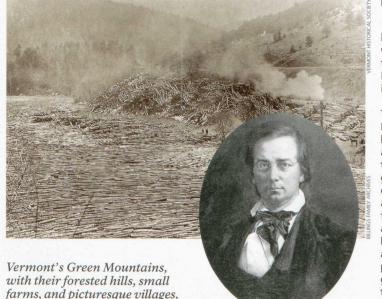




A Legacy of Stewardship



have not always been as beautiful and as green. After the American Revolution, settlers poured into Vermont. By the mid-1800s most of Vermont's forests had been cut down, caus-

ing severe erosion and flooding.

Vermonters faced their first

crisis was George Perkins Marsh

hand how the actions of humans

lation almost as complete as that

of the moon." On his last diplo-

matic mission in Italy, Marsh dis-

careful analysis of the human im-

pact on nature and his eloquent

ship made this book one of the

View from the porch of the Mansion

environmental crisis.

A portrait of George Perkins Marsh, painted by G.P.A. Healy, ca. 1820.

Logging in Vermont, 19th century.

1890, Billings's plan was sustained by three generations of remarkable women, first by his wife Julia and their three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Laura, and then by Billings's granddaughter, Mary French.

The marriage of Mary French and Laurance S. Rockefeller in 1934 brought together two families with a strong commitment to conservation. The Rockefeller family had generously created or enhanced over 20 national parks, and Laurance S. Rockefeller inherited his family's love for the land. As a trusted advisor to five American presidents he helped to make conservation and outdoor recreation an essential part of the national agenda. Together Laurance and Mary made the gift that established Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park as Vermont's first national

George B. March

One of the first to respond to this In 1869 the Marsh family farm (1801–1882). As a child on his family's was purchased by Frederick Billings farm in Woodstock, Marsh became (1823–1890), a Vermont native who a keen observer of nature. After had made his fortune as an attorney in San Francisco during the Califorserving several terms in Congress in the 1840s, Marsh traveled the nia Gold Rush. Returning to Verlands of the Mediterranean as an mont he found barren hills, silted American diplomat and saw firstrivers, and a devastated countryside.

had "brought the earth to a deso- Billings set out to build a farm that would serve future generations as a model of wise stewardship. He imported purebred Jersey cows, and tilled his observations into a classic he developed one of the nation's book, Man and Nature (1864). His first programs of scientific forest management, so that, in Billings's words, "many a barren hillside will plea for responsible land stewardonce more glow with the glorious autumn foliage, and the guiet vilfounding texts of the environmen- lage will see itself back in its old life and power." After his death in

Anderick Billings, 1885.

Anderick Billings, 1885.



Laurance S. and Mary F. Rockefeller, 1982.

beauty.

A Vision for the Park

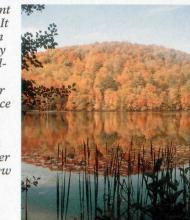
"... there is a mandate to invent an entirely new kind of park. It must be one where the human stories and the natural history are intertwined; where the relatively small acreage serves as an educational resource for the entire National Park Service and a seedbed for American environmental thought; and where the legacy of American conservation and its future enter into dialogue, generating a new environmental paradigm for our day."

—John Elder, Professor of English and **Environmental Studies at Middlebury** College, Middlebury, Vermont, from remarks at the park's opening ceremony.

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National The Conservation Study Institute Historical Park is the only national land stewardship in America. The conservation ethic. The 550-acre Julia Billings and education, recreation, sustainable



makers from Billings Forest hardwoods Institute. The Institute furthers the park's shows how value is added to local prodeducational and outreach initiatives on ucts through an association with place its primary message of conservation and regional craftsmanship, promoting stewardship. conservation and sustainability.



The Poque on a brilliant autumn day.

park to tell the story of conservation The National Park Service established history and the evolving nature of the Conservation Study Institute here in 1998 to foster collaborative park operates in partnership with the conservation as it applies to our Woodstock Foundation, Inc., and nation's natural and cultural herithe adjacent Billings Farm & Museum. tage. The institute is a forum for The park interprets the historic home professionals to share best practices, of the Marsh, Billings, and Rockefeller cultivate leadership, and maintain families, their conservation work and a dialogue on present and future stewardship of the forest landscape, trends. Through a wide variety of and the emergence of an American programs, participants stay current with the evolving field of conservawoodlands continue to be managed tion, enhance partnerships, develop for protection of natural resources, innovative methods of community engagement and place-based eduforestry, historic character, and scenic cation, and plan strategies for the 21st century.



Furniture built by Vermont furniture Workshop at the Conservation Stud

"We must conceive of stewardship not simply as one individual's practice, but rather as the mutual and intimate relationship extending across generations, between a human community and its place on earth." -John Elder, Inheriting Mount Tom, 1997



"Passing the Torch," a Tiffany window in the Mansion, symbolizes an intergenerational commitment to conservation.

Forest Center 1876 Wood Barn To The Pogue Mountain Road sitor Center National Park Carriage Barn **Visitor Center** 1890 Farm House

Getting Here Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is off Vt.12 in Woodstock. Take I-89 to exit 1 (U.S. 4). From exit 1. take U.S. 4 west (13 miles) through Ouechee and Taftsville to Woodstock, From U.S. 4 in downtown Woodstock, bear right onto Vt.12 north. Cross the iron bridge over the Ottauquechee River, bear right onto River Road, and take the first staff at either visitor center. Both right into the parking area at the visitor centers and the Mansion are Billings Farm & Museum.

Planning Your Visit

Your Visit Begin at the Visitor Cen- Safety Be alert for traffic when ter at the Billings Farm & Museum, next to the parking area. National Park staff are available to answer guestions and help plan your visit. fishing are not allowed in The Here you can view the award-winning film "A Place in the Land." From the Billings Farm & Museum current park conditions. you can cross Vt.12 to continue your visit at the National Park Carriage Barn Visitor Center.

Tours The Mansion and gardens may be visited by guided tours led about National Park Service proby park staff. Tours are offered Memorial Day weekend through October 31. Make advance reservations by calling 802-457-3368 ext. 22. You can also make reservations National Historical Park in person at either the Visitor Cen- 54 Elm Street ter at the Billings Farm & Museum Woodstock, VT 05091 or at the National Park Carriage Barn Visitor Center. Tours are lim-

ited in size. Large groups need to call ahead for special arrangements. A tour fee is charged.

Accessibility Limited parking for visitors with disabilities is available near the Mansion and the National Park Carriage Barn Visitor Center. Parking passes and directions are available from the National Park wheelchair accessible.

crossing the roads and in parking areas. Trails may have uneven footing. Swimming, wading, and Poque. Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Consult park staff for

More Information Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more grams in America's communities, visit www.nps.gov.

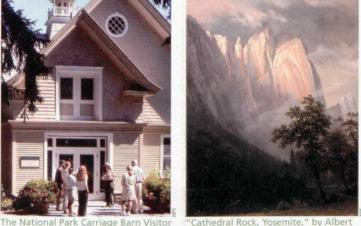
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller 802-457-3368 www.nps.gov/mabi





Center.

Visit the National Park Carriage Barn Visitor Center Built in 1895 riage Barn serves as the National Park Service Visitor Center. Featured is the exhibit "Celebrating Stewardship—People Taking Care of Places." The building also has offices for park staff, the Conser-Hampshire and Vermont office of the NPS Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program. The weekend through October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Bierstadt, 1870, on view in the Mansion.

Things to Do

Walk the Forest Trails and Carriage Roads Some 20 miles of carriage roads and trails crisscross Mount Tom. Visit The Poque, a pond tucked and rehabilitated in 1999, the Car- in the cleft of the mountain, and enjoy magnificent views of Woodstock and the surrounding hills from the top of Mount Tom. The system of carriage roads can be approached from the park entrance on Vt.12 or from the parking lot on vation Study Institute, and the New Prosper Road. Detailed trail maps are available at the visitor center. No bicycles or motorized vehicles are allowed. In winter, the Wood-National Park Carriage Barn Visitor stock Ski Touring Center grooms Center is open daily Memorial Day the carriage roads for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Contact the Ski Touring Center in Woodstock, or call 802-457-6674 for trail passes and for more information.

Tour the Mansion and Gardens The Mansion was built in 1805-07 for Charles Marsh. Sr., the father of George Perkins Marsh. For two generations the heirs of Billings have kept the 1800s Queen Anne style architecture, furnishings, and gardens intact while adding 20thcentury renovations that give the Mansion and grounds their present character and appearance.

The Mansion contains an extensive art collection with American landscape paintings by renowned artists like Thomas Cole, Albert Bierstadt, John Frederick Kensett, and Asher B. Durand. The collection illustrates the influence of 19th-century landscape painting, photography, and writing on the environmental movement.

Visit the Billings Farm & Museum The Billings Farm & Museum is a working dairy farm and a museum of agricultural and rural life operated as a private non-profit educational institution by the Woodstock Foundation, Inc. The park and the museum work in partnership to carry on the Billings tradition of land stewardship. For information about special activities and programs at the museum call 802-457-2355.



Hiking the carriage roads on Mount Tom.

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