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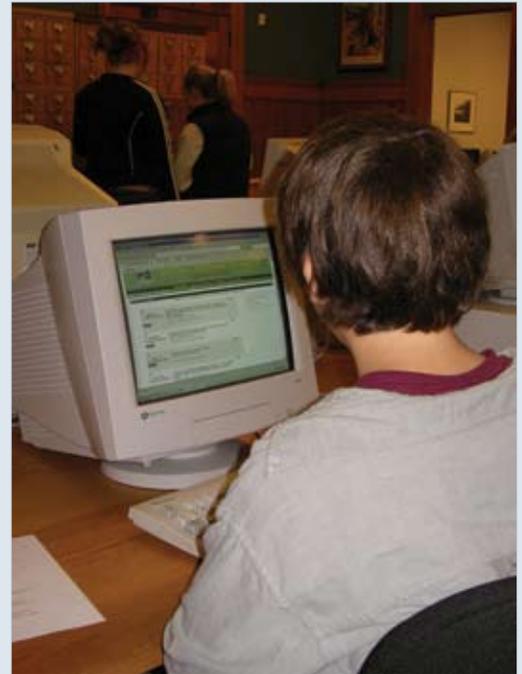
Online Library Catalog Now Available

This winter the Vermont Historical Society library, in conjunction with the Vermont State Colleges libraries, made its catalog available to researchers around the world on the Internet. The online catalog, found on the web at catalog.vermonthistory.org, includes all of the 13,951 records created by the library since computerized cataloging software was first purchased by the Society in 1987. Although broad in scope, the catalog does not yet include all of the library's holdings.

The new online catalog contains descriptions of books, manuscript collections, maps, pamphlets, sheet music, broadsides, and oral histories. It does not include digitized documents, but it does include links to the full text of finding aids for over 100 of the Society's most important manuscript collections. The catalog also includes records created during some of the library's special cataloging projects of the last two decades including the important Rugg Vermontiana Collection, broadsides prior to 1820, sheet music, oral histories, and films.

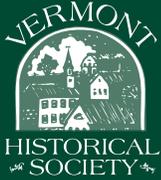
The catalog, running on the Unicorn system by Sirsi/Dynix and hosted by the state colleges, provides access to collections information through the traditional author, title, and subject searches. The powerful computer catalog, however, also makes it possible for researchers to search by keywords located within the records. This convenient feature, familiar to many users of the Internet, makes it possible to find information that might otherwise be difficult to retrieve.

The VHS' online catalog, like other modern library online catalogs, makes subject searching easy with clickable subject links built into bibliographic records so researchers can explore related topics with just a click of the mouse. Another convenient feature gives researchers the ability to create bibliographies online and to print them out or e-mail them to themselves or someone else.



A Vermont student previews the new online catalog at the Vermont History Center.

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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.

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Pavilion Building, Montpelier

Museum & Store:

Tues-Sat / 10am -4pm

Sundays May to October:

Noon-4pm

Museum Admission:

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

Library Admission:

Non-members: \$5;

Members and students: Free

From the Director



The Personal Side of History

Six years ago, when I was Executive Director of the Kentucky Historical Society, I wrote a column for the KHS newsletter about history being most interesting when it’s personal. “Make a link to family or the local community,” I wrote, “and your chances of engaging your audience goes up sharply.”

The occasion for that column was that my brother David and I had recently relocated our mother from Sarasota to live near David in Daytona Beach, Florida. We found some family papers during that process, and as the professional historian in the family I wound up with the job of imposing some order on those materials. Our deeply divided clan has lacked most of the family tradition most Americans enjoy, making that assignment my first opportunity after years of studying other people’s history to learn more about my own.

I found photographs of relatives I never met, along with pictures I wish did not exist—little Kevin in a cowboy outfit might have been cute to some people, but teenage Kevin with a petulant sneer was not. Birth and marriage certificates, school report cards, and other documents offered clues on family moves from Canada to half a dozen American states between 1890 and 1960. Newspaper clippings from the 1960s and early ‘70s brought smiles, if only because I could have used them to persuade dubious KHS colleagues that I really did have some athletic talent 35-40 years ago.

But there was poignancy in the work as well. I found a 1926 burial certificate for an infant my mother never mentioned, and I still don’t know if it was her younger brother or sister who went to rest in Chattanooga’s Greenwood Memorial Park. I knew that my uncle Jack died in the 1930s of an accidental gunshot wound, but reading the clippings about his death brought home how the sudden loss of an 11-year-old brother and son must have affected my mother and her parents.

My mother died in early December 2006, after five long years of slipping away mentally and physically. Writing her obituary for the Burlington Free Press was a second exercise in personal history, and compressing 87 years into 500 words was a challenge. I included my mother’s 1956 name change from Graffagnino to Lane, the simplest alternative she could find after two decades of spelling and pronouncing, and had to note that with Mr. Graffagnino excised from the family David and I might have welcomed a shorter surname, too. More substantively, I wrote about my mother’s social activism in the 1960s and her work with history and museums once her reform passions subsided. I remember the ‘60s, and while I’m glad I held my own in frequent Montpelier fights with boys whose parents disapproved of “that pinko Mrs. Lane,” now my pride is for the courage a low-income single mother displayed in speaking out on such issues as civil rights, the Vietnam War and nuclear proliferation.

The Vermont Historical Society helps people every day with similar historical encounters. Whether we’re teaching schoolchildren who are just starting to learn their own history, providing both content and context to genealogy researchers, or advising on the care of treasured heirlooms, VHS is a significant resource for Vermonters who care about their roots. For 169 years, the Society has existed to help all Vermonters and “Vermonters at heart” learn about our heritage. An experience like my discovery of threads in a forgotten family tapestry can be a transforming event, and VHS is here to help make the resulting journeys into our state’s past informative and inspiring. That’s always been our goal, and it always will be.

– J. Kevin Graffagnino, *VHS Executive Director*

Catholic Church Donates Parish Histories

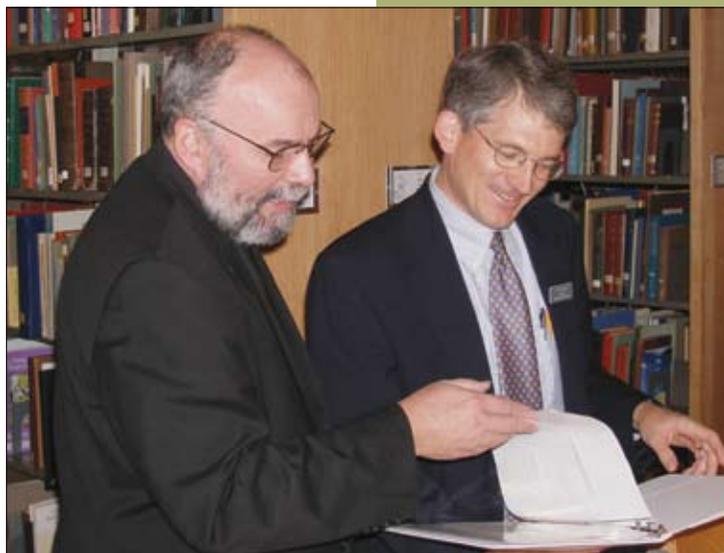
The *Vermont Catholic Tribune* (VCT), the biweekly publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, has marked its 50th anniversary with the presentation of a collection of parish histories to the Vermont Historical Society library. On September 25, 2006, VCT editor Pat Gore and Vicar General of the Diocese Father Peter Routhier presented VHS Librarian Paul Carnahan with a dozen binders filled with histories of 83 parishes in the diocese.

The staff of the VCT developed the idea of collecting parish histories as a way of celebrating the newspaper's golden anniversary. "The *Vermont Catholic Tribune* is the chronicler of the history of the Diocese of Burlington, and the Vermont Historical Society is the preserver of Vermont history," Gore said. The church had previously marked the 150th anniversary of the diocese in 2003 as an underwriter of the Society's Vermont History Expo.

Although the VHS library collects individual published church histories one at a time, this is the first time that a denomination has collected its own parish histories and presented them to the Society as a group, according to Society Librarian Paul Carnahan. The histories of Catholic parishes are particularly interesting to historians because many of the state's ethnic groups were active in the Catholic church.

"Religion is an important aspect of the lives of Vermonters," Carnahan said, "so understanding the religion of the people is an important component to understanding the history of the state. We hope that whenever anyone writes the history of a church or religious group, whatever the denomination or affiliation, they are motivated to send a copy to the VHS library. This is the best way for the religious history of the state to be preserved."

The VCT's gift of parish histories is available in the VHS library in Barre. The library's new online catalog at: catalog.vermonthistory.org can be consulted for bibliographic descriptions of the binders and individual books in the donation. A subject search under "Catholics – Vermont" will create a list of materials included in the gift. 



Father Peter Routhier (left), vicar general of the Catholic Diocese of Burlington, and Paul Carnahan (right), librarian, examine some of the Catholic Church publications donated to the Society.



A group of librarians from Cambodia included a visit to the Vermont History Center for a tour of the library and a brief talk about Vermont's history. Pictured with the group is Librarian Paul Carnahan.

Community History Partnership Launches 11 New Teams

The new Community History Partnership (CHP) teams met for the first time in October, at the Vermont History Center, to begin the process of documenting and preserving their communities' history. The attendees heard a presentation from Vermont author Katherine Paterson about how the strength of community helped shape her most recent novel, *Bread and Roses, Too*, about the young children from Lawrence, Massachusetts, who, during the famous 1912 Lawrence strike, were offered a safe haven by residents of Barre. In Paterson's novel, the main character, Rosa, gives her first impressions of this Vermont town.

The children on the station side pressed their faces to the window for their first glimpse of Barre, Vermont. Instead of endless stretches of giant factories all Rosa could see from her window were strange horseshoe shaped buildings with train tracks running into them. It was almost dusk, but there was enough daylight to see how different this little town was from Lawrence. (pp.160-161)

Just as Paterson captured the differences between Lawrence and Barre, the CHP teams are charged with documenting and sharing their communities' own unique stories. The Vermont Historical Society, with the creation of its CHP program, has brought together two groups to accomplish this task: local historical society members, who are often the keepers of the stories that have shaped a community; and school-aged children who have the time and curiosity to record these stories.

The Community History Partnership benefits all participants. Students learn important research

skills as they investigate their community. Historical society members and teachers work alongside students, facilitating the research process and developing a stronger relationship with one another. Past CHP teams have used a variety of creative formats to share their research with the larger community, including plays, publications, and exhibits. The current CHP teams are developing their own project plans which will include documenting and sharing their research with the larger community.

The 2006-2008 CHP teams are: Guilford, Londonderry, Weathersfield, Poultney, Proctor, Middletown Springs, Fair Haven, Tunbridge, Plainfield, Shelburne, and South Burlington. We will keep you posted on the development of the current CHP projects and look forward to sharing them with you as they are completed.

The current two-year CHP cycle is made possible by the invaluable support and generous contributions of IBM, the A.D. Henderson Foundation, the Schultz Foundation, the Woodstock Foundation, The Richard and Deborah L. Tarrant Foundation, and the Verizon Foundation.



Author Katherine Paterson reads from her most recent book to attendees at the fall Community History Partnership meeting in Barre.

Postings From Local Historical Societies in Next Issue

Each year, one of the many ways the Vermont Historical Society facilitates networking in our state history community is through the "Postings from Vermont's Local Historical Societies" in the spring issue of the Society's newsletter, *History Connections*.

"Postings" gives local historical societies the opportunity to list programs or share information about their recent accomplishments as well as upcoming events for 2007. This information is popular with VHS members because they like to be more aware of Vermont's varied local historical resources. The deadline for "Postings" submissions is February 15, 2007. Either email the information to patty.wiley@state.vt.us, or send it to Patty Wiley, Local Historical Societies Outreach Manager, Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington Street, Barre, VT 05641. If representatives of your local historical society would like to be included on our distribution list to receive weekly email updates, please send us that information as well.

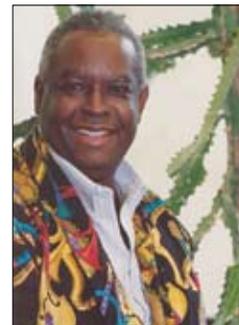


VHS Presents Farmers' Night with Francois Clemmons

From their origins in the arrival of the earliest enslaved Africans to the United States, the venue for American Negro Spirituals has ranged from plantation "praise houses" to European opera houses to Civil Rights-era protests. On February 21, Francois Clemmons will bring the tradition and power of these songs to the Vermont State House for the Vermont Historical Society's Farmers' Night program. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. in the House Chamber of the State House, and like all Farmers' Night programs, is free and open to the public.

Francois Clemmons has dedicated much of his career to preserving, reinterpreting, and presenting African-American traditional music. Born in Birmingham, Alabama, his first songs were those from pre-Civil War America that he heard his mother sing while she was working. As the founder and director of the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble, he has performed throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Dr. Clemmons created and played the role of the friendly policeman, "Officer Clemmons," on the popular children's public television show, *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*. He has performed with many orchestra and opera companies over the years including the New York City Opera, the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra,

the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony, and the Milwaukee Symphony. In 1996, Middlebury College presented him with the honorary degree of Doctor of Arts. He was awarded a lifetime achievement award in 2004 from Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Clemmons currently lives and works in Middlebury, Vermont.



Dr. Clemmons will be accompanied on the piano by George Matthew, Jr. Mr. Matthew has been carillonneur of Middlebury College and Norwich University since 1986. A church organist since the age of 13, he is currently director of music at Middlebury Congregational Church. For more information about this exciting evening, visit our website or contact Amy Cunningham, VHS education director, at 802-479-8518. Contact the State House at 802-828-2228 for more information about the entire Farmers' Night series.

The Society's Farmers' Night Program is generously supported by Denis, Ricker & Brown; TD Banknorth; Vermont Mutual Insurance Group; and World Publications, Inc. 

Vermont connections to the Civil Rights Movement presented on Martin Luther King Day

Each year, in honor of Martin Luther King Day, the Vermont Historical Society presents programs about the civil rights movement. This year, the Society's topic was about the Vermont in Mississippi Project (1965-1967), which helped build and run a community center in Jackson, Mississippi.

The Vermont in Mississippi Project was undertaken by the Vermont Civil Rights Union from 1965-1967. After spending Freedom Summer 1964 in Jackson, Mississippi, Ted Seaver, a social studies teacher at Montpelier High School, returned the following year with his wife, Carol, to set up the Medgar Evers Community Guild. Part day care center, part community development agency, the idea caught on back home and became the main project of the Vermont Civil Rights Union.

The Vermont Historical Society hosted the following panelists: Claire Parkinson, a student and activist at Montpelier High School in 1965; Paul and Sonya Hackel, both instrumental in the Vermont Civil

Rights Union; and Michael Sherman, former executive director at the Society.

The program received much attention from the media. Mark Johnson from WDEV, who presents a daily two-hour talk show, broadcast his show live from the museum at the Pavilion building. He interviewed education programs director, Amy Cunningham, as well as each of the panelists participating in the program. WCAX TV-3 did a piece on the event, and the *Times Argus* featured



a front-page story in the local newspaper section. Despite the first winter storm of the season, 35 people attended the event including some of Ted Seaver's former students who also shared their stories. 

Winter Family Fun Workshops a Huge Success!

The Family Fun Workshop series at the Society's museum is enjoying great success and is only in its second year. Geraldine Brown, museum programs manager, shared her observations from the third workshop entitled "Snowflakes and Snowsnakes" held in early December. Though her thoughts are about one specific workshop, her insights speak to the joy and enthusiasm demonstrated by the children and their families at each of the other workshops as well.

"Our third workshop was this past Saturday, and a super day it was! The first snowflakes of the season were flying on their crystal points, and the snowsnakes -- well, they made a memorable appearance. The theme was winter in Vermont a hundred years ago. As usual, it had a history/exhibit portion, a storytelling/artifact exploration portion, a snack, and a focus activity.

Peggy Pearl provided a stunning hour of storytelling, drawing from the wonderful artifacts of the Vermont Historical Society and the Fairbanks Museum (of which she is long-time Education Curator), from lace-edged children's wooley long johns that itched and rarely were



Young Vermonters attend the Village Shoemaker Family Fun Workshop last fall.

removed, to a model of a snow roller, to a snow knocker, to jack jumpers and sleds, to an ice saw and a picture of a struggle to save a horse that had gone through the ice field on the cutting pond. We were all riveted with curiosity and involvement. I especially appreciated Peg's counsel to the children when making a point: "Now, you need to think about this."

VHS History Helper Ron Krauth brought not only his grandfather's two-man crosscut saw, but also a sawhorse and some pretty good-sized maple logs to challenge the children in a sawing activity: getting up his firewood, as he told them. They sawed two by two, working in harmony and doing a good job. Then came the fun of the snowsnakes, which we zoomed down the length of the back entrance hall as far as we could, everyone getting two turns to see if each could better his/her thrust. Due to the high and bitter winds that day, we did these activities inside, but we imagined ourselves in the dooryard in the one case, and in the snowy field where we'd prepared an icy run in the other. Thanks to Greg Osowski, who carved the 4-5 foot snakes for us and told us how the Abenaki played the game.

As mentioned before, this year's series is sold out, allowing for 20 or 21 children per session, plus parents. The earlier two sessions – weaving on a loom and shoemaking – have been very popular with kids and parents alike, as was the snowsnakes workshop. Each in the series is distinctly different from all others, but all explore Vermont life and history in a lively way which children respond to. They contribute their own ideas and stories, and we are gratified to see the connections they make. They are becoming a strong part of our community, and are eager for more history!

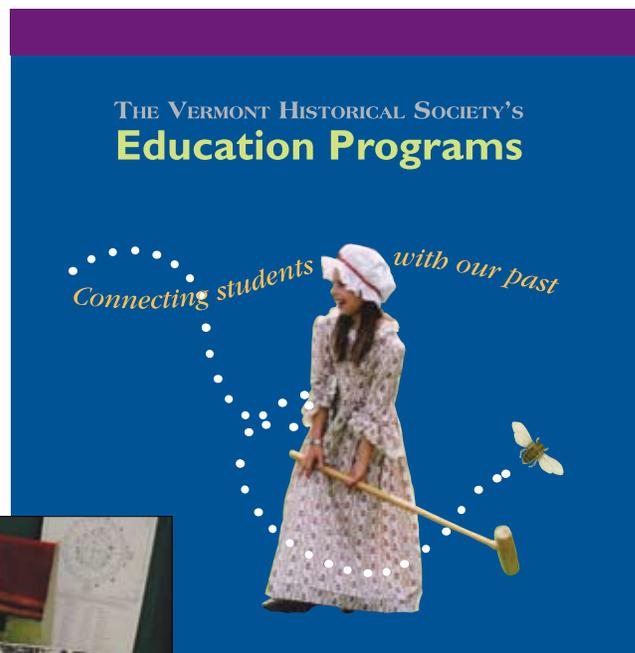
The other aspect I think contributes so much is the inclusion of people not usually available to our public in our spaces, people who have unusual expertise that elucidates Vermont's past in an active, accessible way. That, combined with the talents and experience of our own staff and volunteers, and the wish of the parents to be part of their children's discovery, makes every event a rich participation. I don't think the children will soon forget what they learn and experience here." 

– As observed by Geraldine Brown,
December, 2006

New Education Program Guide Available

The Society recently produced its first-ever education programs booklet which is being mailed to all statewide educators. The booklet serves as an outreach tool for the education programs department, managed by Amy Cunningham, director of education. Programs include: professional development for teachers focusing on Vermont's history, artifact lending kits used by teachers across the state to bring history into the classroom, Vermont History Day (part of the National History Day program), and year-round field trip experiences.

If you are, or know of, a Vermont teacher who would be interested in the Society's education programs, call 802-479-8518 or email amy.cunningham@state.vt.us to have a booklet mailed to you. 🐝



The cover of the new Education Program booklet (above) and the contents of the "Abenaki in Vermont" Lending Kit.



Mystery Photo

Last issue's mystery photo, contained in an album of many similar photographs from the Rutland area, was not identified by any of our readers. Anyone interested in taking a second try at identifying these photographs can see the images on our web site at www.vermonthistory.org/UnknownAlbum.

This issue's mystery photo (right) is printed on a postcard and shows a railroad crossing in a small village. We don't have any clues other than the image itself. If you can identify this photo, please contact the Society's librarian, Paul Carnahan, at 802-479-8508 or paul.carnahan@state.vt.us. 🐝



History Expo is Tops!

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce announced that it has named the Vermont History Expo, the signature event presented annually by the Vermont Historical Society, as one of Vermont's Top 10 Summer Events. This is the 6th consecutive year that History Expo has received this important recognition. Vermont History Expo will take place in Tunbridge, Vermont on June 23-24, 2007.



Vermont History
EXPO 2007
History's Country Fair

The Society has produced a new logo (left) for History Expo with the tagline: "Vermont's Country Fair." The logo will be used in conjunction with Expo's annual artist-designed poster as well as other promotional materials.

Cate Fellowship

The deadline for submitting applications for the 2007 Weston Cate Fellowship, to support research in Vermont history utilizing the Society's collections, is **March 31, 2007**. The stipend for this one-year fellowship is \$1,200. Guidelines and application forms are now available by calling the Society at 802-479-8500 or by downloading them from the website, www.vermonthistory.org.

New Staff

The Society is pleased to welcome **Karen Stites** as senior administrative assistant – this is a new position to provide high-level support to the executive director, Board of Trustees, and senior management team. Karen recently worked five years as a professional grant writer at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. She has also served as a reference specialist at UVM's Special Collections department. Karen lives in Barre.

Call for 2006 Hathaway Award Nominations

The annual Hathaway Award goes to an individual who is recognized as making an outstanding contribution to the field of Vermont history. Projects include, but are not limited to, publications, exhibits, works of art, documentary films, radio programs, websites, and dramatic works. The candidate's work must have been completed during the 2006 calendar year.

Individuals or groups may apply or be nominated. Applications are due at the Vermont Historical Society by July 1 of each year. The Award will be presented at the Society's annual meeting in September. The winner of the Award will receive \$1,000.

Information about the Award and an application are available on the Society's website (vermonthistory.org) or from VHS by phone or mail.



New Life for 1893 Bell

VHS Trustee Steve Martin (left) and Mel Friberg (right) unveil the 1893 bell removed from the belfry at the Vermont History Center in Barre on Nov. 29, 2006. The bell was removed last summer due to structural concerns in the tower. It now sits under the archway of the main entrance to the History Center. Generous members of the Barre community helped preserve the bell to be enjoyed by visitors for years to come. Thanks to Mel Friberg for project design and oversight, Swenson Granite Company for the production of the granite pedestal, the Granite Corporation of Barre for the installation, and Henri Dessureau for the bell's restoration.

Online Library Catalog Now Available

Continued from page 1

According to VHS Librarian Paul Carnahan, the unveiling of the online public access catalog is a significant milestone in the history of the VHS library. “This is the second most important thing to happen to the VHS library in the last 20 years. The first was our move to the History Center in Barre. That move ensured that our materials would be preserved. This development ensures that researchers will know what is here,” he said.

According to Carnahan, the VHS has lagged behind other libraries in making its collections known to the researching public. “Many research libraries are now unveiling their third generation online catalogs. I’m thrilled that the VHS is finally getting the word out about its fine research collections. This is a proud moment for the Society,” he said.

Planning for the VHS catalog began in earnest in June 2004 when VSC Bibliographic Database Coordinator Kay Schleuter approached the Society about the possibility of putting the VHS library records online.

At the time, the VSC was acquiring new online catalog software and believed that it would be technologically possible to create a separate catalog of the VHS holdings. After many months of planning, the library staff and volunteers embarked on a three-month sprint to edit over 13,000 records, one at a time, to prepare them for loading into the new system. The clean-up process was successful, resulting in only 17 records that couldn’t be loaded because of errors.

Now that the Society has an online catalog, additional records need to be created for the remaining material that is only documented in the card catalog. Only about one-third of the library’s book holdings are in the online public access catalog, according to Carnahan, and an even smaller portion of its manuscript collections are listed there. The library staff and volunteers have started to “retrospectively convert” the Society’s card catalogs to the new computerized system, but many years of work remain before the task will be completed.

The new library catalog was the second major online resource that the Society released in 2006. The first was an online version of the Society’s major exhibition, “Freedom and Unity,” found on the web at exhibit.vermonthistory.org.



A typical page of the Society’s online catalog available to researchers around the world.

You've Helped Thousands – Thank You!

Thanks to your donations, thousands of Vermonters and “Vermonters at heart” have gained new insights and found new pride in what it means to be a Vermonter.

A Sense of Place

Many people feel a stronger connection to their community through Vermont Historical Society programs. *“I used to think that our town is pretty boring, but once I went on a couple of interviews I realized that we have an interesting town.”* – Community History Partnership student from Marlboro

Opening Minds

When excited children shouted out their guesses, “Car keys?” “Cell phone!” they were trying to answer this question: “What do you suppose the lady who owned this beaded purse from the 1880s kept in her purse?”

How shocked they were when VHS Education Director Amy Cunningham said there were no cell phones back then! As children learn about the past, they view their own lives differently. Adults, too, find new meaning and context when they explore history.

Pride in Being a Vermonter

Vermont’s history teaches that our motto, “Freedom and Unity,” is as relevant today as ever. *“When I think of how hard early Vermonters worked, I feel such pride in how they stayed true to their values through it all.”*

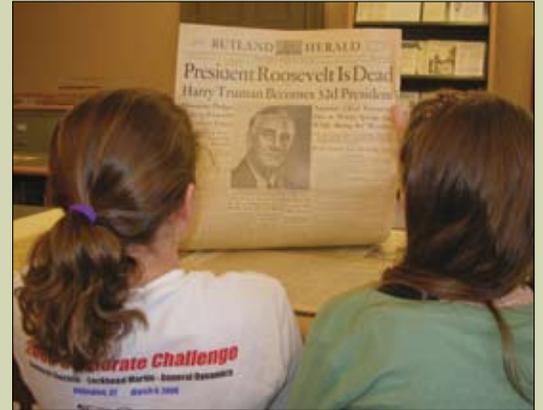
– Museum visitor from Morrisville

What You’ve Done

Here is just a sampling of what your donations helped make possible in 2006:

- ▶ 4,608 schoolchildren from 59 Vermont towns got a taste of Vermont history from our terrific group of History Helpers and our Freedom and Unity exhibit.
- ▶ 1,100 Vermont students learned about the Abenaki, the Civil War, village life and archaeology from classroom History Lending kits (a.k.a. “field trips in a box”).
- ▶ Over 500 people attended performances and lectures ranging from “The History of Vermont Barns” to Anna Whooley’s “North and South: A Woman’s Perspective.”
- ▶ 550 students from 11 towns began work with local historical societies in the Community History Partnership, to explore each community’s history.
- ▶ 1,708 researchers signed in to the Vermont History Center library. Many classes used the library, as well, and an untold number of library information requests were answered by phone and email.
- ▶ 823 items from the Society’s library vault were used by researchers.
- ▶ 210 students from 18 schools participated in Vermont History Day.
- ▶ 36 Vermont students attended the National History Day contest.
- ▶ Over 300 print or digital file requests were fulfilled, plus requests from newspapers, students, and Expo exhibitors.
- ▶ A listing of 750 of our most recently processed manuscript collections was updated.
- ▶ Many new artifacts were added to VHS collections, preserving more of Vermont’s continuing story for future generations.
- ▶ Two volumes of the VHS journal, *Vermont History*, presented topics such as “Caledonia County Gold Miners” and “Pre-Famine Irish in Vermont, 1815-1844.”
- ▶ 5,500 enthusiastic attendees explored Vermont’s heritage at the Vermont History Expo, “Vermont history’s country fair.”

Thank you so much for making it possible for these thousands of people to learn, wonder and connect with Vermont’s rich heritage! 



Two students from Black River Union High School in Ludlow conduct research at the History Center in Barre.

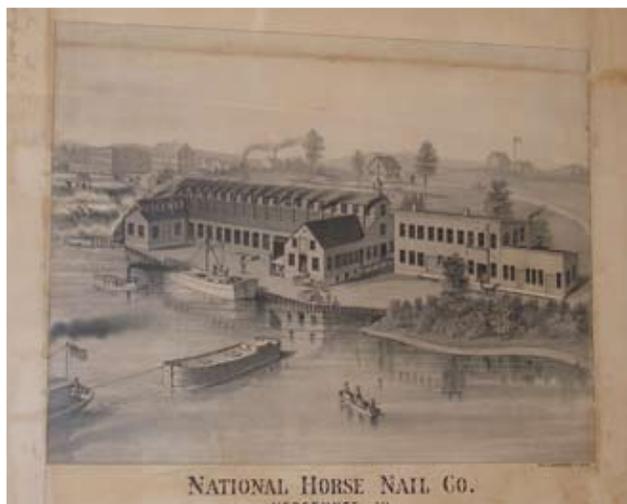
New Prints of Vermont Scenes Acquired

Nine prints of Vermont scenes and three Civil War rosters formerly in the Ken Leach Collection were purchased at auction this fall. The prints will be added to the museum collection and the rosters will go to the library. Five of the prints are lithographs of well known 19th century Vermont tourist hotels. These black and white images are of the Clarendon House, Lake Dunmore House, the Memphremagog House, the Weldon House, and Willoughby Lake House. The other four prints are Frank Child's chromolithograph, The Mettowee Valley, a lithograph of Vergennes's National Horse Nail Company, a lithograph, Lake Champlain from St. Albans, and a chromolithograph of the Bennington Battle Monument.



Chromolithograph of the Bennington Battle Monument, 1891. Printed by Burleigh Lith. Est., Troy, New York.

The Civil War rosters are chromolithographs for Company A, 12th Vermont Regiment and Company I and F, 16th Vermont Regiment. Thanks to VHS trustees, especially J. Brooks Buxton, for their help in purchasing these wonderful new additions to the collection. 📖



Lithograph of the National Horse Nail Company, Vergennes circa 1880. Drawn by J. S. Jones and printed by George H. Walker & Company, Boston.

Perrin Coin Silver Collection Given to Society

David Perrin, an authority on Vermont coin silver, recently donated over 130 pieces from his personal collection to the Society. In addition to the silver, Mr. Perrin also generously gave the case he custom made to exhibit the silver. Some of you may have seen the case and silver at the 2005 Vermont History Expo, where it was on display in the Chittenden County Historical Society booth.

Perrin is the author of *Coin Silver; Is It a Vermont Mark? A Collector's Dilemma* (2005), the culmination of his 30 years of research on Vermont silvermakers. Visit the Vermont History Center in Barre and see the case created in the shape of Vermont atop a cherry base cut from the Perrin sugar bush in Berlin. Perrin has meticulously mounted and labeled the silver by maker and town. He also donated copies of his book as well as a copy of Lilian Baker Carlisle's book, *Vermont Clock and Watchmakers, Silversmiths, and Jewelers, 1778-1878* (1970) providing visitors more information on the topic. 📖



David Perrin works with VHS Registrar Mary Rogstad with the installation of the Spoon Display.

Events Calendar

February 21, 2007

VHS Presents Farmers' Night at the State House
"An Evening of American Negro Spirituals with Francois Clemmons"

Mr. Clemmons, artist-in-residence and Twilight Scholar at Middlebury College, will bring to life the vibrant history of American Negro Spirituals. House Chamber, State House, Montpelier
7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

April 7, 2007

Vermont History Day
Vermont's History Day is part of the National History Day network.

This year's theme: "Triumph and Tragedy in History"
Public welcome to view student projects.
Spaulding High School Auditorium, Barre. 3 p.m. Free.

June 23 and 24, 2007

Vermont History Expo
8th annual History Expo – "Vermont's Country Fair"
Tunbridge World Fairgrounds, Tunbridge, VT
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day, Admission.

The bell that once hung inside the tower at the Spaulding Graded School has been fully restored. See page 8.



Vermont History Center
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