

The Northwest quarter became the site of the first log school-house and later, The Academy; the Southwest quarter, in the early 60's, the location of the Congregational Church; the Northeast quarter in later years the site of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Southeast quarter was devoted to general business use, eventually being planted with trees for a park.

It was occupied for some of the early years by hay-scales, and served as a starting point for a lusty growth of Canada thistles brought in the Vermont rye straw used by Waite J. Squier to pack his household goods for moving. To quote directly from the History of Vermontville written by Hon. E. W. Barber in 1897:--"With very few exceptions the original settlers have passed away but the thistles still survive them."

(Note: After a hundred years, the present generations of those thistles are still "going strong" in the center of the village).

So the Union Colony was started. While the location did not meet all the desired specifications as originally stated, the land was good and well-watered, and the settlers coming with their families as rapidly as possible, turned their best efforts into making a real and permanent home in the forest-wilderness.

ARTICLE IV

The month of May, 1836 saw the first felling of forest trees in this primitive country. Mrs. Andrew Green, a present resident, remembers hearing her grandfather, Jay Hawkins, telling of helping cut trees down to make our present east and west Main Street. He came with Roger Griswold as a boy himself, but remained as one of the pioneers.

At first each colonist had only his town ten acre plat. Indeed, for a time, that is until they were able to build individual homes, they lived community fashion in the colony log house built near the present Fred Kroger home. This was known to the colonists as "the State house."

The original idea was for each family to have a home on their town ten acres for protection and also to insure church and school privileges, but gradually house were built on their individual farms, or "farm lots" as they termed them.

The land of Vermontville township was assigned or distributed at a general meeting at the colony or State house in October, 1836.

Certain lots most desirable were assessed to the amount of \$400, to defray the agent's expenses, then as S. S. Church wrote "each one drew and was satisfied."

Many of the Sections were registered, in the name of J. B. Scoville & Company. This Josiah Scoville was agent for the colonists. His brother, Stephen D. Scoville also came as a pioneer.