

## Werk

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# V E R M O N T.

Length <sup>miles.</sup> 155 } between {  $42^{\circ} 50'$  and  $45^{\circ}$  N. Latitude.  
 Breadth 60 } {  $1^{\circ} 30'$  and  $3^{\circ}$  East Longitude.

**B**OUNDED north, by Canada; east by Connecticut river, which divides it from New-Hampshire; south, by Massachusetts; west, by New-York.

*Civil Divisions.*] Vermont is divided into the seven following counties.

Counties.

Chief Towns.

Bennington,

{ BENNINGTON and  
Manchester.

Rutland,

Rutland.

Addison,

Addison.

Windham,

Newfane.

Chittendon,

Colchester.

Orange,

Newbury.

Windsor,

Woodstock.

These counties are divided into townships, which are generally six miles square.

*Rivers.*] This state, on the east side of the mountain, is watered by Paupanhoosak, Quechey, Welds, White, Black, and West rivers, which run from west to east into Connecticut river; and west of the mountains, by the river Lamoil, over which is a natural stone bridge, seven or eight rods in length, by Onion river and Otter creek, which empty by one mouth into Lake Champlain, 20 or 30 miles south of St. John's. Otter creek is navigable for boats 50 miles. The lands adjacent are of an excellent quality, and are annually enriched by the overflowing of the water, occasioned by the melting of the snow on the Green Mountains.

*Mountains.*] A chain of high mountains, running north and south, divides this state nearly in the centre between Connecticut river and Lake Champlain. The height of land is generally from 20 to 30 miles from the

the river, and about the same distance from the New-York line. The natural growth upon this mountain, is hemlock, pine, spruce, and other evergreens ; hence it has always a green appearance, and on this account has obtained the descriptive name of *Ver Mons, Green Mountain*. On some high parts of this mountain, snow lies till May, and sometimes till June.

*Face of the Country, Soil and Productions.*] The country is generally hilly, but not rocky. It is finely watered, and affords the best of pasturage for cattle. On the banks of the lakes, rivers and rivulets, are many fine tracts of rich interval land. The heavy growth of timber, which is common throughout the state, evince the strength and fertility of the soil.

*Climate.*] None in the world more healthy. Snow begins to fall commonly in the beginning of November, and is generally gone by the middle of April. During this season, the inhabitants generally enjoy a serene sky, and a keen, cold air.

*Militia, Population and Character.*] There are upwards of 17,000 men upon the militia rolls of this state. These consist of two divisions, one on the west, the other on the east side of the mountain. In these two divisions are seven brigades, which are made up of 21 regiments. From the number of militia, reckoning five for one, we may estimate the number of inhabitants in the state at 85,000. Others, who reckon six for one, estimate them at 100,000. The bulk of the inhabitants are emigrants from Connecticut and Massachusetts, and their descendants. There is one settlement of Scotch people, which are almost the only foreigners in the state. As to the character, the manners, the customs, the laws, the policy, and the religion of the people in Vermont, it is sufficient to say they are New-England men.

*Curiosities.*] In the township of Tinmouth, on the side of a small hill, is a very curious cave. The chasm, at its entrance, is about four feet in circumference. Entering this, you descend 104 feet, and then opens a spacious room 20 feet in breadth, and 100 feet in length. The angle of descent is about 45 degrees. The roof

of this cavern is of rock, through which the water is continually percolating. The stalactites which hang from the roof appear like icicles on the eves of houses, and are continually increasing in number and magnitude. The bottom and sides are daily incrusting with spar and other mineral substances. On the sides of this subterraneous hall, are tables, chairs, benches, &c. which appear to have been artificially carved. This richly ornamented room, when illuminated with the candles of the guides, has an enchanting effect upon the eye of the spectator. If we might be indulged in assigning the general cause of these astonishing appearances, we should conclude from the various circumstances accompanying them, that they arise from water filtrating slowly through the incumbent *strata*; and taking up in its passage a variety of mineral substances, and becoming thus saturated with metallick particles, gradually exuding on the surface of the caverns and fissures, in a quiescent state, the aqueous particles evaporate, and leave the mineral substances to unite according to their affinities.

At the end of this cave is a circular hole, 15 feet deep, apparently hewn out, in a conical form, enlarging gradually as you descend, in the form of a sugar loaf. At the bottom is a spring of fresh water, in continual motion, like the boiling of a pot. Its depth has never been founded.

*Constitution.*] The inhabitants of Vermont, by their representatives in convention, at Windsor, on the 25th of December, 1777, declared that the territory called Vermont, was, and of right ought to be a free and independent state; and for the purpose of maintaining regular government in the same, they made a solemn declaration of their rights, and ratified a constitution.

By the frame of government, the supreme legislative power is vested in a house of representatives of the freemen of the state of Vermont, to be chosen annually by the freemen on the first Tuesday in September, and to meet the second Thursday of the succeeding October; this body is vested with all the powers necessary for the legislature of a free state; two-thirds of the whole number of representatives elected, make a quorum. Each

Each inhabited town throughout the state, has a right to send one representative to the assembly.

The supreme executive power is vested in a Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and twelve counsellors, to be chosen annually in the same manner, and vested with the same powers as in Connecticut.

*Chief Town.*] BENNINGTON is the principal town in Vermont. It is situated in the southwest corner of the state, near the foot of the Green Mountain. Its publick buildings are a church for congregationalists, a court-house and gaol. It has a number of elegant houses, and is a flourishing town. Near the centre of the town is *Mount Anthony*, which rises very high in the form of a sugar loaf. The assembly commonly hold their sessions at Windsor.

*History.*] The tract of country called VERMONT, before the late war, was claimed both by New-York and New-Hampshire. When hostilities commenced between Great-Britain and her colonies, the inhabitants, considering themselves as in a state of nature, and not within any legal jurisdiction, associated and formed for themselves a constitution of civil government; under this constitution they have continued to exercise all the powers of an independent state—and have flourished. On the 4th of March, 1791, agreeable to act of Congress of December 6th, 1790, this state became one of the United States, and constitutes the fourteenth, and not the least respectable Pillar in the Union.