



Vermont in Michigan

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GLADYS MILLER

Of all the sections of the world where pioneering Vermonters have ventured, a little community in upper Michigan retains, perhaps, more of the flavor and tradition of the Green Mountains, which the settlers left behind them.

Here in Vermontville, founded in 1836 by 42 families of colonists, mainly from the Poultney area, there is held each year a big maple syrup festival. Sugaring is one of the main Vermont traditions and skills which they brought with them.

For Vermontville's farmers make as much as 20,000 gallons of syrup each spring, and it is said to be a reasonably good facsimile of the Vermont standard of quality.

Vermontville was planned carefully by the Rev. Sylvester Cochrane and the other Vermont leaders. Each of the settling families received 160 farm acres and also a town plot of 10 acres. Reminding the visitor of the villages of Rutland county is Vermontville's maple-bordered village green, with the adjacent church and old academy buildings.

Each April Vermontville's 700 citizens put on their gala maple celebration, often attracting as many as 20,000 visitors from all parts of Michigan. The maple trees located in Vermontville's center, some 450 of them, are

tapped out by the town's high school students. The syrup made from these trees is sold to help with the costs of running the maple syrup festival.

