

At a meeting of the East Charlotte Creamery association held at Lyceum Hall last Wednesday evening the following officers were elected for another year: Dr. W. H. H. Varney, president; J. R. Taggart, vice president; C. L. Van Vliet, secretary; C. N. Johns, treasurer; Robert Burnette of Boston, W. L. Bradley, H. H. Claxton, D. O. Foot, W. W. Desautels, directors; Thos. Hart and F. A. Ellison, auditors.

1905

Where in Charlotte was the Deer Foot Creamery?

Charlotte, Vermont History

Cheese Factories and Creameries



Taking Milk to the Creamery, Winter - Whalley Farm

In the early days, Vermont's farms provided agricultural products to meet farm and family needs throughout the year. As other farming ventures such as growing wheat and raising sheep became less profitable, and with favorable climate and soil conditions for dairy farming, the number of cattle increased.

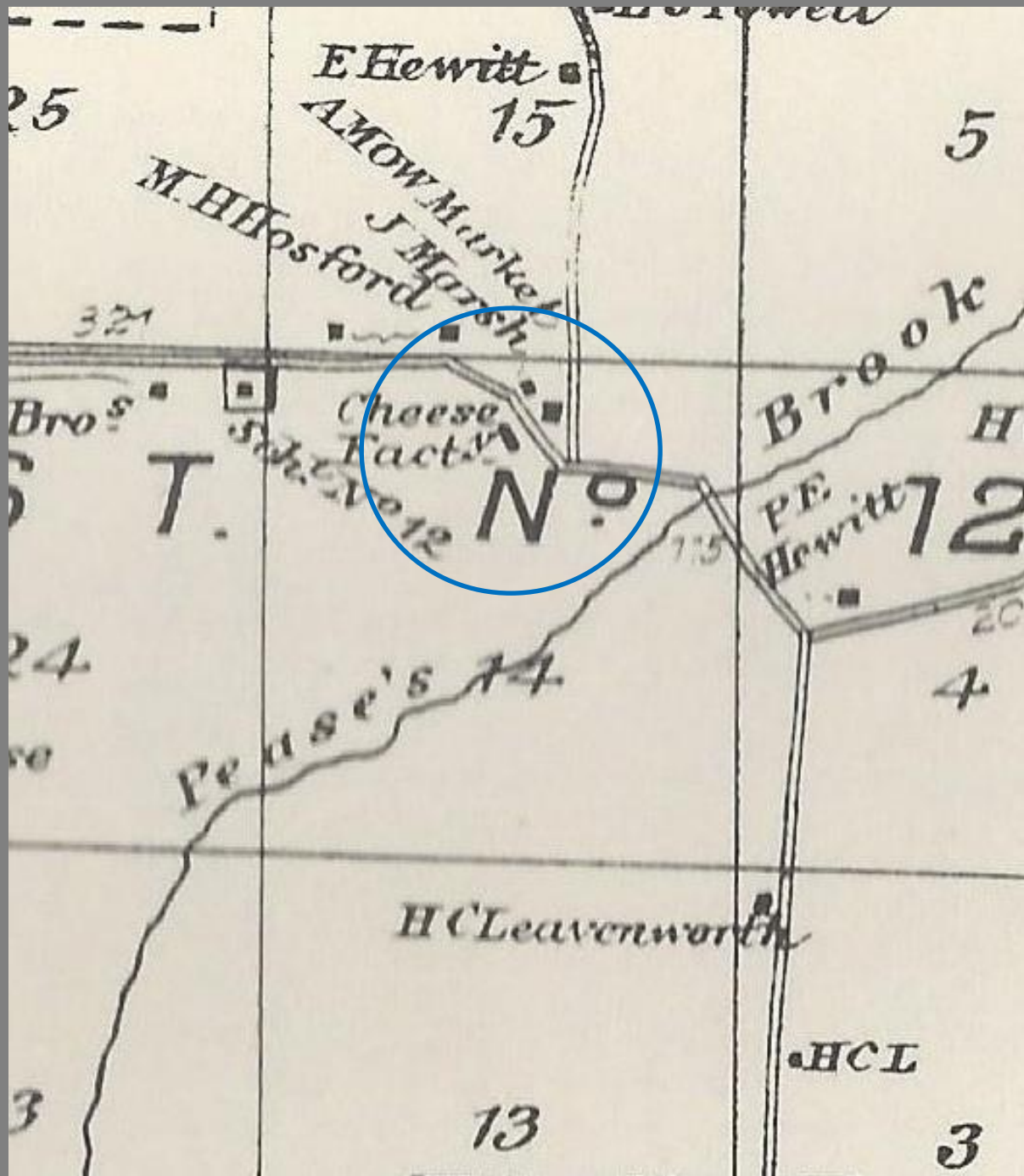
By 1850 the railroad line was completed through Charlotte, allowing for efficient shipment of products to distant cities.

Around 1870, two cheese factories opened, one in East Charlotte and one in West Charlotte. Three creameries opened later. The milk station in the depot area was constructed in the early 1900s.

Cheese Factory in East Charlotte

“Charlotte Cheese Factory, located in the eastern part of the town, was organized by a stock company in the fall of 1867, the buildings being erected during the following spring. During the last season there was 19,000 pounds of cheese manufactured from the milk of 175 cows.”

From the Gazetteer and Business Directory of Chittenden County, Vermont by Hamilton Child, 1882-83



The Charlotte map from the 1869 Beers Atlas of Chittenden County shows the cheese factory near the intersection of Prindle Road and Bean Road.

Charlotte News---Philosophy of the Cheese Factory
Charlotte, June 7, 1868

“Two events of especial import to the best interests of society, and marking an era in this staid and quiet town, deserves to be chronicled.”

A letter to the editor of the Burlington Free Press, written by “R.D.E.” and published in June of 1868, describes an event at the cheese factory. The celebration, attended by “two or three hundreds from this and adjoining neighborhoods” included entertainment by the newly formed Charlotte Coronet Band and the Cotillion Band from Richmond, and a “rare display both in quality and quantity of rich pastry &c, brought in by the ladies of the place. The floors of the building were “cleared for action” providing a space measuring one hundred by thirty feet for dancing and celebrating “past the small hours.”

Along with accommodating three to four hundred cows, it was the opinion of the writer that the cheese factory would “likely promote a revolution in the domestic arrangements of the place” by freeing the farm wives from the hard work of processing dairy products at home.

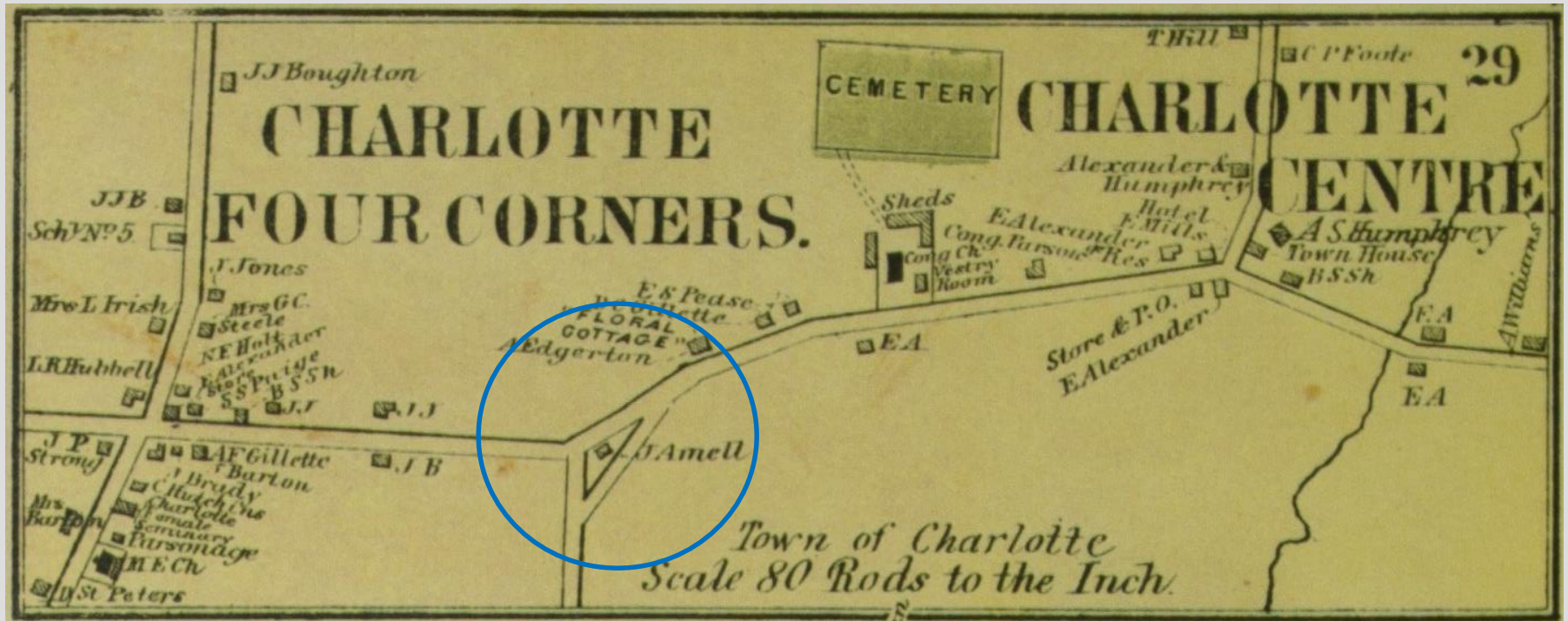
West Charlotte Cheese Factory

“West Charlotte Cheese Factory, located on road 9, corner 35, is owned and operated by a stock company organized November 31, 1873, the present list of officers being as follows : John H. Thorp, president ; Henry C. Root secretary ; A. A. Byington. S. A. Williams, and Charles Keese, directors. The factory receives the milk from 300 to 400 cows, manufacturing about 40,000 pounds of cheese per annum.”

November 11, 1874 article in The Vermont Watchman (Montpelier, Vermont):

“from House Committee on Corporations, in favor of H168, to incorporate the West Charlotte Cheese Factory Company, read third time and passed.”

1869 Beers Atlas of Chittenden County





4 corners looking east





Across Town





Cider Mill at the base of Church Hill, owned by N. D. Edgerton

CHARLOTTE.—The Cheese Factory a West Charlotte has been opened under very encouraging prospects. The services of C. L. Beers and wife have been engaged another year. The cheese factory at East Charlotte has also been reopened. The low price of butter has induced the farmers to retain the use of their cheese factories awhile longer. H.

1877

In 1885 the West Charlotte Cheese Factory was offered for sale at public auction. The building, 70x30 feet and three stories high, was described as one of the best equipped factories in the state and located in one of the best dairy districts in the state.

1885

FOR SALE

--AT PUBLIC AUCTION.--

By vote of the stockholders, the "West Charlotte Cheese Factory" will be sold at Public Auction, *without reserve*, to the highest bidder, on

Wednesday, April 8th, 1885, at One o'clock P. M.,

at the factory in Charlotte.

The above building is 70x30 feet and 3 stories high; has a 3-horse power engine. Is one of the best equipped factories in the state (was fitted and furnished by the well known firm of B. S. Nichols & Co., of Burlington), has all the modern improvements for heat and the necessary furniture for a clean, neat, first-class cheese factory.

The above property could easily be converted into a creamery and is located in one the best dairy districts in the state. Cost new, \$3800. *No straw bids and no by-bidders.*

JOHN H. THORP,
President.

H. C. Root, Secretary.
West Charlotte, March 18, 1885.

* The Cheese factory in Charlotte was burned Tuesday of last week, the losses being \$1,000 on the factory and its appurtenances, \$500 on the creamery stock owned by Willard & James, \$550 on bee hives and fixtures of William H. Dodge, and \$40 on barrels the property of H. D. Edgerton. Nobody had been inside the building for a month, and hence the fire was doubtless an incendiary one.

The cheese factory burned in the winter of 1891,
likely the result of arson.

1891

Creameries

33rd Annual Report 1903

Crystal Spring Creamery Co., Co-op
Lake View Creamery Co., Co-op

34th Annual Report 1904

Crystal Spring Creamery Co., Co-op
Lake View Creamery Co., Co-op

35th Annual Report 1905

Charlotte Mount View Corporation
William Day, Maker
Charlotte Crystal Creamery
Emmons Dart, Maker
Charlotte Lake View Creamery
W. V. Beach, Maker

36th Annual Report 1906

Lake View Creamery
Deer Foot Creamery
Crystal Spring Creamery

37th Annual Report 1907

Lake View Creamery
A. R. White's Creamery

38th Annual Report 1908

Lake View Creamery
A. R. White's Creamery

39th Annual Report 1909

Lake View Creamery
A. R. White's Creamery

40th Annual Report 1910

Lake View Creamery
A. R. White's Creamery

41st Annual Report 1911

Lake View Creamery
A. R. White's Creamery

Creameries in Charlotte from reports of the annual meetings of the Vermont Dairymen's Association

SOUTH CHARLOTTE.

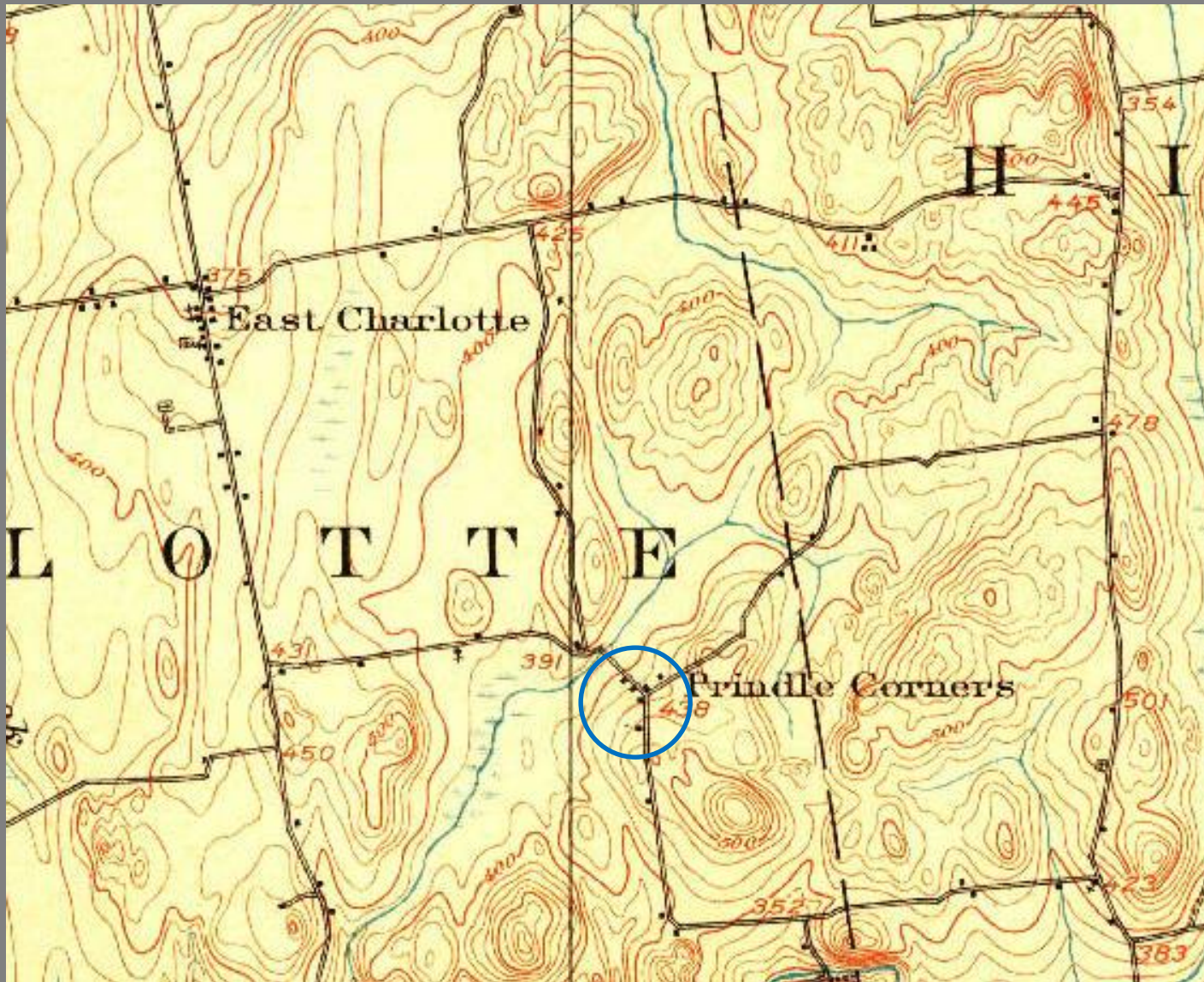
At the meeting of the stockholders of
the Crystal Spring creamery, on Tuesday
evening the old board was re-elected with
the addition of Lewis Dean as director.

The Burlington Free Press (Burlington, Vermont) – Mon, Feb 13, 1906

Crystal Spring Creamery

Charlotte historian, Frank Thornton, described the location of the Crystal Springs Creamery as follows:

“Crystal Springs Creamery and Crystal Creamery (1896-1905) was located on the west side of Prindle Road just south of its intersection with Garen Road. The building is large, gray and two storied, it is now (2003) a complete ruin. This was identified to me by Mrs. Shirley Sheehan Marshall who grew up on the Baptist Corners and after her marriage lived on a farm on Prindle Road about a mile from this creamery.”



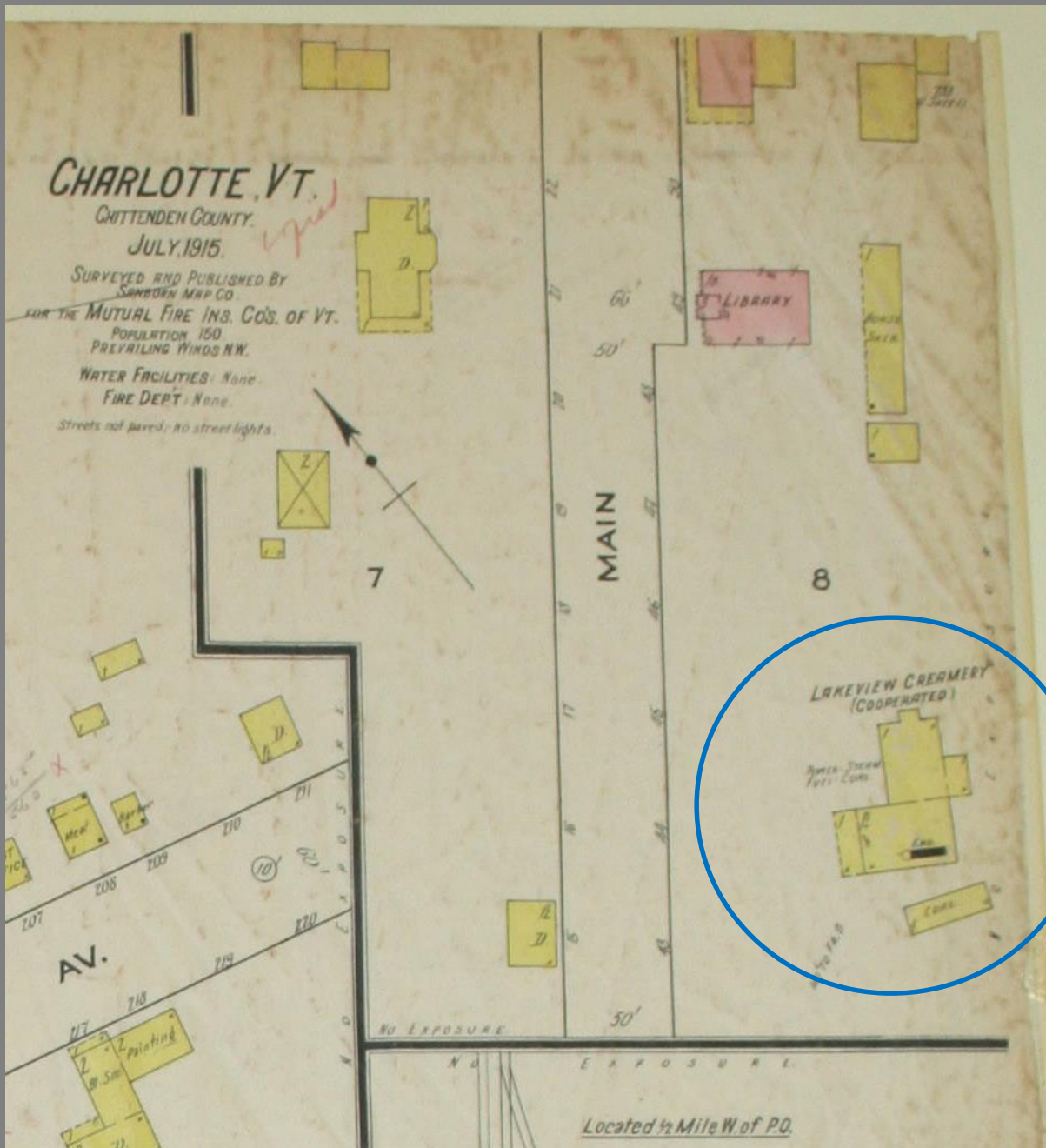
USGS map , Burlington, Vermont – edition of April 1906, reprinted July 1914

Lake View Creamery



Two butter prints are in the collection of the Charlotte Historical Society.

The Lake View Creamery Company, Inc. was organized December 30, 1895.



This 1915 map shows the location of the Lake View Creamery on Greenbush Road (identified as Main), south of the Breezy Point Library located in the old Methodist Church. The creamery building is still there.

The Methodist Church was damaged by a storm in 1950. It was then purchased by the Shelburne Museum.

Charlotte, Vt., Chittenden County, July, 1915, Surveyed and Published by Sanborn Map Co. for the Mutual Fire Ins. Co's of Vt



Always call myght with the
state of Vermont
Home

Library Hall
Charlotte Vt.

North Ferrisburgh.

Sept 21 1907

Library Hall with the creamery in the background

In 1940 the Lake View Creamery Company, Inc. was dissolved and assets distributed. At this time the creamery had been closed for 20 years.

Creamery In Charlotte Wants To Wind Up Affairs

A bill of complaint for dissolution, distribution of assets and other relief was filed in the county clerk's office yesterday in regard to the Lake View Creamery Company, Inc., with principal place of business in Charlotte. After consideration in chambers, the court decreed yesterday all persons claiming to be creditors of the Lake View Creamery Company, Inc., file with the clerk of the court a statement of claims on or before February 1, 1940.

All persons claiming to be stockholders also were ordered to enter their appearance with the clerk of the court and to file with the clerk on or before February 1 a sworn statement of facts upon which any claim is based. To all claims, the claimant is ordered to attach the original stock certificate and in default of filing such claims before February 1, all persons claiming to be stockholders shall be barred from making claim to assets of the corporation.

Attorneys for the plaintiff are to mail copies of the order to the stockholders.

The corporation was organized December 30, 1895, and upon ceasing to do business, about 20 years ago, has on hand a certain sum of money for distribution to its stockholders.

Frank B. Smith, one of the directors of the corporation, as one of the plaintiffs, asks in the petition that the affairs of the corporation be wound up and the assets distributed to those legally entitled to them.

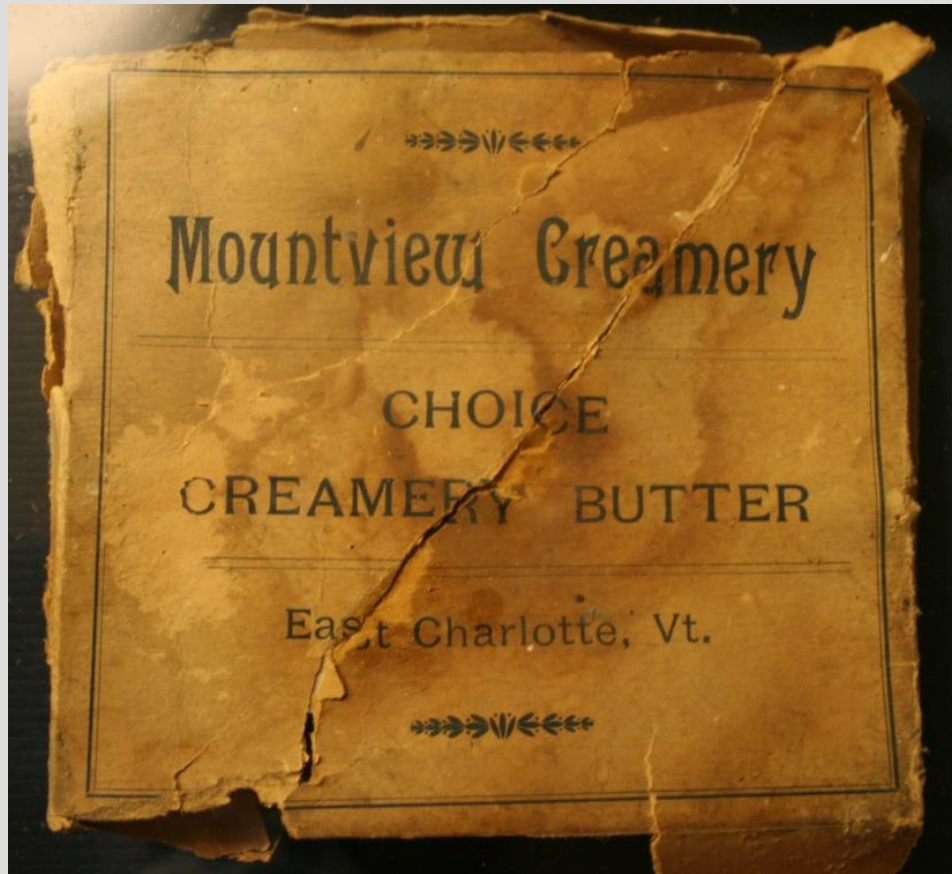


The Lake View Creamery building is visible in this 1941 aerial photograph of the West Charlotte village.

U.V.M. Landscape Change Program



**Mount View Creamery
Deer Foot Creamery
A.R. White's Creamery**



This butter box was found in the Woodruff barn on Garen Road.

This creamery was located on Hinesburg Road, west of Baptist Corners. John Sheehan and Shirley Sheehan Marshall grew up in the farmhouse just to the east of the creamery, property the family purchased in 1919. The creamery buildings were gone, but both remember the foundations and slab. John remembers that it was referred to as White's Creamery—he recalls playing with the cream separator. Shirley mentioned a faucet and water supplied from a very good spring.

The ownership of property changed several times. This is the location of the Deer Foot Creamery. Another property just south of the Catholic Church, was linked to the operation of the creamery. It may have served as the residence for the creamery operator, and also provided a water source for the creamery.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Circa 1900-1930

The New Charlotte Creamery

The new creamery at Baptist Corners, Charlotte, is one of the finest in the state. It is owned and operated by the Deerfoot Farm company, which buys the milk of the farmers according as their milk tests. The skim milk tank is kept as clean as the cream cans, making the milk that is returned to the farmers absolutely pure and sweet. The floors are all of cement and every part of the creamery can be flooded without injury. The skim milk is weighed out to the farmers by an improved and accurate method. All the machinery used in the building is up-to-date. The churn and worker is all one piece of improved apparatus.

A large ice house is now in process of construction. A large amount of the butter made during the summer will be put into cold storage. About 6,000 pounds of milk is being daily received and the company expect to handle 25,000 pounds before the end of the year. J. F. Cowen, traveling agent for the company, is superintending the work of starting the creamery.

In 1903, the creamery was owned and operated by the Deerfoot Farm Company of Southborough, Massachusetts.

H. W. Day and wife of Fitchburg, Mass., arrived in town Thursday last and are boarding with Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Harris. Mr. Day is to succeed J. F. Cowern as superintendant of Mountview creamery, Mr. Cowern having resigned that position for the study of law at Indianapolis, Ind.

The milk team belonging to W. Dishor and driven by his daughter, Stella, last Thursday morning, became unmanagable soon after leaving Mountview creamery and ran away. The cans were thrown out by the wayside, the milk spilled and the wagon pretty well demolished. Miss Dishor was also thrown out and one ankle quite badly hurt, though not seriously. The horses, minus a portion of their harnesses were secured in G. W. Prudle's cornfield.

For a short time the creamery was called the Mountview Creamery.

News of the creamery appears in this 1904 article.

Deerfoot Farms was a large enterprise founded by Joseph Burnett around 1850. The Charlotte creamery was one of two creameries operated by Deerfoot Farms in Vermont. (The other was in Plainfield.) Milk was supplied by local farms and the processed cream was shipped to Southborough by rail. Butter was made at some creameries as well.

Deerfoot Farms operated using the latest innovations in processing milk products, and with very high standards for cleanliness.

In 1903, J.F. Cowern was overseeing the work of starting the Deer Foot Creamery. In 1905, when he was leaving the creamery business to study law, his paper “Some Creamery Troubles” appeared in the Twenty-fifth annual report of the Vermont Dairymen’s Association. In it he advocated for improved standards for cleanliness at the creamery and on the farm.

In 1907, the creamery was identified as A. R. White's Creamery and it continued to do business for several years. After 1915, there was a shift to the shipment of fluid milk and cream to meet the demand in New York and cities in New England. In 1915, Arthur R. White sold his property due to bankruptcy.



What was left of White's Creamery could still be found in 2011 .

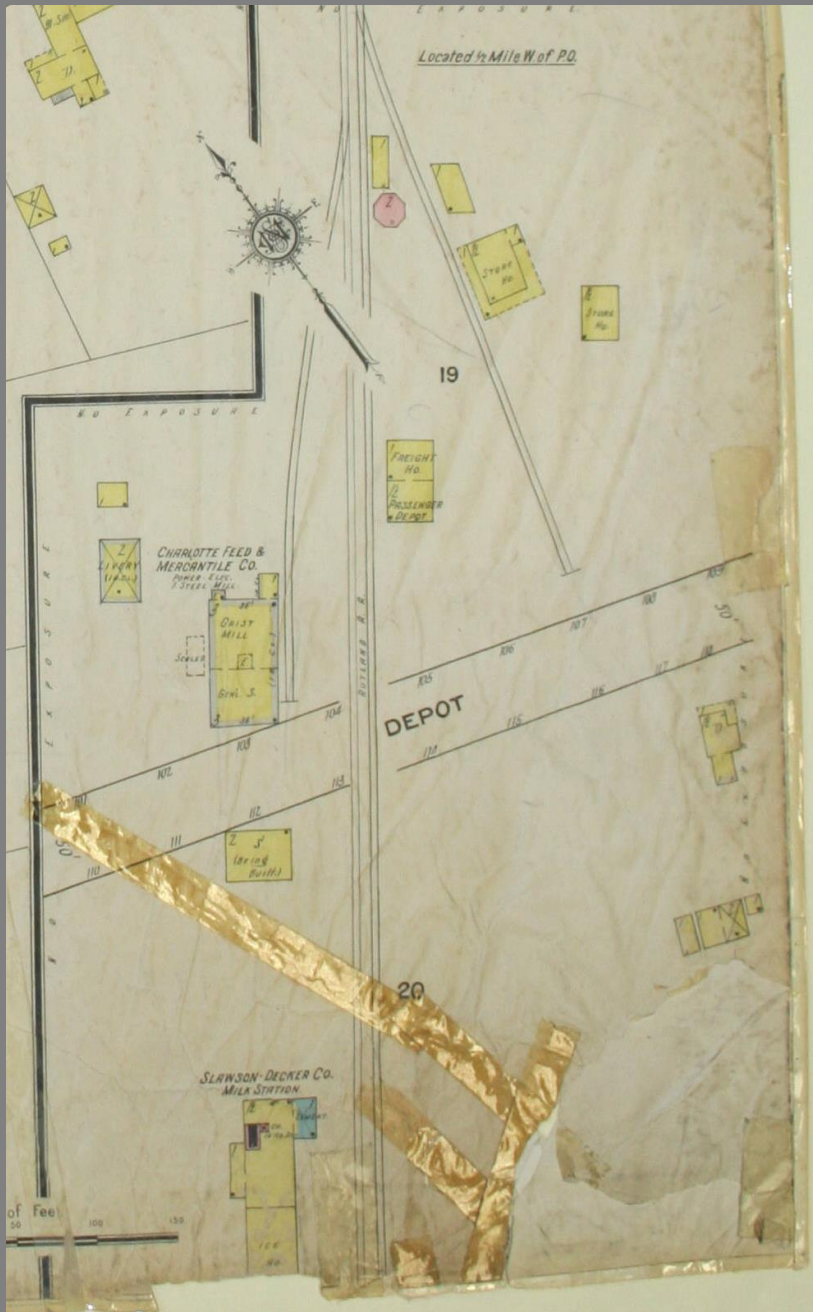
Milk Station

**Slawson-Decker Co.
Sheffield Farms Co. Inc.**



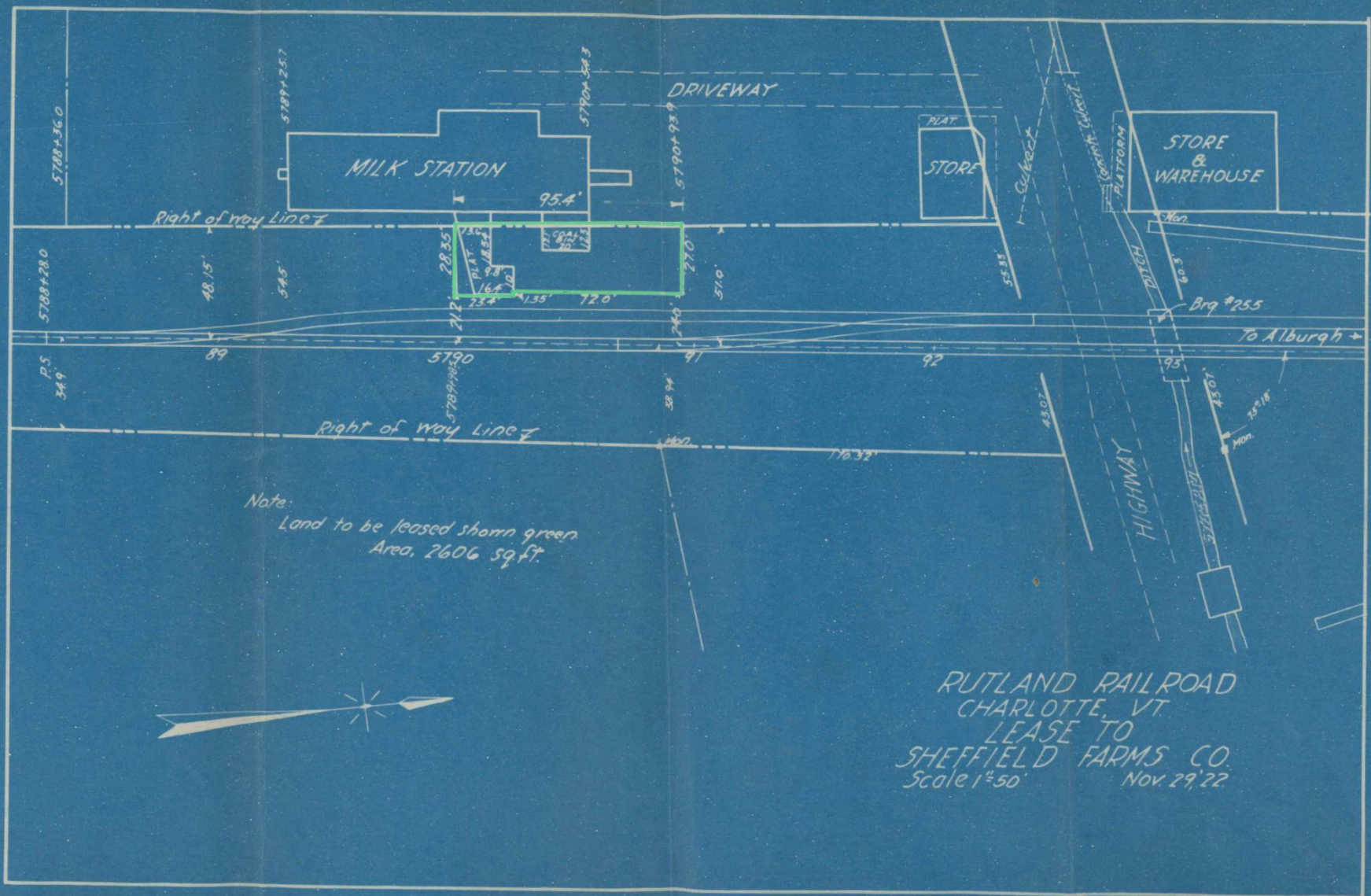
“The Sheffield Farms/Slawson–Decker Company, known as Sheffield Farms, was a dairy that pasteurized, bottled, and delivered milk in New York City in the first half of the 20th century. It became one of the largest dairy companies in the world, selling 20% of the city's milk. The company played a major part in transforming commercial milk into a clean and healthy product. “

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheffield_Farms



This 1915 map shows the Slawson-Decker Co. by the railroad tracks. Ice storage was located in the southern section of the building.

Charlotte, Vt., Chittenden County, July, 1915, Surveyed and Published by Sanborn Map Co. for the Mutual Fire Ins. Co's of Vt.



Note:
 Land to be leased shown green
 Area, 2606 sq.ft.

RUTLAND RAILROAD
 CHARLOTTE, VT
 LEASE TO
 SHEFFIELD FARMS CO.
 Scale 1"=50' Nov. 29, '22

1922 Rutland Railroad lease document



SHEFFIELD FARMS CO., INC.
324 WEST 57TH ST. N.Y. CITY



NOTICE
ALL WORKERS
MUST SIGN UP
AFTER 4:30
ORDER SFD INC

SF



CUTTING ICE NEAR FERRY DOCK 1922

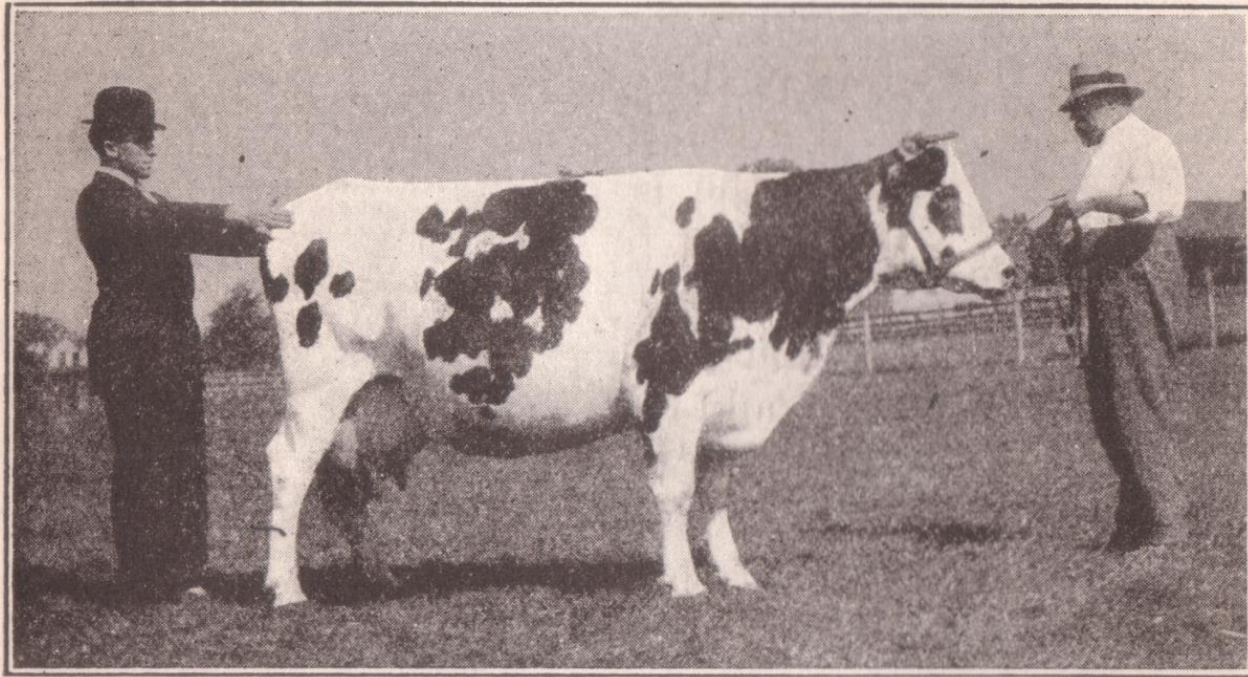


Figure 120.—Judging dairy cattle. Viewing top lines from the rear. Photograph by the author.