

MISSISQUOI TURNPIKE

The history of the Missisquoi Turnpike begins with a petition filed with the Vermont Legislature in 1800 requesting that a turnpike be made from the Massachusetts' border to Canada, running from St. Albans north through Highgate. Three petitions were filed in 1803 requesting that the public stage road leading from Burlington to Canada become a turnpike. In 1805 five petitions were filed, four for a "Market Turnpike" running from the north line of Highgate south to the intersection of one of the turnpikes from Lansingburgh (refer to Troy) or Troy and one for a "Market Turnpike" from the north line of Highgate to Burlington.

The legislature responded to the petitions in 1805 with an act establishing the Missisquoi Turnpike. The charter, on pages 175 - 181, chapter 96, of the legislative acts establishes a corporation to make a road six rods wide, from the north line of Highgate to the St. Albans court house.

The term for the Missisquoi Turnpike was extended by legislative acts in 1809 (pg. 114, chapter 122) and 1815 (pg. 147-148, chapter 129). In 1811, an act called for a meeting of the turnpike corporation (pg. 118, chapter 100). After 1815 there were no legislative acts regarding the Missisquoi Turnpike. As no surveys of the turnpike were found in Highgate and the Missisquoi Turnpike was not referred to in any of the historical road surveys in Highgate, it would appear that the turnpike was neither built nor officially opened.