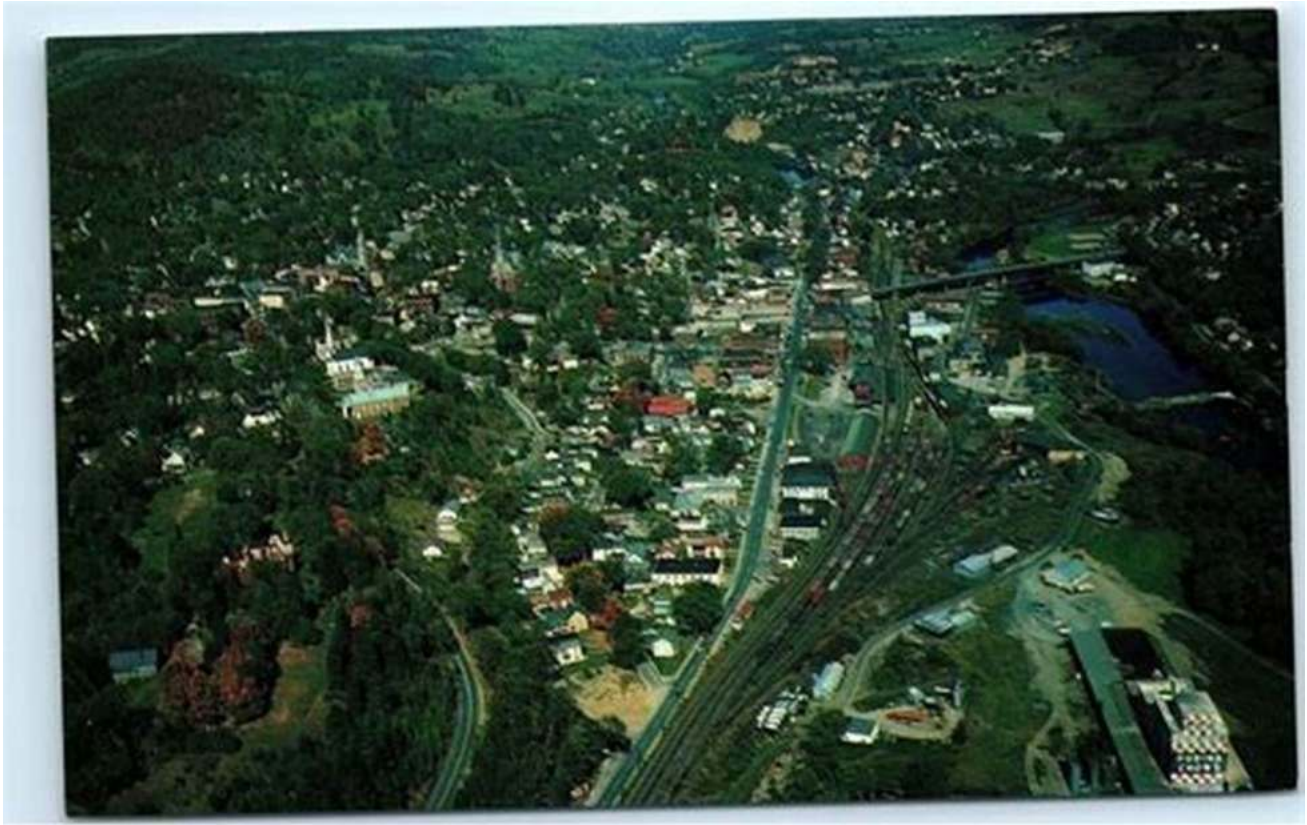


The Fascinating and Forgotten History of St Johnsbury: From a Dusty Settlement to a Vibrant Vermont Town

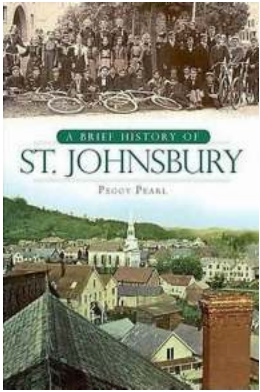


St Johnsbury, a hidden gem nestled in northeastern Vermont, may appear to be just a quaint town today, but its history tells a tale of resilience, transformation, and cultural vibrancy. Let's take a journey through time and uncover the captivating story of this captivating place.

The Early Beginnings: From Wilderness to Settlement

Long before St Johnsbury became a buzzing hub, the land was inhabited by Native American tribes, particularly the Abenaki people. They thrived in harmony

with the abundant nature surrounding them. However, it wasn't until the late 18th century that European settlers arrived.



A Brief History of St. Johnsbury

by Peggy Pearl (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4691 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 163 pages



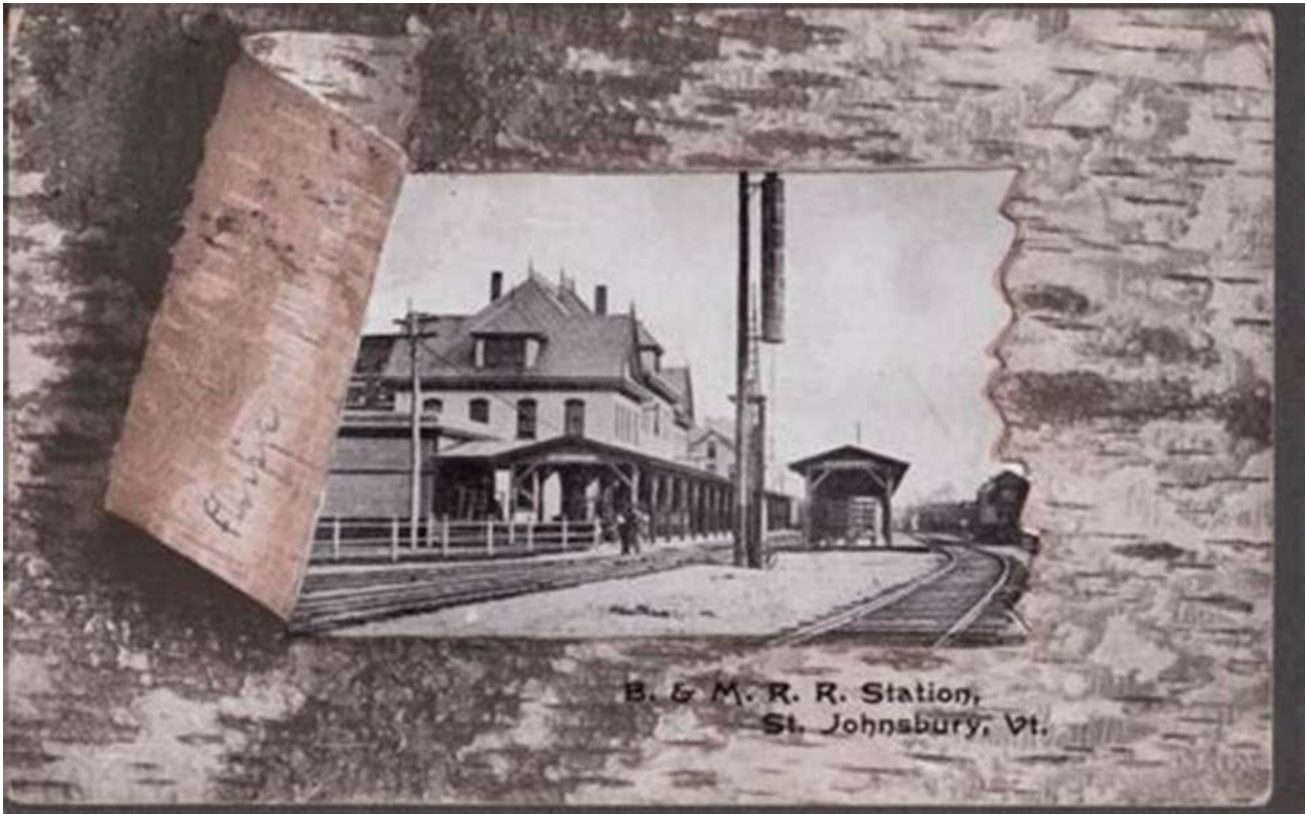
Initially, the area was merely a rough and remote wilderness, offering little attraction to settlers seeking a new home. Yet, it was a visionary named Dr. Jonathan Arnold who saw the potential in this untouched territory. Eager to develop a thriving community, he purchased 300 acres of land and founded St Johnsbury in 1786.



A Town Built In Dreams and Determination

With dreams of growth and progress, St Johnsbury began to flourish. The settlers worked tirelessly to clear the land and build houses, establishing a prosperous agricultural community. The fertile soil allowed for successful farming, enabling the town to thrive while also attracting more settlers.

In 1850, the arrival of the railroad brought newfound prosperity and accelerated St Johnsbury's development. The town quickly became a vital transportation hub, fostering trade and commerce. Industries emerged, further boosting the economy and cementing St Johnsbury's position as a significant player in Vermont's landscape.



An Intellectual Hub: The Rise of Culture and Education

As the 19th century progressed, St Johnsbury not only became an economic powerhouse but also an intellectual and cultural center. Philanthropist Horace Fairbanks, one of the town's most influential figures, recognized the importance of education and art.

The Fairbanks family's generous contributions led to the establishment of the St Johnsbury Athenaeum, a magnificent library and art gallery that still stands today. The Athenaeum showcases an impressive collection of artwork, including pieces by renowned artists such as Albert Bierstadt, Winslow Homer, and Jasper Cropsey.



The Tumultuous Times: From Trials to Resilience

Like any other town, St Johnsbury faced its fair share of challenges. The Great Depression and World Wars brought economic hardships, yet the people of St Johnsbury demonstrated remarkable resilience. They adapted and diversified their economy by embracing new industries, including manufacturing and tourism.

The town's picturesque beauty attracted visitors from far and wide, seeking solace in the charming surroundings and captivating natural landscapes, such as the renowned Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium.



Present Day: A Vibrant Town Preserving Its Rich Heritage

Today, St Johnsbury stands as a testament to the ingenuity and perseverance of its residents. The town's history is lovingly preserved in its architectural heritage, with stately Victorian homes lining the streets, silently narrating tales of a bygone era.

The community's dedication to the arts and culture remains evident, with numerous theaters, galleries, and festivals enriching the town's social fabric. St Johnsbury has also embraced the importance of nature preservation, with several parks and green spaces inviting relaxation and exploration.



The history of St Johnsbury is a remarkable testament to the human spirit. From humble beginnings as a remote wilderness, the town transformed itself into a beacon of progress, culture, and resilience. Today, it proudly carries the torch of its storied past, while embracing the future with open arms.

So, the next time you find yourself near St Johnsbury, take a moment to step back in time and appreciate the hidden treasures that lie within this vibrant Vermont town.

A Brief History of St. Johnsbury

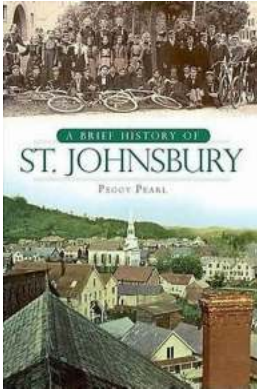
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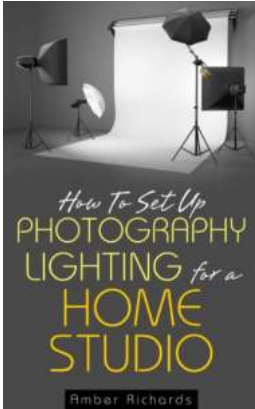
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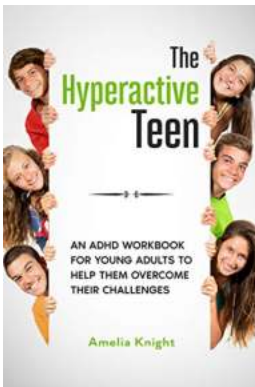


Tucked away in the dark forests of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, St. Johnsbury was mostly unbroken wilderness when first chartered in 1786. Swinging axes soon made way for the burgeoning split-level town, with stately Main Street homes on St. Johnsbury Plain presiding in grandeur over the bustling commerce of Railroad Street below. Peggy Pearl brings a decidedly human element to this comprehensive history, wandering the graves of Mount Pleasant Cemetery and bringing to life the stories of those tanners, cobblers, millworkers and brick makers who made St. Johnsbury their home. With excerpts from vintage newspapers like the Caledonian-Record and the Farmer's Herald, Pearl unfolds the transformation from quiet mill town into picturesque manufacturing hub of Caledonia County.



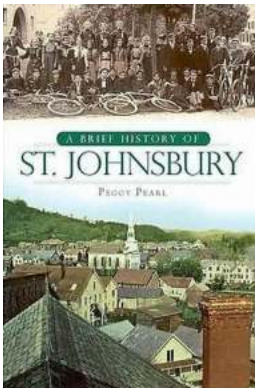
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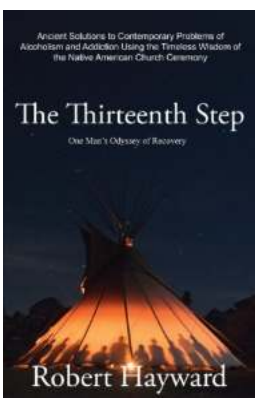
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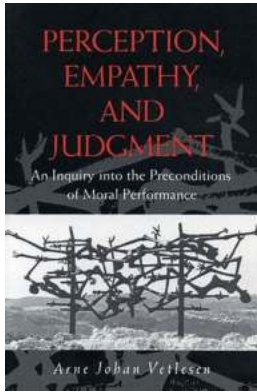
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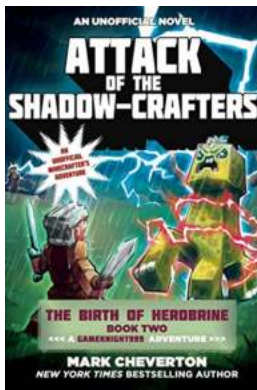
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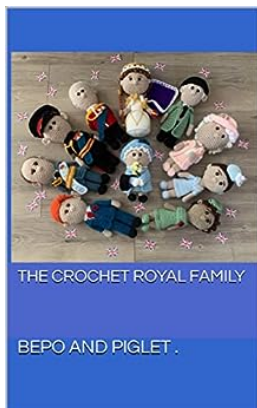
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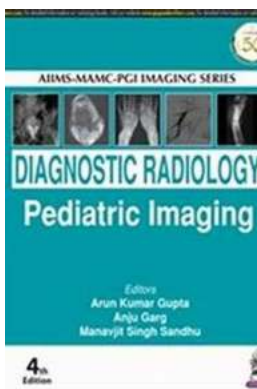
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