

In Search of Bayley-Hazen



Within the Northeast Kingdom are remnants of a Revolutionary War era military road. Proposed and started in 1776 by Colonel Jacob Bayley, continued in 1779 and later abandoned by General Moses Hazen, the road — and what remains of it — extends from Wells River in a northwesterly direction to what is now known as Hazen’s Notch.

For sure, exploration of the road is accomplished far better by mountain bike and hybrid than by motor vehicle. Small details, historical markers, grave sites and monuments that still recall the events of long ago may escape the eye when barreling along in a car but will not be missed by bike. As inveterate touring cyclist Josh Lehman reminds us, “bicyclists travel fast enough to span the forest but slow enough to spot the trees.”

Much of the original route can be followed using existing roads, the majority of which remain unpaved. Indeed, the character of the original road as described in the 1959 Northeast Vermont Development Association (NVDA) booklet, *Bayley-Hazen*

Military Road – 1776 & 1779, aptly describes what cyclists will find today.

“It makes no concessions to comfort or convenience, and very few even to the law of gravity. It goes as straight as possible, regardless of grade, like an old Roman road, but by no means regardless of that bogey of the early road builders in New England. In general it keeps on the ridge-tops, dodging the wet spots as much as possible, crossing brooks and larger streams at right angles, almost never following them.”

Sound like fun? Then let’s get started in search of Bayley Hazen.



The history of the Bayley-Hazen Military Road begins with the ill-starred campaign of 1775-1776 during which Benedict Arnold and Richard Montgomery attempted to capture Canada. The American army urgently needed reinforcements and supplies to continue the siege of Quebec, and Bayley, head of the frontier militia and a resident of Newbury, Vermont, repeatedly wrote to General George Washington urging upon him the importance of constructing a new road that would shorten existing supply routes. Washington, determined to act without the approval of Congress, approved construction of the road on April 29, 1776 aware of the critical situation at Quebec, but equally aware that a road to Canada could just as easily facilitate an attack of British troops from the north.

In mid-1776, the campaign in Canada foundered. Washington instructed Bayley to abandon work on the road which had reached a point about six miles



boro. By late summer, Hazen had reached the notch that now bears his name in the Green Mountains near Westfield where work was halted still some forty miles short of the road's intended destination, St. Johns, Canada.

As a military achievement, the Bayley-Hazen road was not a great one. Instead, it was more of an aggravation to the settlers of Peacham, Ryegate and Newbury, as it could be traveled both ways and the British conducted raids down the road from time to time, as anticipated. In September 1781, two members of an American scouting party were killed near the block house on Caspian Lake. A memorial to this event can be seen today.

For convenience as well as for tour planning, we've divided our route into three "do-able" sections. The first section goes from Wells River to Danville, a distance of about 22 miles. Section two connects Danville with Craftsbury, a distance of 30 miles. The final leg of the route is 37 miles and will take you from Craftsbury to Montgomery. Accommodations and services may be found at the beginning and end of each route section and sometimes along the way.



north of Elkin's place in Peacham. There construction lay dormant until April, 1779

when General Moses Hazen of Haverhill, Massachusetts received orders to complete the road in anticipation of another Canadian campaign.

Hazen's men built a block-house on Cabot Plains and as the road progressed, they built another six miles farther on in Walden. Still another blockhouse was built at Caspian Lake near Greens-





In Search of Bayley-Hazen

Wells River to West Danville

NVDA

Northeastern Vermont
Development Association



ROUTE DIRECTIONS

Cumulative mileage	Instructions	Miles to next turn
0.0	From the intersection of US Routes 5 and 302 West in downtown Wells River, ride NORTH on US Route 5 (P). NOTE: The original Bayley Hazen Military Road began at what is now the intersection of Water Street (on your left in 0.1 mile) and US Route 5 in Wells River.	0.3
0.3	LEFT on Bible Hill Road (P). Bible Hill Road becomes Bayley-Hazen Road in 1.7 miles at the Ryegate town line. Bayley-Hazen Road becomes unpaved 0.3 mile west of Interstate 91 overpass and remains unpaved for 1.0 mile.	3.9
4.2	RIGHT to continue on Bayley-Hazen Road (P) at Boltonville Road on left. Ticklenaked Pond access road on your left in 0.2 mile.	1.4
5.6	STRAIGHT on North Bayley-Hazen Road (U) in Ryegate Corners. Becomes Mosquitoville Road (U) in 5.1 miles at the Barnet town line.	5.2
10.8	LEFT on Schoolhouse Road (U).	1.9
12.7	RIGHT on Kinnerson Lane. (U).	0.2
12.9	LEFT to continue on Kinnerson Lane. (U). Becomes Farrow Farm Road (U) in 0.8 mile at the Peacham town line.	1.2
14.1	LEFT on Peacham-Barnet Road (P).	0.8
14.9	RIGHT on Peacham-Groton Road (P) in South Peacham. Becomes Main Street in 0.2 mile.	0.3
15.2	RIGHT on Bayley-Hazen Road (U). Historic Elkins Tavern (1787) on your right in 0.3 mile.	0.5
15.7	STRAIGHT on Bayley-Hazen Road (P).	0.2
15.9	STRAIGHT to continue on Bayley-Hazen Road (P) in Peacham.	1.7
17.6	LEFT (straight) to continue on Bayley-Hazen Road (U). Becomes Woodward Road in 3.4 miles at the Danville town line.	4.5
22.1	Arrive in West Danville. <i>Route continues on next page.</i>	

NOTE: Unpaved roads are indicated by (U); paved roads by (P).

Distance: Wells River to West Danville, 22.1 miles (14.6 miles are unpaved)

Terrain: Rolling to hilly

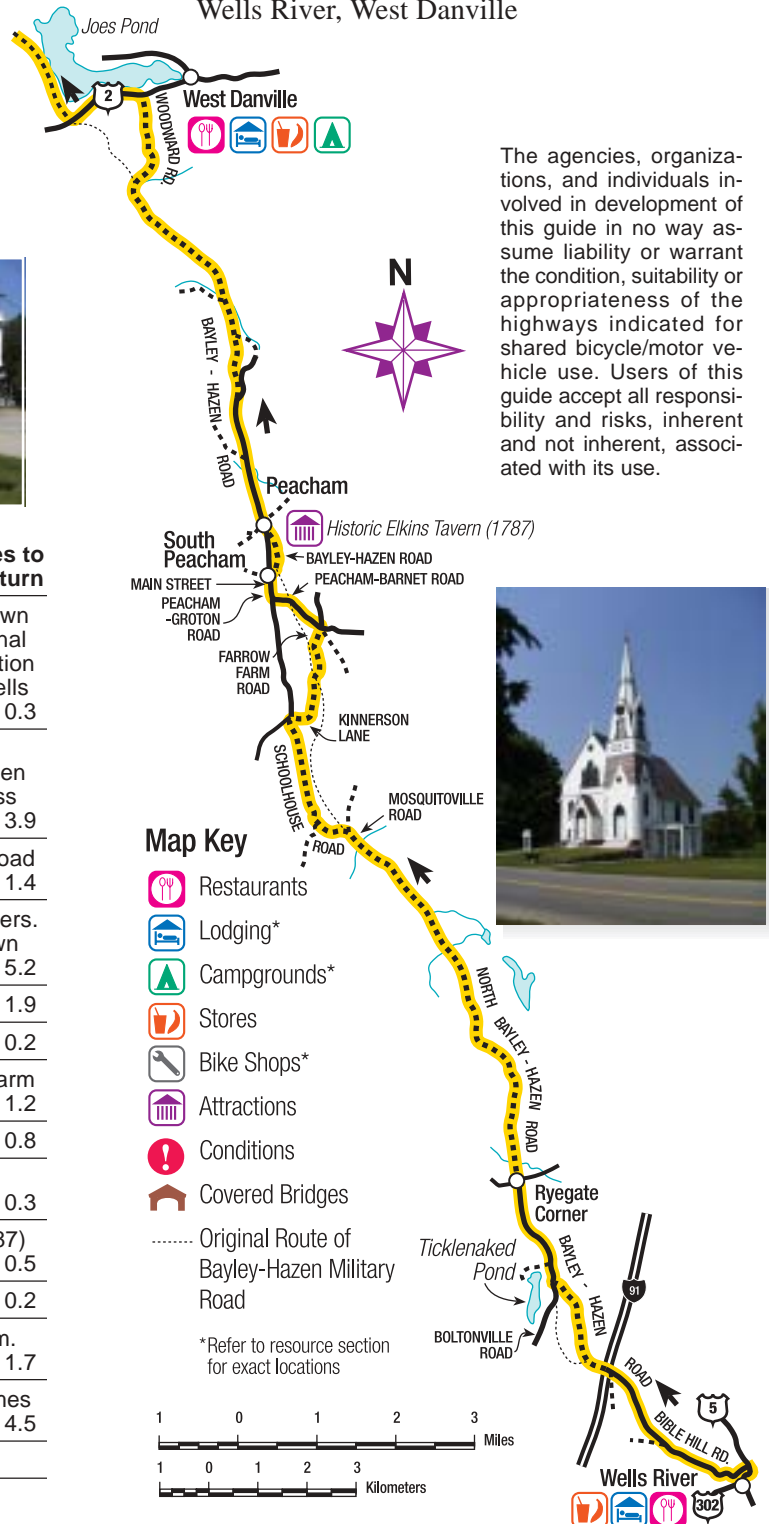
Ability levels: Intermediate to advanced

Conditions: Mostly unpaved, some steep hills

Attractions: Tickle Naked Pond, Historic Elkins Tavern

Services: *Lodging:* Wells River, West Danville; *Camping:* West Danville; *Stores:* Wells River, West Danville; *Restaurants:* Wells River, West Danville

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In Search of Bayley-Hazen

West Danville to Craftsbury



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Development Association

Distance: West Danville to Craftsbury, 29.8 miles (20.8 miles are unpaved)

Terrain: Rolling to hilly
Ability levels: Energetic beginner to advanced

Conditions: Mostly unpaved, a few steep hills

Attractions: Monument memorializing Constant Bliss and Moses Sleeper, Joes Pond, Caspian Lake, Circus Smirkus, Little Hosmer Pond, Craftsbury Outdoor Center

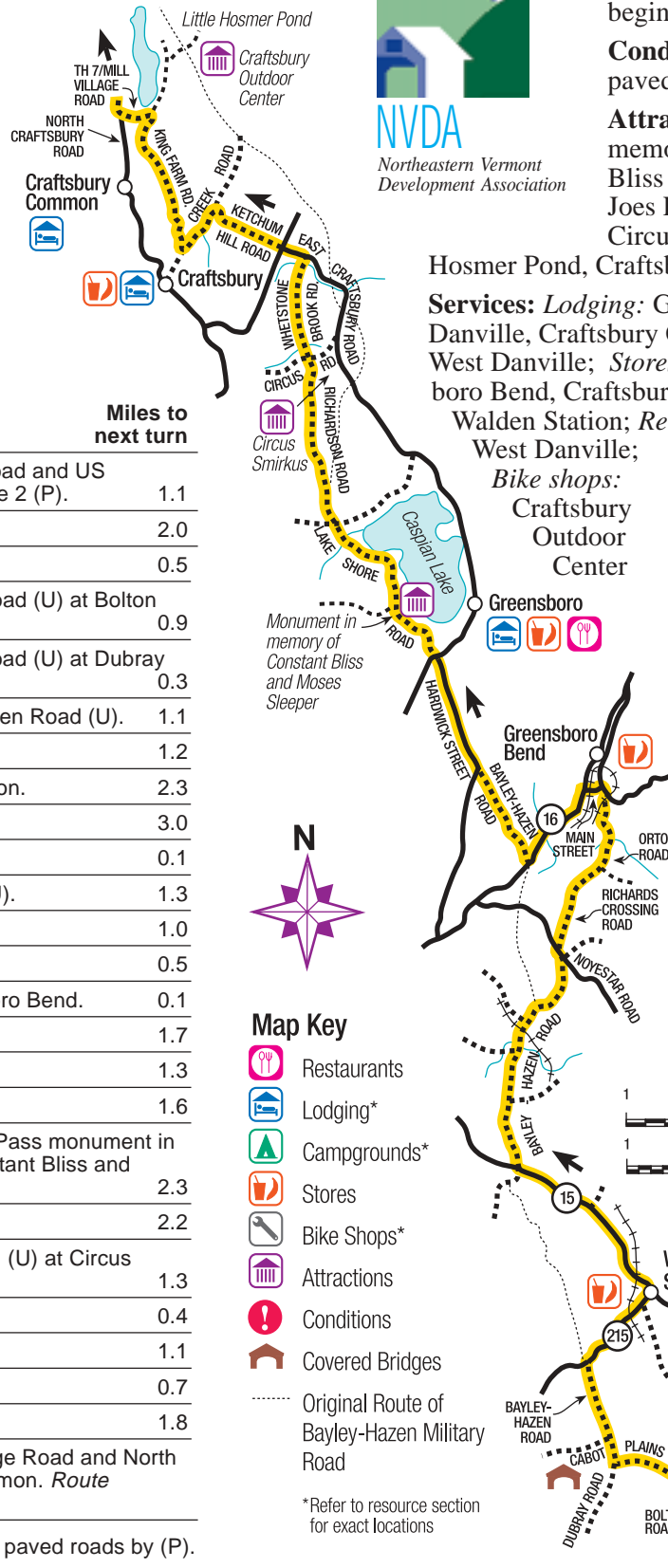
Services: *Lodging:* Greensboro, West Danville, Craftsbury Common; *Camping:* West Danville; *Stores:* Greensboro, Greensboro Bend, Craftsbury, West Danville, Walden Station; *Restaurants:* Greensboro, West Danville;

Bike shops: Craftsbury Outdoor Center



Cumulative mileage	Instructions	Miles to next turn
22.1	From the intersection of Woodward Road and US Route 2 in Danville, LEFT on US Route 2 (P).	1.1
23.2	RIGHT on West Shore Road (U).	2.0
25.2	LEFT on Cabot Plains Road (U).	0.5
25.7	RIGHT to continue on Cabot Plains Road (U) at Bolton Road on left.	0.9
26.6	RIGHT to continue on Cabot Plains Road (U) at Dubray Road on left.	0.3
26.9	STRAIGHT to continue on Bayley-Hazen Road (U).	1.1
28.0	RIGHT on Route 215 (P).	1.2
29.2	LEFT on Route 15 (P) in Walden Station.	2.3
31.5	RIGHT on Bayley Hazen-Road (U).	3.0
34.5	LEFT on Noyestar Road (P).	0.1
34.6	RIGHT on Richard's Crossing Road (U).	1.3
35.9	STRAIGHT on Orton Road (U).	1.0
36.9	LEFT on Main Street (P).	0.5
37.4	LEFT on Cross Street (P) in Greensboro Bend.	0.1
37.5	LEFT on Route 16 (P).	1.7
39.2	RIGHT on Bayley-Hazen Road (U).	1.3
40.5	STRAIGHT on Hardwick Street (P).	1.6
42.1	STRAIGHT on Lake Shore Road (U). Pass monument in memory of Bayley-Hazen scouts Constant Bliss and Moses Sleeper on right in 0.9 mile.	2.3
44.4	STRAIGHT on Richardson Road (U).	2.2
46.6	STRAIGHT on Whetstone Brook Road (U) at Circus Road.	1.3
47.9	LEFT on East Craftsbury Road (P).	0.4
48.3	STRAIGHT on Ketchum Hill Road (U).	1.1
49.4	LEFT on Creek Road (U).	0.7
50.1	RIGHT on King Farm Road (U).	1.8
51.9	Arrive at intersection of TH 7/Mill Village Road and North Craftsbury Road near Craftsbury Common. <i>Route continues on next page.</i>	

NOTE: Unpaved roads are indicated by (U); paved roads by (P).



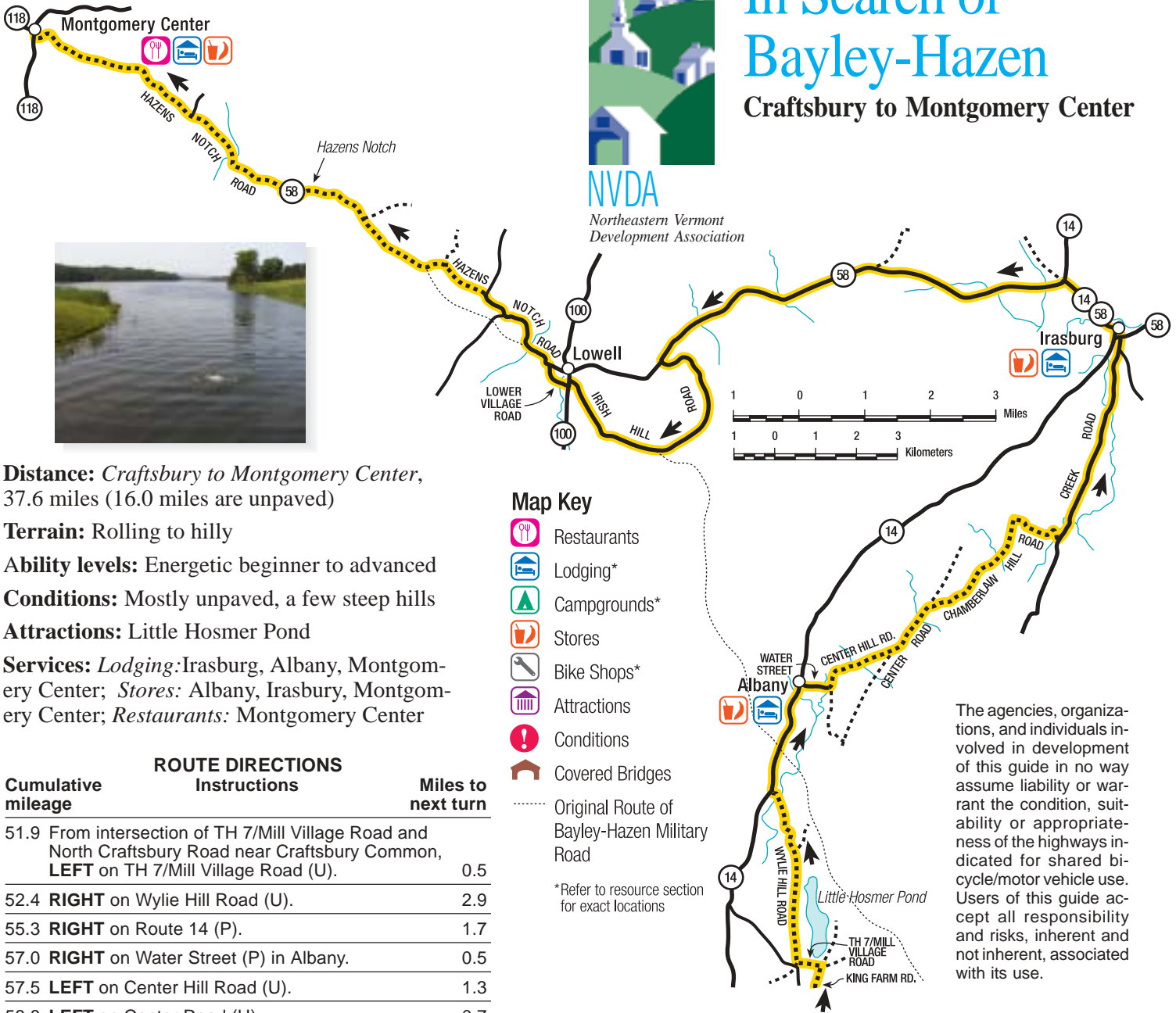
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In Search of Bayley-Hazen

Craftsbury to Montgomery Center



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Development Association



Distance: Craftsbury to Montgomery Center, 37.6 miles (16.0 miles are unpaved)

Terrain: Rolling to hilly

Ability levels: Energetic beginner to advanced

Conditions: Mostly unpaved, a few steep hills

Attractions: Little Hosmer Pond

Services: *Lodging:* Irasburg, Albany, Montgomery Center; *Stores:* Albany, Irasburg, Montgomery Center; *Restaurants:* Montgomery Center

Cumulative mileage	ROUTE DIRECTIONS Instructions	Miles to next turn
51.9	From intersection of TH 7/Mill Village Road and North Craftsbury Road near Craftsbury Common, LEFT on TH 7/Mill Village Road (U).	0.5
52.4	RIGHT on Wylie Hill Road (U).	2.9
55.3	RIGHT on Route 14 (P).	1.7
57.0	RIGHT on Water Street (P) in Albany.	0.5
57.5	LEFT on Center Hill Road (U).	1.3
58.8	LEFT on Center Road (U).	0.7
59.5	RIGHT on Chamberlain Hill Road (U).	2.9
62.4	LEFT on Creek Road (P).	3.4
65.8	LEFT on Route 58 West (P) in Irasburg.	0.1
65.9	RIGHT on combined Routes 14 North and 58 West (P).	1.2
67.1	LEFT on Route 58 West (P) when combined routes divide.	7.0
74.1	LEFT on Irish Hill Road (P).	4.3
78.4	LEFT on Route 100 (P).	0.1
78.5	RIGHT on Lower Village Road (P).	0.6
79.1	LEFT on Hazens Notch Road (P). Becomes unpaved in 2.0 mile and remains unpaved for 7.7 miles. You will pass Hazens Notch — the western extremity of the Bayley-Hazen Military Road — in 4.9 miles.	10.3
89.4	RIGHT on Route 118 (P).	0.1
89.5	Arrive in Montgomery, Vermont.	

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