

The
Mount Independence-Hubbardton
1776 Military Road



Joseph L. Wheeler
and
Mabel A. Wheeler

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The
Mount Independence-Hubbardton
1776 Military Road

By
JOSEPH L. WHEELER
AND
MABEL A. WHEELER

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To the memory of our son
JOSEPH TOWNE WHEELER
killed in action in Italy, October 24, 1944
And to the memory of
MABEL ARCHIBALD WHEELER
1882-1960

They loved history and they loved Vermont

Reprinted from *Vermont History* magazine, April, July, October 1959, by kind permission of Vermont Historical Society, with a few alterations and with new material including illustrations and redrawn maps. See references, at bottoms of the pages, to the Addenda, gathered at the end. The pagination of the magazine articles has been retained.

SPOKE HOLLOW*

by Robert R. Wheeler**

Spoke Hollow lies below, all hazy in the August sun,
The river glist'ning at the falls winds off among the trees
And faintly now the clatter of the mowing
Rises with sweet clover scent upon the breeze.

Straight and clean limbed the graying beeches reach
To a leafy canopy sweeping upward on the ridge;
Soft afoot the leaf-laid carpet leads
By moss-mantled footpath to an old stone bridge.

Here the slanting sunshafts light a slate-laid causeway;***
Bemused, I sit and sense the forest wake with sound,
Distant echoes and iron caissons**** grinding on the ledge,
Grim soldiers straining through the swampy ground.

Proud Provincials in swift retreat from attack at Fort Ti,
Struggling in the windfalls, counting their comrades slain,
Fleeing, and cursing their outflanked guns,
Driven by redcoats from Lake Champlain.

This military road through battlefield at Hubbardton
Is not on guided tours for cars and yachting folk;
Vermonters traced where powder horn and musket rots
And marked it plain across their farms and woodlots.

Sept. 1950.

* Site of early spoke factory on Hubbardton River below Sunset Lake.

** Petroleum Consultant, Dallas, Texas; spent many summers in Benson.

*** Locally called the Military Bridge.

**** The Americans drew cannon from Ti to Hubbardton.

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