



Vermont Historical Society
60 Washington Street
Barre, Vermont 05641-4209

Inside This Issue

- Annual Meeting Review
- James Hope Letters
- Patterns of History
- Royall Tyler Comes Home
- Vermont Life Products Now on Sale!
- Upcoming Events

Are you missing the Vermont Historical Society E-News?

If you're not getting the e-news, please send your email address to

diane.campbell@state.vt.us

Let her know you'd like to subscribe and start getting advance notice about events, additions to the collections and other historical news!

Public WiFi at
History Center!



New Book Provides Exciting Account of the Royalton Raid

Available for holiday giving!

Just in time for the 230th anniversary of the event, the Vermont Historical Society has published *We Go As Captives: The Royalton Raid and the Shadow War on the Revolutionary Frontier*. Neil Goodwin's account of the October 16, 1780 raid upon Royalton is the first book to be written on the subject. Based upon the narrative of Zadock Steele, the book offers a lively story of attack, capture, imprisonment and escape that is well-researched and exciting to read.

The author's connection to the subject is personal, as he recounts in the book's foreword. After living in Royalton for over 20 years, Goodwin found a copy of Steele's chronicle, which he consumed with delight. "In due course I started to look for the key locations, routes of travel, and missing pieces of the story."

The breadth of research, including British and American military and government archives, makes *We Go as Captives* much more than an adventurous tale. "It is a vivid picture of daily life on the Revolutionary frontier in a time of war," said Goodwin.

Neil Goodwin has been a writer, producer

and cinematographer of historical and wildlife documentary programs for public television since 1975. He has written two other books, *The Apache Diaries* and

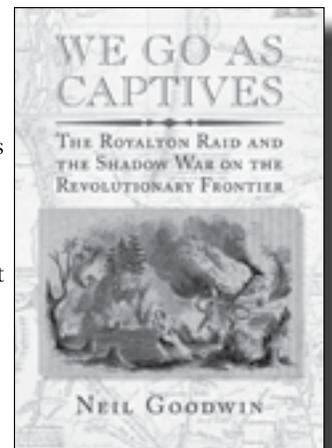


Author Neil Goodwin

Like a Brother, both non-fiction narratives based on unpublished field notes of his anthropologist father, Grenville Goodwin.

The Vermont Historical Society is pleased to publish this extraordinary work, which illuminates an episode in Vermont's history that has long been in need of further exploration. We express our deep appreciation to Neil Goodwin for his exceptional cooperation and assistance in preparing the work for publication.

You can purchase *We Go As Captives* on our web site at www.vermonthistory.org/store or visit our museum store in downtown Montpelier. 



On Vermont Public Radio

Listen to Neil Goodwin describe the Royalton Raid as Ethan Allen, the arch rebel, starts sleeping with the enemy—talking reunion with the British in 1780, just as the raid is going down. Hear *Vermont Edition* online:

www.vpr.net/news_detail/89033/



Fall 2010

Volume #5 / Number 1

History Connections is published four times a year by the Vermont Historical Society.

The Vermont Historical Society engages both Vermonters and "Vermonters at Heart" in the exploration of our state's rich heritage. Our purpose is to reach a broad audience through our outstanding collections, statewide outreach and dynamic programming. We believe that an understanding of the past changes lives and builds better communities.

Executive Director: Mark S. Hudson
Editor: Julie Nelson
Printing: Stillwater Graphics

Vermont History Center

60 Washington Street, Barre, VT
802-479-8500

Administrative Offices & Store:

Monday–Friday 9am to 4pm

Library

Tuesday–Friday 9am to 4pm
Wednesday 9am to 8pm
Second Saturday each month
9am to 4pm
802-479-8509

Library admission:

Non-members: \$5
Members and students: Free

Museum & Store

Pavilion Building
109 State Street, Montpelier, VT
Tuesday–Saturday 10am to 4pm
802-828-2291

Museum admission:

Families: \$12; Adults: \$5
Students, children, seniors: \$3
Members & children under 6: Free
Student school groups: Free
802-828-2180

www.vermonthistory.org
vhs-info@state.vt.us

From the Director

History is Alive and Well



This year's annual meeting gave me a clear indication that history is alive and well at the Vermont Historical Society. We were delighted to welcome over 170 members and friends—demonstration of a tremendous interest in this year's theme: *Blizzards, Foliage, Floods and Mud: Vermont History for All Seasons*. Although the format of the meeting allowed us to barely scratch the surface of this immense and timely topic, each speaker offered thought-provoking observations and insights on the subject of weather and climate and their influences on life in Vermont.

Burr Morse shared personal reflections on his life of sugaring in the woods of Vermont, noting that the weather and sugaring were inseparable. Cartoonist Jeff Danziger presented a selection of his works with clever observations about the weather in Vermont, as well as other aspects of life in the Green Mountain State. Meteorologist Roger Hill offered a scientific perspective of Vermont's weather and changing climate, focusing specifically upon the extraordinary events of 1816, "the year without a summer." These presentations demonstrated that the topic is open for ongoing exploration and research.

The event also gave us an opportunity to recognize outstanding work that is being carried out in research, writing and publishing Vermont history. UVM student Adam Krakowski was recognized as the recipient of this year's Weston A. Cate Jr. Fellowship, in support of his ongoing research on hops production in Vermont in the 19th century.

For their outstanding articles in *Vermont History* in recent years, Vincent Feeney and John A. Sautter were awarded Ben Lane Awards. Feeney's article on the pre-famine Irish in Vermont, which appeared in the Summer/Fall 2006 issue of the journal, examined how these earlier arrivals assisted the wave of Irish immigrants who came to Vermont as a result of the Irish famine of the 1840s. The education reforms championed by Governor Dillingham in the 1890s were explored in Sautter's article from the Winter/Spring 2008 issue.

The Green Mountain Club received the 2010 Richard O. Hathaway Award for their publication, *A Century in the Mountains: Celebrating Vermont's Long Trail*. In his comments in acceptance of the award, Tom Slayton, editor for the project, acknowledged that the book was a collaboration among members of the club's publication committee and others who contributed to the creation of this illustrated centennial history of the Long Trail.

Throughout the meeting our thoughts turned to Wes Cate, the former VHS director who passed away the week before the meeting. In her welcoming remarks, President Sarah Dopp offered a tribute to Wes, noting that during his tenure as Director, the Vermont Historical Society made significant progress, particularly in the areas of educational programming and community outreach. The meeting was dedicated to his memory.

Mark S. Hudson
Executive Director

Library Takes Winter Break

The Vermont Historical Society's Leahy Library in Barre will take a two-week hiatus this winter to catch up on processing the stacks of books, transcriptions, and documents that have arrived during the past year. The library will be closed to the public from January 24 to February 4, 2011. While not sufficient to eliminate all backlogs, it is an important time for librarians to whittle away at the mountains of work. The library will reopen on February 8.

Blizzards, Foliage, Floods and Mud:

If you don't like Vermont weather, wait five minutes



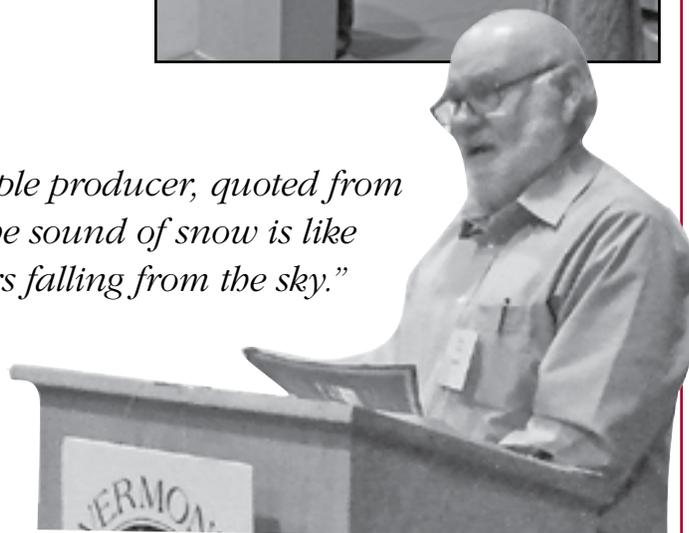
At top, Vince Feeney, accepted a Ben Lane award for his work about the Irish in Vermont. At the right, VHS president, Sarah Dopp looks on as Adam Krakowski describes his research on the history of hops in Vermont.



“Vermont is one of the things the United States has done right,” remarked cartoonist Jeff Danziger.



Burr Morse, maple producer, quoted from his book, “. . . the sound of snow is like a trillion feathers falling from the sky.”



In Memoriam



It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Weston A. Cate, Jr., a highly respected leader within Vermont's history community. After careers in teaching and journalism, Wes served as the Director of the Vermont Historical Society from 1975-1985.

After retirement, his passion for history and publishing led him to become a dealer in Vermont books and ephemera, and he also authored *Up and Doing: The Vermont Historical Society, 1838-1970* and *Forever Calais: A History of Calais, Vermont*. Wes received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Center for Research on Vermont in 2006.

In her welcoming remarks during the Vermont Historical Society's Annual Meeting, President Sarah Dopp offered a fitting tribute. Wes Cate will be missed by many. 

Give the gift of history for the holidays!

Give a VHS membership this year. Friends and family will get history articles and news all year long!

Or give books and gifts from www.vermonthistory.org/store

Vermont to Begin Newspaper Digitization

The National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) this summer set aside \$391,552 for the digitization of Vermont newspapers. Led by the University of Vermont Libraries, a group of partners, including the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Department of Libraries, and the Ilsley Public Library of Middlebury, will select, digitize, and make available up to 100,000 pages of Vermont newspapers published between 1836 and 1922, from the collections of the Vermont Department of Libraries and the University of Vermont. The digitized newspapers will be made available to the public via the Library of Congress' Chronicling America database (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/>) within two years.

The project builds upon work of the NEH-funded Vermont Newspaper Project which, from 1997 to 2001, identified, cataloged and microfilmed close to 1,000 historical Vermont newspaper titles in over 3,000 libraries, historical societies, and other repositories throughout the state.

The Vermont Digital Newspaper Project will provide a window into Vermont's participation in key moments in American history, such as abolition of slavery, the Civil War, westward expansion, the influenza pandemic, and the First World War. "This project will have a tremendous impact on local history research in Vermont," says Vermont Historical Society Librarian and project advisory committee member Paul Carnahan.



Paul Carnahan, VHS librarian, works with cameraman Nate Huffman of Vermont Public Television to videotape a news story about the importance of newspapers in Vermont.

"A lot of research boils down to information found in newspapers," Carnahan continued, "and until now there has been no easy way to get at it except sitting in a dark room with microfilm and winding your way through reels one newspaper at a time. It will be like day and night when researchers can search through newspapers on their home computers." 

Library Acquires Census Microfilms

The National Archives and Records Administration has given the Vermont Historical Society microfilm copies of the manuscript U.S. Census for Vermont from 1791 to 1930. Although images of the manuscript census are now available on the Internet through commercial services, these microfilms will serve as backups to those Internet services and may include images that are easier to read than some that are available online. The films are available, along with the vital records for Vermont through 1870, in the microfilm area of the Leahy Library at the Vermont History Center in Barre. 

Vince Feeney, author of
*Finnigans, Slaters, and Stonepeppers:
A History of the Irish in Vermont*
and winner of the 2010 Ben Lane Award:

*"VHC is a wonderful place
to do research. It makes you feel like
someone really cherishes history."*

More Hope Letters at Library

The Leahy Library recently acquired a new collection of letters between Castleton artist James Hope (1818-1892) and his wife Julia (b. 1820). This collection adds to the library's already significant collection of Hope letters and the museum's collection of three Hope paintings, including *Winter Quarters of the Vermont Brigade in Front of Fredericksburg, Virginia, 1862-63*, which was purchased in 1995.

The current acquisition focuses on the period between 1856 and 1872 when Hope was living in New York City in order to paint and market his work while his family stayed behind in Castleton. Hope writes frequently to his wife of professional disappointments as well as his worries about poor food and his health. In her letters from Castleton, Julia expresses her financial worries and domestic concerns. By the spring of 1872, however, Hope is enthusiastically planning the studio he will build in Watkins Glen, New York, where the family will live until a house is completed.

For example, on January 17, 1856, Hope writes of a visit to fellow artist and Scotsman James Hart who was also trying to break into the New York art scene:

His pictures don't look so well as they did to me the first time I called, he still sticks to his old stile [style] more then I thought he did first; the effect of light & shade is generly good, but otherwise his pictures loose a little every visit.

continued on back page—

Patterns of History – Will You Please Help?

We're so excited! Over 60 historic quilts from the Vermont Historical Society collection will be on exhibit at the 2011 Vermont Quilt Festival in Essex Junction from June 24-26, in an exhibit called "Patterns of History—Quilts from the Vermont Historical Society Collection"!

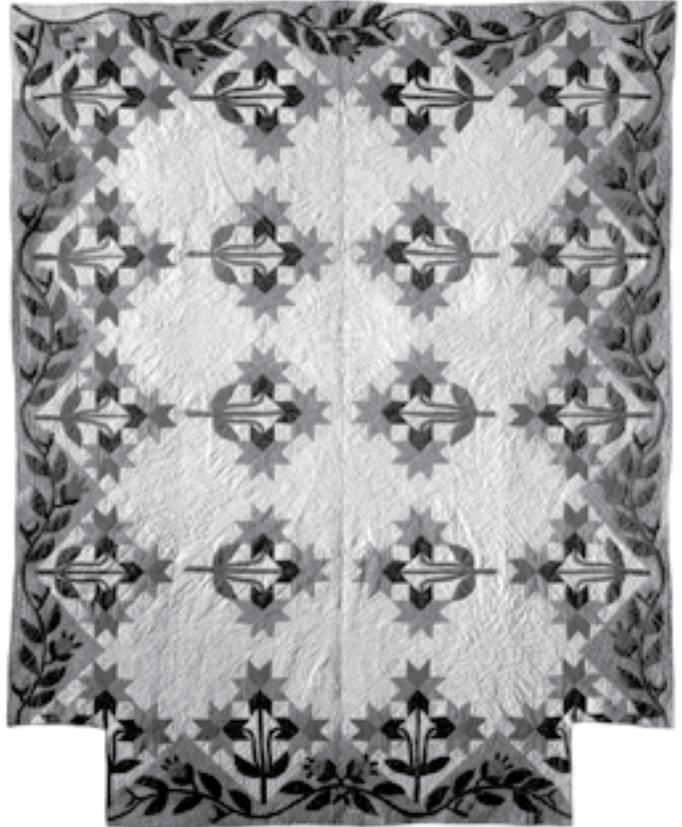
We often partner with other Vermont organizations to make our collections available across the state. This, however, will be a rare opportunity for you and thousands of others to view some of the finest examples of our quilt collection and learn about the quilts from VHS Curator Jackie Calder in lectures at the festival.

Vermonters' stories are told in many ways, and every artifact in our collection is like a book containing one chapter in our shared history.

Vermont Historical Society's quilts, ranging from simple patchworks to sewing masterpieces, reveal information about daily life, family, and social activities of Vermonters.

To help defray the VHS expenses of this exhibit, we seek to raise \$4,000. If you would like to support this project, please send your donation to: Vermont Historical Society, Patterns of History, 60 Washington Street, Barre, VT 05641.

**We seek to raise
\$4,000**



Thank you!

Our Apologies!

In a previous newsletter, we reported that the IRA Charitable Rollover was extended through 2010, but our source was incorrect. At the time of printing this newsletter, the provision has not been extended. We apologize for our error.



Each of Us
Leaves a Legacy

*Please include Vermont Historical Society
in your estate plan or will and bring
Vermont's heritage to future generations.*

*Contact Jane Campbell,
(802) 479-8516
or jane.campbell@state.vt.us.*

HELP US MEET THE CHALLENGE!



Will you give an additional donation?

Every dollar you give will be matched 1:1 if it is an increase over your last year's membership – if it is among the first \$5,000 of "new dollars" we receive by December 31st.

Many thanks to Barbara and Wolfgang Mieder for this extraordinary and generous challenge donation!

Thank you!

Royall Tyler Comes Home from Australia

Royall Tyler was one of Vermont's early Supreme Court Justices. He was also famous for writing "The Contrast," the first American play performed by professional actors in this country. Tyler and his family first lived in Guilford in the early 1790s and then moved to Brattleboro, where they were prominent members of the community.

This past summer, VHS was the recipient of a generous gift from Royall Tyler of Australia, a direct descendent of Vermont's Tyler. Tyler sent a beautiful miniature painting of Royall Tyler, done by an unknown artist sometime in the 1790s. Preserved in a gold case under glass, it was most likely a gift from Tyler to his wife, Mary Palmer Tyler. A second minia-



ture of Royall Tyler, Jr. may be the one Mary Tyler mentioned in her autobiography. Painted in about 1813 by her daughter Amelia, Mrs. Tyler treasured this image of her oldest son, who died shortly after it was completed. A third miniature of William Royall Tyler, a grandson of Royall and Mary was also included in the gift. William was a teacher and headmaster in Massachusetts, and his likeness was painted there in 1888. These likenesses join other Tyler images that were given to VHS by another branch of the family in the 1930s.

We are grateful to Mr. Tyler for his donation and for putting his trust in VHS to preserve his family's heirlooms.

VHS Partners with Turning Points in American History

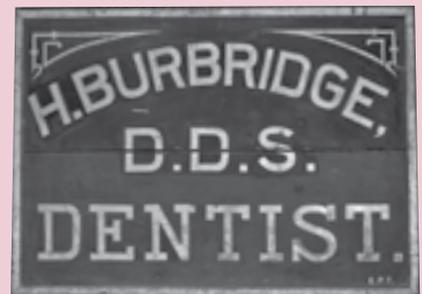
Congratulations to Elise Guyette and Scott McLaughlin for becoming the latest recipients of multi-year funding from the United States Department of Education through a Teaching American History Grant. This funding will enable them, as "Turning Points in American History" to implement a professional development program teaching history for educators in Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties.

The Vermont Historical Society is proud to be a partner and serve on the advisory board in this endeavor. Along with local historical societies and museums, we will provide resources for the program.

Signs of the Times

On display in the hallway at the Vermont History Museum, you will find a fabulous collection of Vermont signage.

This sign was made for Herman Burbridge, a dentist who practiced in Woodstock in the early 1900s.



Get your Toolkit

During the next four years, many Vermont towns will observe the 250th Anniversary of their charter. The Vermont Historical Society, Vermont Division of Tourism and Marketing, and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns have prepared a marketing Toolkit just for you.

Get your handy toolkit online:
vermonthistory.org/toolkit



A tour and luncheon was given in honor of our volunteers on August 30, 2010. Forty-five volunteers enjoyed the President Calvin Coolidge Historic Site in Plymouth, Vermont. The day was spectacular and the trip memorable.

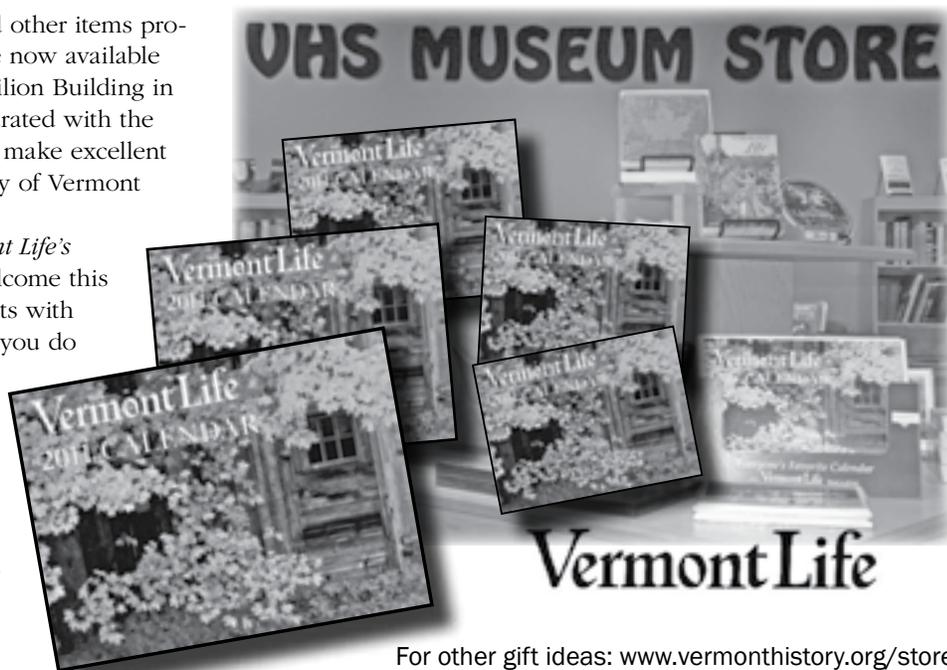
Noteworthy

Vermont Life Products Now on Sale at the Pavilion

Calendars, notecards, books, gifts and other items produced by *Vermont Life Magazine* are now available at the VHS Museum Store at the Pavilion Building in Montpelier. These unique items, many illustrated with the magazine's stunning seasonal photography, make excellent gifts and are a great way to share the beauty of Vermont with family and friends.

We are very pleased to serve as *Vermont Life's* retail outlet in the Capitol Complex and welcome this opportunity to share these Vermont products with VHS members and museum visitors. While you do your holiday shopping, please visit the museum store to see the assortment of *Vermont Life* merchandise, as well as the books and other historical items for sale in the store.

The VHS Museum Store is open during museum hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please note that the VHS member discount does not apply to *Vermont Life* purchases.



For other gift ideas: www.vermonthistory.org/store

Upcoming Events

Martin Luther King Jr. Program

*January 17, 2011 • Free and open to public
Vermont History Center in Barre, 12:00 noon
Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, 7:00 pm*

VHS is presenting a program that includes stories from recent immigrants as well an exhibit of art and artifacts. For more information, call 479-8505 or email tess.taylor@state.vt.us.

Farmers' Night Program

February 16, 2011 • State House, Montpelier • 7:00 pm

St. Johnsbury Band with Counterpoint presenting a dramatic evening of music and letters from the Civil War. For more information, call 479-8505 or email tess.taylor@state.vt.us.

Crafty Second Saturdays

FREE drop-in programs with museum admission.
Vermont History Museum, 109 State St., Montpelier
For information call (802) 828-2180 or e-mail kathleen.daquila@state.vt.us.

December 11, 2010 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

The Night Sky. Russell Williams Porter was a well-respected telescope expert. Commemorate his achievements and the Winter Solstice! Draw chalk pictures of the night sky.

January 8, 2011 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Create a Famous Portrait. Celebrate Ethan Allen's 273rd birthday! Use descriptions from people who knew him to create a portrait.

February 12, 2011 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Snowflakes! Celebrate Snowflake Bentley's birthday (February 9) by designing and decorating snowflakes. Remember: no two snowflakes are alike!

School Vacation Fun

Vermont History Museum, 109 State St., Montpelier
Recommended for children ages 6-12. \$5 per student, \$3 for museum members. For information call (802) 828-2180 or e-mail kathleen.daquila@state.vt.us.

November 23, 2010 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Find out how Vermont became a state—and why Vermont is not part of NH, NY, or Canada! Visit a re-creation of the famous Catamount Tavern in the museum's exhibit.

December 29, 2010 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

In the 1830s, Vermont had more sheep than people! Investigate how changes in farming affected Vermont.

December 30, 2010 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

The railroad brought people to Vermont, and carried others—including Civil war soldiers—away. Find out how the railroad changed the population and landscape of Vermont and try an authentic telegraph machine.

February 23, 2011 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Granite, marble, butter and lumber—compare different Vermont products and their impact on the farms and towns of the state.

February 24, 2011 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Visit the museum's tourist cabin and see why tourists came to play on Vermont's beautiful lakes and mountains.

Home School Wednesdays

1:00 – 3:00 pm • Vermont History Museum

A series of eight classes that join learning with a related activity.

WAITING LIST



Vermont Historical Society
60 Washington Street
Barre, Vermont 05641-4209



James Hope



Julia Hope

Library (continued)

continued from page 4 —

Two days later he writes:

I must not burry one off now, as I did that Swamp, I must do my prettiest, if I do anything, for I have something to contend with, I must not let Hart beat me on trees.

Although the letters end when James and Julia move their family to Watkins Glen, the collection includes a scattering of materials from their life in that picturesque New York village. The family stayed in Watkins Glen for at least two more generations and the collection includes materials from the succeeding generations as well, including a few photographs by the artist's son, James Douglas, who became a Watkins Glen photographer.

Included in the collection is an important dark, colored photograph of Hope with a plaid shawl or cape over his shoulders. This photograph became the basis of a self portrait in the same pose and outfit that Hope painted in 1865. The new photograph is a Hallotype, a derivative of the ambrotype process, invented and patented in 1856-1867 by John Bishop Hall of New York. Hallotypes consisted of two ambrotype transparencies bound together in registry with colored backgrounds. This is the first Hallotype in our collection and one of the earliest photographs of the artist.

This collection was arranged and described this summer by volunteer Priscilla Page. To make this collection more accessible, volunteer Jane Belcher has transcribed the contents of the letters between James and Julia Hope.

The guide and the transcriptions are on our web site at <http://www.vermonthhistory.org/hopeletters>. 

Mystery Photo

No one was able to recognize the image of the patriotic parade that we ran in our last issue. The photograph included very few buildings and so was admittedly difficult to recognize. We were hoping someone might recognize the church building in the background or might have a similar photograph in his or her collection.

This issue's mystery photograph is a landscape with several buildings, so it might be easier to recognize. If anyone knows the location of this scene, please contact VHS librarian Paul Carnahan at paul.carnahan@vhs.state.vt.us or (802) 479-8508.

Check www.vermonthhistory.org for more photographs, articles and library news!



Do you recognize this?



History Museum AOL Editors' pick: "Best Things To Do in Montpelier"
www.travel.aol.com/travel-guide/united-states/vermont/montpelier-best-things-to-do