big bucks. (LS09036)



- This picture is dated 1978 and highlights a pair of hunters using a spot and stalk method of hunting. The purpose of this style of hunting is to cover a lot of ground, and trying to see what is out there (JNH).

Let's got to the top of the hill, we ought to be able to see. (LS09038)



- This picture, also from 1978, highlights the same two hunters as the previous slide, and it is very clear that the hunters have covered some ground. This can be observed by viewing the forest cover type, here the hunters are in a clearing, surrounded by conifers, and in the previous picture they could be seen in a deciduous forest with much larger trees.

This looks like a good spot, can you see anything? (LS09086)



- While hunting it is very important to keep a close watch on what is going on around you (Dizard). In this picture from 1962, two men can be seen in the process of trying to spot deer in a field.

No, not from here, we should head down into that swamp, there's always a good one down there. (LS10721)



- Another common method of hunting is known as stand hunting. While hunting on a stand the goal is to sit and wait, letting the desired game come to you. For this method of hunting, a hunter sets up in an area where he has the ability to see a large area, like in this picture from 1955.

Alright, alright, we should go down there but I need a break first, I am not as young as I used to be. (LS09039)



- After covering a lot of ground during a day, a break is always welcome.

Hey, get up, you know if you lie down, you'll never get back up, we have deer to find. Hey whose dog is this? (LS03357)



- This undated picture, is taken at Shelburne Farms, and highlights a very different style of hunting. By the presence of the shot guns and dogs, these are likely bird hunters. In this style of hunting dogs are used in the seek out and recover game.

That's my dog, you boys got your licenses? Sure do officer, what brings you way out here?
Just doing my job. (LS09054)



- At the turn of the 19th century, over hunting was such a problem, that some populations were almost entirely wiped out (DHG). As a result states began to create rules and regulations that were designed to protect game species. Game wardens, like the one in this picture, are state officials that are designated with enforcing these laws.

Hey let's get down in that swamp. I just know he is going to loop around and push some deer right to us. (LS09085)



- This 1962 picture shows two hunters looking out over a swamp that is surrounded by heavy forest cover. Areas like this are very thick, and deer will bed down in an area like this to hide and escape predators (JNH).

Hey, look, a deer! It's a buck, shoot, sh... BANG.
Nice shot, he went down right over there. (LS09088)



- We have seen these hunters before in 1962, and although they are in a very similar area, judging by the background, they have very different body language. In this photo one hunter is looking through binoculars, and the other is ready with his gun, it is very likely that they have just spotted something.

Now the real fun starts, let's get this old boy out of here and back to camp. (LS07073)



- This 1935 photo shows a hunter who has had a little bit of success. He can be seen dragging his deer with a rope through snow and around stumps. The front legs can be seen tied to the neck of the deer, this helps in preventing them from getting caught on trees and stumps.

I don't remember crossing this fence, but I guess we have to now. I think camp is just through that thick stuff. (LS07072)



- Part of being a hunter, means that you need to hunt ethically. A major part of this, is that if you shot and animal, it is your responsibility to get it out of the woods, no mater what's in your way, including a fence, like in this 1935 picture.

Almost there, I can here the boys down there at camp. I could really use a cup of coffee. (LS07071)



- Dragging a deer with two people is always a lot easier, especially when there is snow on the ground, and the under story is very thick.

Wow. Looks like we aren't the only ones who had some luck.
(LS07069)



- This 1935 picture highlights the success of a couple of hunters at the Barre Hunting Club. Hunting seasons have a tendency to overlap, allowing hunters the chance to harvest different types of game, at the same time, which is why there are both bear and deer in this photo.

After a long day in the field, the guns need cleaning. A great time for one last congratulations. (LS07070)



- Cleaning your gun makes sure it stays in optimal condition. This falls under the category of ethics, an improperly cared for gun has a chance to become off in its aim, which increases the likely hood of wounding an animal (DHG).

Unfortunately it's time to go. Let's load up your deer and get out of here. Another hunting season has come to an end. (LS07067)



- Today, especially with the increase of anti-hunters, the act of showing off your deer on the hood of your car is no longer the preferred method. In 1935, when this picture was taken people were usually very interested to see the success of hunters. Much of this feeling comes from the deep rooting hunting has in Vermont's Heritage.

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