

# Lake Bomoseen



Lake Bomoseen is 7.5 mi (12 km) long, 1.5 mi (2.4 km) wide, making it the largest lake wholly within Vermont. It has two islands, Neshobe and Rabbit.

In the 1920s, literary critic Alexander Woollcott owned Neshobe Island and the island served as a retreat and playground for members of the famed Algonquin Round Table, as well as the Marx Brothers and many other celebrities of the day.

Lake Bomoseen State Park and Crystal Beach host many seasonal activities. The lake is also a popular year-round fishing destination, and the annual ice fishing tournament draws many competitors and spectators alike.

# Benson

The town of Benson is located in the extreme northwest corner of Rutland County. Benson is a small village, beautifully located in the center of the town. The main street called Stage Road, runs north and south. Lake Road leads into the village and takes you to beautiful Lake Champlain. Sunset Lake and Sunrise Lake also add beauty to the town.

The Town was chartered in May 1780, and as of the census dated in 2000, there were 1,039 people. In 1810 there were 1561 people living in here. Benson's heritage is firmly rooted in farming and the timber industry. Today it is a diverse community with several farms, many small businesses, artisans, craftspeople, and a lively citizenry comprised of a mix of full-time and vacation residents. It is also an all season recreation destination.



Photo courtesy of Town of Benson

# Castleton



Photo courtesy of Castleton State College

Three natural resources brought prosperity to early Castleton: a river, a lake, and a vein of slate. The original charter for the Town of Castleton was granted in 1761. Two surveyors, Amos Bird and Noah Lee, broke through the wilderness in 1766 to plan the township. Amos Bird climbed the mountain to the east and looked out to find two valuable resources for waterpower, a river and a lake.

Today Lake Bomoseen and Castleton State College sit like book ends for the town of Castleton. Names are still attached to tiny pockets of the town and reflect earlier times when transportation and communication were difficult: Blissville, Hydeville, Cookville, West Castleton, Castleton Village, Castleton Corners, and Bomoseen just to name a few.

# Fair Haven

Nestled in the rolling hills between New York's Adirondacks and the Green Mountains of Vermont, Fair Haven, Vermont presents the picturesque facade of many of New England's smaller villages, with church steeples surrounding a shaded village green.



Photo courtesy of Emmet Ironworks

Fair Haven's early development was led by Col. Matthew Lyon, who started an iron works. Other early enterprises included slate quarries, the Fair Haven Clock Co., and the Lion Brand Shirt manufacturing facility, which employed more than 500 people.

Among other notable buildings, Vermont slate from Fair Haven areas have been used in the construction of the White House, the Pentagon, and the Lincoln Memorial.

The Fair Haven Green is registered in the National Registry of Historical Places, as are many of the surrounding homes and churches. Located on West Park Place are three homes built by descendants of Ira Allen, brother of Ethan Allen, one of Fair Haven's original settlers.

# Hubbardton

On June 15, 1764, Benning Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire, issued a charter to Thomas Hubbard and others. The township takes its name from Mr. Hubbard. It was surveyed and laid out by Ira Allen.

There are eleven lakes and ponds, which make Hubbardton ideal for recreation. Three of these are Lake Hortonia, Lake Beebe, and Echo Lake. The northern end of Lake Bomoseen is in Hubbardton. A large number of persons vacation yearly in cottages and camps located on these lakes.

On July 7, 1777, at 7:00 am, history was made in the little town of Hubbardton.



Photo courtesy of Hubbardton Historical Society

Eight hundred fifty British and about two hundred Brunswickers engaged an American force of less than twelve hundred, which had been left behind by General Arthur St. Clair as a rear guard, in an historic battle. The result of this battle was the beginning of the end of rule by Great Britain and the birth of a new nation, created in liberty.

The Hubbardton Battle monument located in East Hubbardton was erected in 1859 in commemoration of the Battle of Hubbardton. Each year in July, the Hubbardton Historical Society, the Living History Association, the State of Vermont division for Historic Preservation, and Town of Hubbardton celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of Hubbardton and the role it played in American history.

# West Haven



West Haven was originally part of Fair Haven, but formed its own township in 1792. This rural community is nestled among green fields and rolling hills.

West Haven borders Lake Champlain and New York State. It was originally a farming community. At this time, there are only three active dairy farms and several beef operations. West Haven has a Community Hall, Baptist Church, Historical Society, Volunteer Fire Department, and Devil's Bowl Speedway. The population is approximately 290.