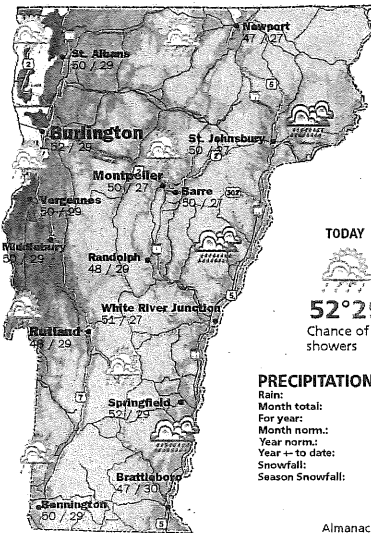


weather

4-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
52° 29°	45° 31°	50° 32°	57° 37°
Chance of rain showers	Partly cloudy Northwest wind 10 mph	Mostly sunny North wind 5-10 mph	Mostly sunny North wind 10 mph



TODAY

52° 29°
Chance of rain showers

PRECIPITATION
Rain: 0.01"
Month total: 7.43"
For year: . . .
Year norm.: . . .
Year norm.: . . .
Year -- to date: . . .
Snowfall: . . .
Season Snowfall: . . .

LAKE CHAMPLAIN/NORTHWEST

Lake Temp: 38° Level: 98.06
Today: Cloudy. Rain morning; then a slight chance of showers afternoon. Highs lower 50s. Chance of rain 50 percent.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain showers until midnight; then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows upper 20s. Light, variable. Chance of rain 20 percent.

NORTHEAST

Today: Cloudy. Rain likely morning; then a chance of rain showers afternoon. Highs mid-40s. Chance of rain 70 percent.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy. A slight chance of rain showers until midnight. Lows mid-20s. Gusts up to 25 mph until midnight. Chance of rain 20 percent.
Wednesday: Partly sunny.

CENTRAL/SOUTH

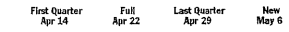
Today: Mostly cloudy. Showers; mainly in the morning. Near steady temperature in the upper 40s. Chance of rain 90 percent.
Tonight: Partly cloudy in the evening; then clearing. Much colder with lows around 30.
Wednesday: Sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

THE MOUNTAINS

Today: Cloudy. Rain morning; then showers afternoon. Highs upper 40s. Chance of rain 50 percent.
Tonight: Cloudy with a slight chance of rain showers until midnight; then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows upper 20s. Chance of rain 20 percent.
Wednesday: Partly sunny.

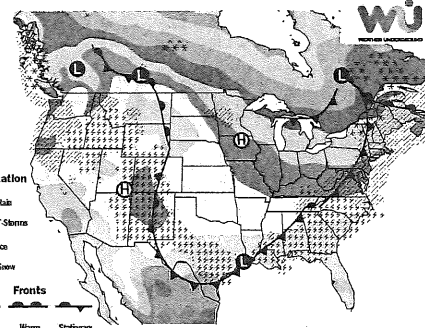
SUN AND MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise:	6:13 a.m.	6:11 a.m.
Sunset:	7:34 p.m.	7:35 p.m.
Moonrise:	10:27 a.m.	11:26 a.m.
Moonset:	12:35 a.m.	1:30 a.m.



YESTERDAY'S EXTREMES
High 49° Bennington Low 26° Newport

YESTERDAY'S ALMANAC
Temperature over the past 24 hours: High: 46°, Low: 32°, Normal: 37°
Last year: 51° / 31° Rec. High: 51°, Rec. Low: 1°



Precipitation
Rain
T Storm
Ice
Snow

Yesterday extremes (48 contiguous) HI 94° Zapata, TX Lo 6° Hettinger, ND

A rather long system of fronts will bring a chance of mixed precipitation to the Northeast, rain to the Mid Atlantic, and thunderstorms to the Southeast and Gulf Coast. Showers and high-elevation snow will be possible out West.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Tomorrow
Albuquerque	62 42 t	72 47 pc
Anchorage	51 36 pc	52 34 pc
Atlanta	67 59 t	63 55 pc
Atlanta City	62 33 sh	57 41 pc
Boston	57 38 sh	52 39 pc
Charleston, SC	77 56 t	68 52 pc
Chicago	46 32 s	56 39 pc
Concord	56 32 r	56 33 pc
Dallas-Ft. Worth	70 54 pc	70 53 t
Denver	67 43 pc	73 47 pc
Detroit	48 30 pc	50 38 pc
Hartford	56 35 sh	57 38 pc
Honolulu	85 73 sh	84 72 sh
Indianapolis	52 34 s	60 44 s
Jackson, Miss.	70 35 t	71 58 sh
Kansas City	58 39 s	69 50 s
Las Vegas	79 61 pc	82 54 pc
Los Angeles	69 57 t	73 51 pc
Nashville	67 45 pc	71 45 pc
Miami Beach	82 71 pc	83 73 pc
Minns. St. Paul	49 39 pc	65 47 pc
Nashville	63 40 pc	68 50 pc
New Orleans	80 65 t	76 65 t
New York City	60 40 sh	56 42 pc
Oklahoma City	65 48 pc	69 54 t
Orlando	84 64 pc	86 65 t
Phoenix	81 61 pc	85 65 s

WORLD CITIES

City	Today	Tomorrow
Baghdad	88 64 s	77 59 t
Beijing	71 45 pc	80 47 pc
Cairo	75 61 pc	77 60 pc
Hong Kong	76 73 t	80 73 t
London	61 39 pc	62 42 t
Mogadishu	85 81 pc	86 81 s
Montreal	45 29 pc	46 29 pc
Moscow	56 31 pc	59 42 pc
Paris	60 42 t	63 43 t
Rio de Janeiro	89 75 s	89 76 s
Rome	75 60 pc	75 58 pc
Tokyo	53 50 s	64 59 pc

vermont

'Jungle Book' traces origins in VT

Kipling wrote his beloved fable while living in Dummerston

SUSAN GREEN
FREE PRESS CORRESPONDENT

When "The Jungle Book" opens nationwide Friday, few moviegoers may realize that this story of a boy raised by wolves in India's rainforest is based on an 1894 fable written in the hill country of southern Vermont.

The Disney film is adapted from a novel that British author Rudyard Kipling penned — literally — while living in Dummerston from 1892 to 1896. He has been quoted as saying that, once the narrative was mapped out in his mind, "the pen took charge."

Kipling's quill pen and later a typewriter were responsible for a prolific output during his four-year residence in the Green Mountain State. At the home he built dubbed Naulakha, a Hindi term for "something of great value," the peripatetic Englishman settled down to produce books, short stories, poems, essays and letters, along with his own illustrations.

"The Jungle Book," a two-volume collection of Kipling's magazine stories, spins a series of yarns about the wolf-reared Mowgli and his many anthropo-



PHOTO BY DIANE L. HELLEMANN/LANDMARK TRUST USA
Jackson Gillman impersonates Rudyard Kipling during performances at Naulakha, the Dummerston home where the British author lived and wrote in the late 19th century.

morphic animal friends or foes.

"We've tried to capture the dreamlike, visionary quality," said Justin Marks, the film's California-based screenwriter. "Every kid imagines having wild animals as friends. I did, exploring the woods of New Hampshire, where my family spent summers."

"The Jungle Book" mined Kipling's own childhood fantasies in the tropical climate of India, even though he often worked on it while the snow outside had reached the windowsill of his Dummerston study.

Several of Kipling's myriad accomplishments in Vermont — the novel "Captains Courageous," for example — are listed on a plaque at Naulakha, returned to its original glory in 1991 by the Landmark Trust USA.

"The house had been abandoned for 50 years," explained operations manager Kelly Carlin. "Part of the foundation had collapsed, and we found a family of raccoons had moved in. But we restored everything. And Kipling's furniture, curtains and pictures on the wall were salvaged."

Reconstruction was completed in 1992 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Kipling's occupancy. Since then, this property with literary prestige has been rented about 60 percent of each year for weeklong stays, and periodically has served as an educational and artistic venue.

Carlin leads tours of the site, mostly for school groups and historical societies. When storyteller Jackson Gillman is on hand, he sits at the original desk in Kipling's study to welcome visitors, personifying the noted writer. Appropriately bespectacled, mustachioed and dressed in period clothing, he then moves to the Loggia, an interior open-air room, to read aloud from the author's "Just So Stories."

"I've been doing Rudyard-in-Residence at Naulakha since 2000," recalled Gillman, who travels there from his own home on Cape Cod for a week of performances each autumn. "Most audiences are not familiar with him. He's not taught in schools. That's why this program is so important."

Notion of empire?

With fiction and non-fiction that demonstrated a fondness for colonial settings — especially his Indian birthplace — Kipling came to be associated with the notion of empire. Many perceived his 1899 poem, "The White Man's Burden," as racist. Fellow scribe George Orwell, a socialist, once described him as "a prophet of British imperialism."

Some contemporary Kipling devotees disagree. "He got a bad rap," Gillman said. "Yes, he was a product of his time, but also open-minded and enlightened."

Massachusetts writer Stuart Murray, whose 1997 biography is titled "Rudyard Kipling in Vermont: Birthplace of The Jungle Books," contends that this negative attitude was largely a misperception. He points out that an affinity for the common man, rather than the aristocrat, is a trademark of Kipling's poetry and prose.

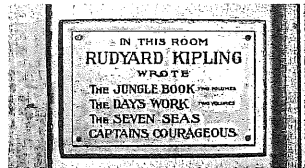
"In India, Kipling had praise for the lowly employees of the empire: soldiers, nurses, doctors," Murray said. "One of his poems, about a Masonic Lodge, mentioned all the different races in the membership."

Written in the vernacular during his Vermont years, "The Mother-Lodge" enumerates the various ethnicities that fraternized harmoniously and includes this line: "I wish that I might see them, / My Brethren black an' brown..."

Murray's book, published by the Bennington Imprint Images From the Past, quotes a Kipling commentary about what



Rudyard Kipling had an architect design Naulakha, which means "precious jewel" in the Hindi language, to resemble a ship. It's where the author lived from 1892 to 1896.



A plaque in Naulakha, the Dummerston home of Rudyard Kipling, lists the literary works he wrote while living there at the end of the 19th century. A new movie adapted from Kipling's "The Jungle Book" opens Friday.

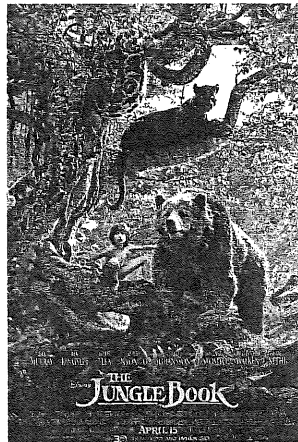
"He embarks on a hero's journey, and we tell it on a mythic level. I think we now have an emotionally powerful, epic version."

SCREENWRITER JUSTIN MARKS

he perceived as America's hypocrisy regarding its indigenous population: "I never got over the wonder of how a people who, having extirpated the aboriginals of their continent more completely than any modern race has ever done, honestly believed that they were a godly little New England community, setting examples to brutal mankind."

From the little New England community of Dummerston, Kipling felt free to critique his host country. He also seems to have had mixed feelings about Vermont, loving its bucolic beauty but taken aback by the sometimes raw manners of local people prone to loudly gossiping about each other. Murray documents Kipling's disdain for "church suppers" and "the terrifying intimacy" of small-town America, although he did forge some close friendships in the Dummerston area. This was man who, as the 19th-century equivalent of a rock star relentlessly pursued by the press, had Naulakha constructed miles from the public road to protect his privacy.

As a young man, Kipling was educated in England before returning to India, where he'd been born to British citizens. He worked as a journalist there and in Pa-



Disney's "The Jungle Book" opens nationwide Friday.

kistan for almost a decade. Throughout that time, his numerous short stories were being published, and praised for a style that was erudite but witty. Fame and fortune soon followed.

"He was very successful at quite a young age, and he'd seen what was going on in the world," Murray said.

During a subsequent stint in London, Kipling married an American, Carrie Balestier. The couple relocated to the Brattleboro area, where she had kin. Her alcoholic, always-broke brother, Beatty, was among those relatives. That eventually would prove to be an unfortunate proximity.

At first, Kipling apparently enjoyed wedded bliss and his new life in a rural, rugged paradise where winter temperatures were frequently well below zero. At his desk, he worked on describing the exotic locales of "The Jungle Book" while the cold wind howled across the 11 acres on which Naulakha was situated.

Although they had some hired help, Kipling tackled many chores himself, such as the installation of a wood stove or pushing wheel-barrels full of rubble away from a well-digging project. All this was hardly the setting of "The Jungle Book,"

yet Kipling's memories of India and vivid imagination compensated as he enjoyed the challenges presented by a northern climate — even taking frozen pipes in stride.

Murray theorizes that Kipling came into his own at Naulakha: "Mowgli, the human outsider who must find his place in the wild jungle, was created by a man who, himself, did not wholly belong anywhere, and who had to discover his own true nature."

The film

The new film, directed by Jon Favreau ("Iron Man"), is a star-studded enterprise that combines Mowgli's live action with the computer-generated process of motion-capture to depict the beasts he encounters.

The movie draws from Kipling's pages, which come alive with creatures including Raksha the wolf mother (Lupita Nyong'o), who raises Mowgli (Neel Sethi) along with her own cubs; Baloo the bear (Bill Murray), his pal; Bagheera the black panther (Ben Kingsley), the boy's mentor; Shere Khan (Idris Elba), a villainous Bengal tiger; and Kaa, the somewhat sinister python (Scarlett Johansson) that occasionally can be recruited to do the right thing.

Screenwriter Justin Marks said the current release also taps into the structure of the 1967 Disney animated musical comedy, which was much lighter in tone than Kipling might have wanted. (Walt Disney himself died during production.)

When Mowgli has to leave the jungle for his own safety, the trek to join a community of fellow human beings is a coming-of-age saga. "He embarks on a hero's journey, and we tell it on a mythic level," Marks said. "I think we now have an emotionally powerful, epic version."

Kipling fans can only speculate about whether he would be pleased by the modern technological wizardry involved in reviving his old-fashioned tale. Asked if he ever senses the wordsmith's presence at Naulakha, storyteller Jackson Gillman said: "I wish there were ghosts there. But it's a very friendly house, imbued with all that creativity, a really fertile atmosphere."

The Kiplings, by then with two young daughters, reluctantly left Vermont in 1896 after their four-year sojourn (unaware, of course, that tragedy awaited them elsewhere).

Along with Naulakha, they left behind the contents of a safe deposit box at a Brattleboro bank that remained undiscovered until the early 1990s, untouched for almost a century. Those items, including their marriage license and a will, now are part of a Kipling archive at nearby Marlboro College.

The chief impetus for the family's departure was that brother-in-law Beatty Balestier had become increasingly hostile, even threatening violence, following a familial land dispute and a harrowing court case.

"Elderly people in Dummerston still remember Beatty, who lived to a ripe old age," Naulakha operations manager Kelly Carlin said. "He was the same until he died: Loud and drunk too much of the time, yelling at schoolkids walking by."

Before things turned sour, however, they seemingly were close to idyllic. Stuart Murray's book makes the case that, in Vermont, Kipling was the happiest he'd ever been.

"I have what I need," Kipling wrote to a friend in England. "Sunshine and a mind at peace and my own time for my own work and the real earth within the reach of my hand, whenever I tire of messing with ink."