



Traveling Main Street Vergennes

Using original photos and postcards circa 1890-1940

Crosby Digital Collection- Bixby Memorial Library



The Crosby Collection

For decades, post cards and photos have been ways to capture memories of places we have traveled and sites we have seen. From a historical perspective, they offer a window into how the Main Street developed over time. From the Crosby Collection, we offer you a look at postcards and print of the Vergennes Main Street and Otter Creek Basin circa 1890- 1950. This was compiled in summer 2022 with local historian Cookie Steponaitis.





Vergennes Franklin Block Early Photo Circa 1880's

Taken in the late 1880's the Vergennes Park is shown on the left and on the right is the Foote block. Looking north, dirt streets and side walks are busy with people engaging in commerce.



Vergennes Main Street Post Card Circa 1950

This postcard shows the Grand Union, Steven's Drug Store, The Park Diner, Ryan's Hardware and other businesses of the era. Ryan's is one of the oldest continuous family operated business on Main Street. Horse Power has now given way to automobiles and the trees from the past show considerable growth over time.



The Samuel Strong House Postcard Circa 1910

This circa 1910 postcard shows one of the oldest homes in Vergennes- The Samuel Strong House. Built in 1796, this was the home of the Strong family for many generations. Several family members played key roles in the history of the region.



Early Photograph of Main Street and Bridge Circa 1880

This very early photograph of Main Street and the bridge in Vergennes includes many buildings that are no longer standing, except for the Shade Roller and looks east toward leaving town and heading for Addison.



1890 Photo of Otter Creek Basin by Stoyt Brothers Photography

This early photo captures the Otter Creek Basin in Vergennes that served as the business hub of the city. Located 7.7 miles down stream from the mouth of Lake Champlain, this site was not only the downtown of the early city, but the building site of the Fleet of Ships that beat the British in the Battle of Plattsburgh in 1812 and both steamship and railroad industry for long periods of time. Even today, it is a source of commerce and a waterway access for generations that call this city home. L-R is Falardo Shop, Vergennes Pump House, Norton's Mill, and the Shade Roller Factory.



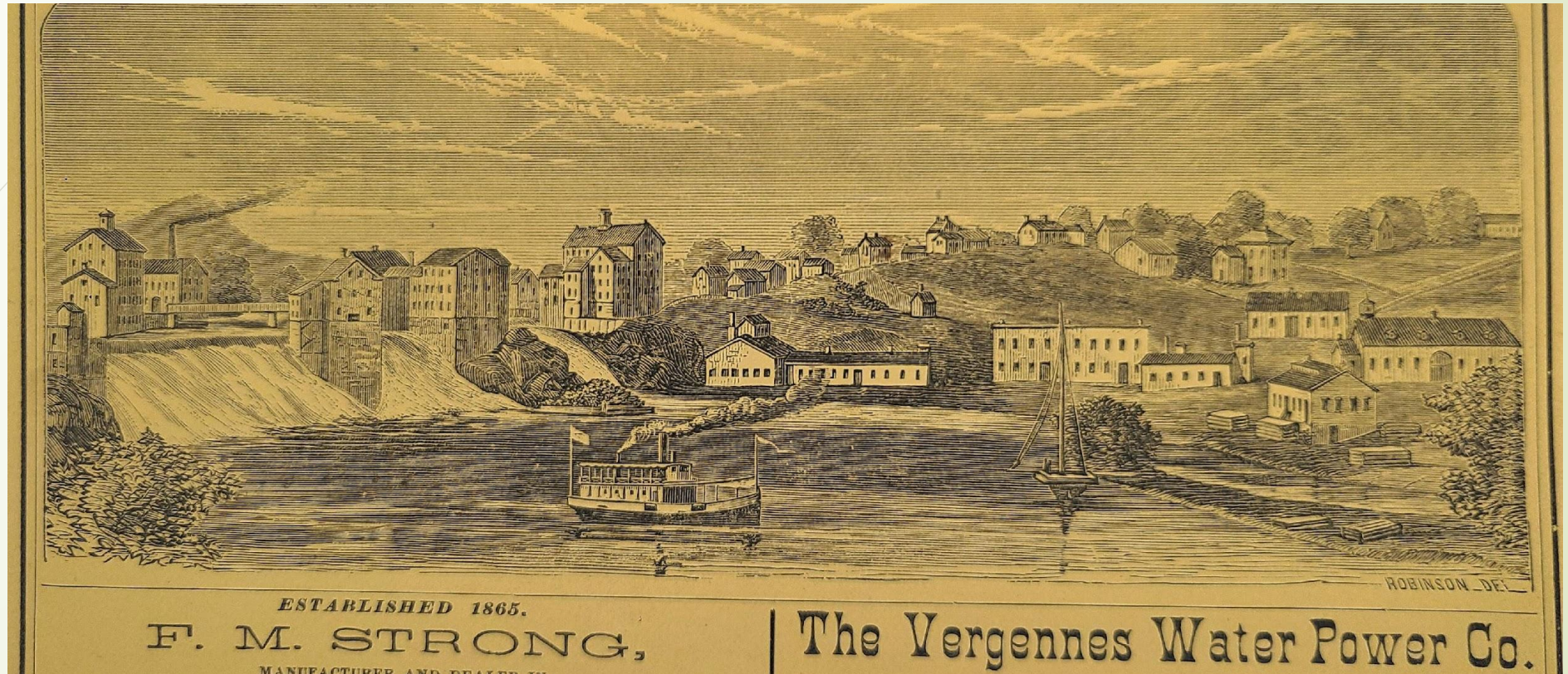
Shade roller Plant Post Card Circa 1890

With buildings located on both sides of the falls, it was a major employer for the area and made window shades and rollers.



April 9, 1896 Photo of Vergennes Fire

Fires have played a key role in the story of not only of Vergennes, but of the development of the Fire Departments and fire fighting techniques. This photo of the April 9, 1896 fire shows devastation and identifies for the town leaders the need for increased techniques and services for fire protection. A second fire again in 1958 would revolutionize fire fighting not only in Vergennes but in Vermont, New England and Canada.



Rare Vermont Business Directory Image 1880-1881 of Otter Creek Basin

This image shows the amount and diversity of business in the Otter Creek Basin.