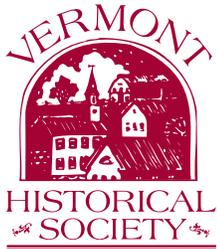


# History Connections

Vermont Historical Society

News & Notes

November 2009 / Volume #3 / Number 5



**Vermont History Center**  
60 Washington Street  
Barre, Vermont 05641-4209

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## Don't Miss It!

Just in time for holiday giving—the *Book List New Titles 2010* is now available. If you don't see it with this issue of *History Connections*, give us a call at (802) 479-8500.

## Collections Grow at the Vermont Historical Society

Each year, the Vermont Historical Society is the beneficiary of generous gifts from collectors around the country. These Vermont treasures help VHS tell valuable stories and offer a way to connect the past to the present. Below are some of the latest acquisitions and a bit about the people who donated them.

### Museum Collections

Milton Crouch, librarian, scholar, and collector from Burlington, wanted to give the VHS two of the most beautiful and unique items in his collection. A few days before his death, he delivered these items to his friend and VHS Vice President, J. Brooks Buxton, trusting him with their delivery to the VHS.

The large transparent blue-green tinted glass bowl is believed to have been made at the Lake Champlain Glass Company which operated in Burlington from 1826 until 1850. A major industry in the city at that time, it produced primarily window glass. The bowl is a rare survivor and was probably a special commission for one of the owners of the company. It is considered a premier example of nineteenth-century American blown glass and is an extraordinarily beautiful example of Vermont craftsmanship.

Crouch's other gift is a whimsical watercolor and ink token of love made in Guilford, Vermont in November 1818. Its complex patterns of green and red circles, squares, and hearts are surrounded by intricate calligraphy. This "knot of love" was a popular early nineteenth-century custom for expressing unending love. Milton Crouch's gift continues the long tradition at the VHS of librarians generously contributing to the preservation of Vermont's cultural heritage.

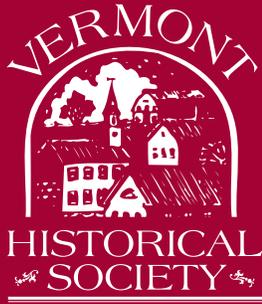


*Burlington Glass Company blown glass bowl*



*Guilford watercolor and ink "knot of love" drawing dated November 1818*

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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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**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](http://www.vermonthistory.org)

[vhs-info@state.vt.us](mailto:vhs-info@state.vt.us)

From the Director

Saving Vermont’s Treasures

A decade ago, we launched a bold initiative to acquire and develop the Vermont History Center in Barre. This coincided with our expansion into ambitious public programs like the Vermont History Expo, the Community History Project, and creation of the “Freedom and Unity” exhibition at the Pavilion. With the creation of the Vermont History Center, we preserved an important Vermont landmark, while also providing appropriate space to house the Society’s library and museum collections that were threatened by the conditions in the Pavilion basement in Montpelier.

The development of the History Center and these new programmatic initiatives embody the remarkable renaissance of the Vermont History Center, acknowledged through our receipt of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service in 2007. These accomplishments came at great expense—over \$10 million. It was in large measure the generous support of our members and friends that made these exciting things happen. Looking at how far VHS has progressed in service to Vermont during the past 10 years, the Society’s members, trustees and friends would say in chorus, “It has been worth it.”

These bold actions and the many positive benefits they have delivered, however, present ongoing financial challenges for the Vermont Historical Society. Despite staffing reductions, the elimination of programs like the Vermont Community History Project, and ambitious fundraising, the VHS still faces significant budget shortfalls. For much of the past decade, reserve funds and draws on endowments have been used to address operating deficits. The staff and Board of Trustees of the Vermont Historical Society recognize that this is not a sustainable course.

In a series of meetings during the summer of 2009, the Board of Trustees made a commitment to preserve the core programs of the Vermont Historical Society, while also addressing the immediate and long-term fiscal challenges facing the organization. Efforts at closing the operating deficit in the current year are focusing upon solicitation of major gifts, cultivation of new members and donors, special event fundraising, earned income through improved promotion of the museum and bookstore, sharing space with other organizations or agencies, and energy conservation and other operational efficiencies.

The efforts of the VHS Board of Trustees culminated with the creation of a strategy for the implementation of a four-year capital campaign that will bring new gallery spaces, exhibits, and programs to the Vermont History Center, eliminate the capital debt associated with the development of the center, and substantially enlarge the operating endowment. The \$7.3 million *Saving Vermont’s Treasures Campaign* will allow the Vermont Historical Society to utilize federal funds through the Save America’s Treasures grant program to conduct needed exterior repairs and develop new exhibition galleries at the History Center. Funds also will be raised to acquire and display an extraordinary collection of over 100 Vermont-made firearms from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The campaign also will raise funds needed to retire the \$1.3 million mortgage and will add over \$4 million to the endowment to support ongoing operating expenses.

Campaign planning is underway, with a feasibility study and case statement to be completed during the fall of 2009. With a federal grant of \$295,586 secured, as well as pledges and contributions totaling over \$360,000, nearly ten percent of the campaign goal already has been raised. In the coming weeks and months we will be sharing with our members and friends more information about this campaign and the many opportunities it will provide to enhance our ability to preserve and share the rich history of Vermont. Your support will be critical to the success of this campaign!



Mark S. Hudson

– Mark S. Hudson, Executive Director



## Collections Grow at VHS

*Continued from page 3*



*Large street car in front of traction company barn, North Winooski Avenue, Burlington, undated*

trolleys and buses in Vermont's largest city during a 125-year period. They were the gift of William Thompson, a member of the family that started Burlington Rapid Transit, and of Vermont Transit.

In July a small collection of James Hope (1853-1892) letters was purchased to add to the growing collection of letters from that nineteenth-century Vermont artist. The recent acquisition includes correspondence between Hope, who was working in New York City, and his wife Julia who was at home in Castleton with their children in the 1860s and 1870s. The Society's museum has three Hope paintings, so these letters help provide further information about the artist as well as supplying research material for scholars.

In the beginning of the twentieth century the new art of photography grabbed the imagination of Vermonters and others across the country. This summer a scrapbook was purchased in which amateur photographer Samuel Rosenberg of Worth Avenue in Burlington collected every scrap of paper he could about photographic processes and his involvement in it. Rosenberg entered many photo contests in the 1910s and saved all of the responses, mostly negative, in addition to a few samples of his photographic work.

In the late 1920s the Ku Klux Klan had a brief surge of popularity in Vermont, culminating in a rally in Montpelier in 1927. For many years the VHS has collected evidence of this movement's existence here. This summer the library purchased a membership certificate belonging to a Montpelier resident and a photograph of his wife in full KKK regalia, further documenting this movement's presence in the Green Mountains.



*Scrapbook, Samuel Rosenberg, Burlington, ca. 1912*

Family papers are the bread and butter of the Leahy Library's collecting activities. This summer the library was given two family collections of note. One, the Blair family papers, builds on a collection of papers already in the VHS archives from this same Barnet family. The other, the Eldridge family papers, focuses on a family in the Bethel and Randolph area. The former collection came to us because the owners were moving to England while the latter collection was brought back to Vermont from England!

Although there are a large number of Civil War letters and diaries that are already in publicly accessible collections, Civil War papers continue to be discovered and donated to repositories such as the Vermont Historical Society. Three such collections recently were received: letters of Mark Slayton of West Fairlee, a member of Company C, 17th Vermont; letters of Henry H. McIntyre of Randolph, a member of Company G, 10th Vermont; and scans and transcriptions of letters of George W. Hill of Guilford, a member of Company F, 4th Vermont.



*Man splitting wood shingles, H. L. Chapman, Windham County, ca. 1916*

### Photograph Collections

It is always exciting when photograph collections arrive at the Leahy Library. The library recently received an astounding collection of images created by H. L. Chapman of Windham in the beginning of the twentieth century. This remarkable collection includes almost 600 glass plate negatives and over 100 film negatives, plus the camera used to create the glass plates. The museum collection did not include a camera such as this one, which is in magnificent shape, so the VHS is pleased to have this example. This collection was donated by Roger Wildt, who once owned Chapman's home in Windham. Look for additional information about this collection as more is discovered about these images.

This summer, Earl N. and Mary D. Davis donated their sizeable collection of black and white photographs to the VHS. This collection includes many copy negatives of historic photographs from the Rochester



*Last day at the old school, Earl and Mary Davis, Rochester, 1978*

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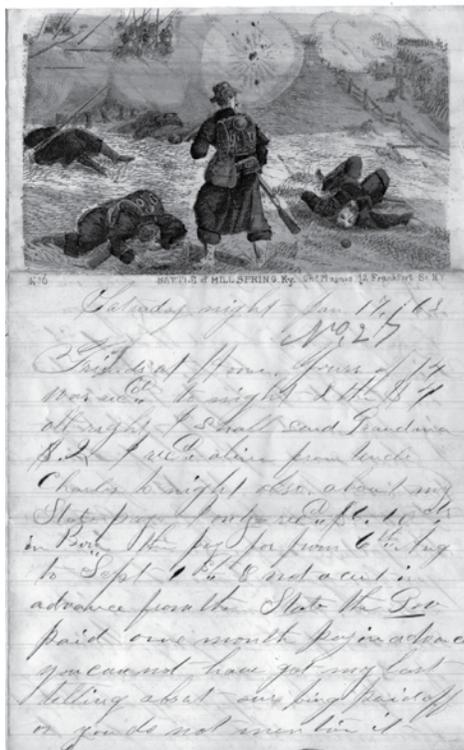
## Library Highlights

The library has had a busy summer helping researchers, participating in the Society's outreach efforts around the state, and arranging and describing materials for the future use of patrons. In addition, we have acquired several manuscript and photograph collections (see front page) and have loaded transcriptions of three manuscript collections onto our web site.

### Internet Resources

Most of the Leahy Library collections loaded onto our web site to date have been Civil War letters and diaries ([www.vermonthistory.org/cwtranscriptions](http://www.vermonthistory.org/cwtranscriptions)). This summer we added a major collection of Civil War letters, about 137 letters of George Oscar French of Castleton who served in Company C of the 11th Vermont regiment. French was wounded at Cedar Creek and killed just before the end of the war at Richmond on April 2, 1865.

Two other non-Civil War transcriptions have been added to the web site ([www.vermonthistory.org/transcriptions](http://www.vermonthistory.org/transcriptions)).



George Oscar French to "friends at home,"  
dated January 17, 1863

One is the mill girl letters of Mary Paul of Woodstock, 1845-1862. Although much quoted by historians of the Lowell mills, these letters had not been widely available in their entirety until now. The other collection is a diary kept by farm laborer Erastus P. Williams of Royalton, 1830-1834. Williams paints a detailed picture of life in this "Era of Great of Change" including his daily work, religious and cultural experiences, and service in the militia. A second volume of Williams' fascinating diary is still being transcribed and will be loaded in the next several months.

In addition to transcriptions of manuscript collections, the VHS Leahy Library also is making more of its resources available via the Internet. One way that we have done this is to index in our online catalog all articles appearing in our journal *Vermont History* since 2000, with links to full text versions of those articles. We also have scanned 10 articles from previous issues of the journal and have made them available through the online catalog ([catalog.vermonthistory.org](http://catalog.vermonthistory.org)) and the Society's web site ([www.vermonthistory.org/journal](http://www.vermonthistory.org/journal)). ❄️



### Library Takes Winter Break

For the past four years the library has closed for two weeks to give the staff an opportunity to catch up on processing. The same will be true this year when the library will be closed from January 25 through February 5.

This two-week hiatus, while not sufficient to eliminate the library's backlogs, has been an important time for the librarians to whittle away at the piles of processing that develop through the year. The library will reopen on Tuesday, February 9, with our usual hours.

## Collections Grow at VHS

*Continued from previous page*

area, as well as photographs the Davises took of events and landmarks in Rochester and the surrounding towns in the 1960s and 1970s.

Collections of color slides have been coming to the VHS for years, but recently more of these collections have been received as the format becomes obsolete. There are two collections of note. One is a collection of *Vermont Life* quality photographs of Vermont communities and activities during the 1980s by C. B. Johnson, a freelance photographer and historic buildings expert. The second is a collection of over 1600 slides of Vermont townscapes from 1959 until 2008 by Alan Blakeman, a former Montpelier High School teacher. These two collections go a long way toward documenting Vermont during the last decades of the twentieth century. ❄️



Tunbridge Fair, C. B. Johnson, 1985

## Spaulding High School in the 1940s

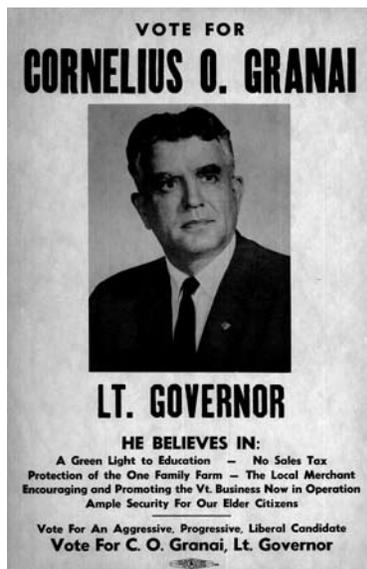
by Sarah L. Dopp

From time to time in these pages we have highlighted graduates of Spaulding who have gone on to make their mark on the world stage or local community. This time we feature a whole generation of one family—the three children of Cornelius Granai, Sr. (“Kio”), attorney, veteran of two wars and one-time mayor of Barre, and his wife Ruth.

Kio Granai was born in the Carrara region of Italy, but grew up in Barre and graduated from Montpelier Seminary and Syracuse University, as did his wife. He returned from Syracuse Law School to pursue his career back home and raised a family of Spaulding graduates from a home on Beacon Street. All have been outstanding contributors to their state.

The eldest, Cornelius Jr. (also called “Kio”), was a member of the SHS class of 1943. He was Class President and was involved in drama, Student Council, Boys State, Pro Merito honorary and three varsity sports (football, baseball and basketball). The yearbook called him “frank, good-natured and determined” and, indeed, he was. After graduating from high school and college, he obtained his MD from UVM, did a residency in Syracuse, and became the first OB/GYN specialist in central Vermont, practicing at Barre City and Heaton Hospitals. He delivered the first baby at Central Vermont Hospital and practiced for over 33 years. Along the way, like his father, he served in two conflicts, WWII and Korea.

Carolyn (Lyn) G. Vercoe, Spaulding '44, was the next child in the line. At Spaulding, Carolyn was a cheerleader, a member of the Fife and Drum Corps, and co-edited the newspaper, the *Sentinel*, and the yearbook, the 1944 *Echo*. She earned the DAR Good Citizen award. She followed in the family tradition and attended Syracuse University, where she was a Fine Arts major, and then taught art in New York State for 26 years. She obtained a Master of Education degree as well and in more recent years has resided in East Montpelier and pursued wide travel abroad. One of her avocations is history, and she was an



*The patriarch of the Granai family, Cornelius Granai, Sr.*

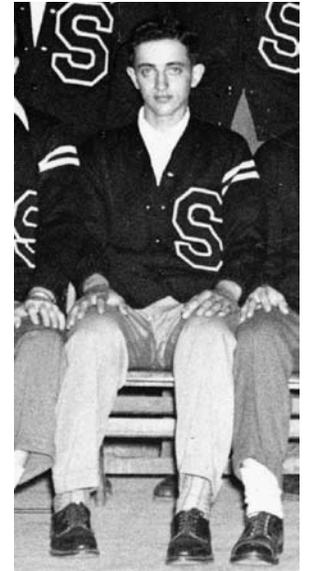
avid volunteer at the VHS. It was she who discovered, read and transcribed over 400 of her father's WWII letters. These were later published as “Letters From Somewhere” in 2000, through her and her brother Ed's efforts. Carolyn married twice and her second husband, Norman Vercoe, was her high school sweetheart!

The inspiration for this article is the third child of the family. This is Edwin (“Ed”) Granai, the youngest of the siblings and a 1949 graduate of SHS. In 2004, Ed and his wife documented the family story in a book entitled *The Moment Never Ended*, which provided much of this material. Ed took part in baseball, football and the ski team, as well as the Drama Club, Glee Club and church youth activities while in Barre. It was noted in the yearbook that he was “considerate of others and [had] a great circle of friends.” He broke the Syracuse mold by attending Antioch College and later earned his Master of Divinity at Yale Divinity School. His career has been varied, including parish and volunteer ministry within the Methodist and Presbyterian traditions, a management position at Proctor & Gamble and ownership of a Burlington bookshop. He was general manager of the University Mall from 1979-1990.

Ed chaired the Vermont Democratic Party for four years, ran for Governor in 1978, served two terms as a state representative and two years as a state senator. Gov. Dean appointed him

“Vermont Ambassador to Italy” before a trip there in 1994! Ed recalls, with esteem, the Spaulding teachers who gave him a great start in life: Faith Lindsey, Clyde Fussell, Elizabeth White, George Deane and Julia Austin among them.

Two of the three Granais have SHS spouses as well. Ed's wife Joanne is the exception, being from Rockville, Maryland, but she is a fully-indoctrinated Vermonter now. Her high school career featured an interest in sports, Glee Club and school publications. Joanne went on to nursing school in Baltimore, and she and Ed met at a psychiatric facility where they both worked. They married in 1954 and have resided in



*“Ed” Granai, Class of 1949*



*Edwin Granai for Governor, 1978*

*Continued on next page*

## Vermont Alliance for Response Forum

More than 90 participants from around the state gathered for the Vermont Alliance for Response Forum on August 31, 2009. Convened by the Vermont Historical Society, the day-long meeting took place at the beautiful Billings Farm & Museum and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, in Woodstock, Vermont.

Alliance for Response is a national program on cultural heritage and disaster management sponsored by Heritage Preservation. Through a series of local forums across the country, the program builds bridges between museums, libraries, historic sites and emergency responders before disaster happens. The Forum is the thirteenth in a series of meetings designed to bring cultural heritage leaders together with emergency professionals.

Barbara Farr, Director of Vermont Emergency Management, assured participants from cultural institutions, "You are not alone." Other speakers included Jane Long, Heritage Preservation; Jack Sullivan, FEMA; and Andrew Raddant from the Department of the Interior as well as Vermont's resident experts on emergency preparation and recovery, Nick Artim and MJ Davis.

An emergency scenario presented by Woodstock cultural institutions and emergency responders gave the audience a sense of the variety of pressures on emergency responders and the complexity of an event that effects the whole community.

The Vermont Alliance for Response Committee will continue to work on this important issue of emergency preparedness by fostering communication between Vermont's cultural organizations and emergency responders. 



*Forum participants enjoyed the agrarian atmosphere at the Billings Farm & Museum and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.*



*A true-to-life scenario was presented by Woodstock cultural institutions and emergency responders.*

## Spaulding High School in the 1940s

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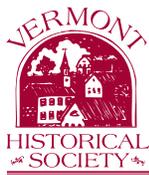
Burlington for many years, while maintaining close ties with Barre and the VHS.

Carolyn's high school beau was Norm Vercoe who grew up on Washington Street in Barre and is a 1942 graduate of SHS. He enjoyed music, drama, camping, swimming, and scouting and belonged to Pro Merito. He had an early interest in aviation and became a licensed pilot as an adult. A high school nickname was "Stretch." Norm attended Norwich, graduated from UVM, and served in WWII. He was an engineer at GE and later obtained an MBA at UMass, where he taught and did administration. Ed characterized him as a very warm and outgoing person, "a friend to the world."

Loraine Friberg, class of '43, became the wife of Kio, Jr. They met in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade! *Our Echo* stated that she was "easy to get along with and makes friends easily." Like the others, she too was an achiever (Pro Merito, Scholastic "S," Girls State, drama, Glee Club, etc.). She attended Skidmore College and fulfilled her high school dream of working with children, raising three and being a model homemaker, devoted community volunteer (she volunteers at the Vermont History Center) and a true daughter of Barre. Her father and brother were in the granite finishing business.

Whether born as a Granai or married into the family, these wonderful people are proud of their Barre and Spaulding roots and are further proof of the legacy of distinguished citizens who have gone forth from the building which now houses the Vermont History Center. 

*Sarah L. Dopp, VHS Board President and daughter of 1928 SHS graduate Leroy J. Dopp, Jr.*



**Vermont History Center**  
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## Development

### Please Help Meet the Match!

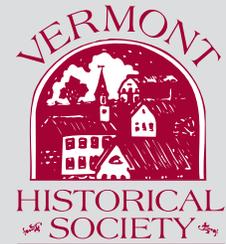
Every dollar you give by December 31<sup>st</sup> will be matched dollar-for-dollar if it is a new membership or an increase over your last year's donations—up to a total of \$5,000. Many thanks to Barbara and Wolfgang Mieder for this extraordinary and generous challenge donation!

### Give the Gift of History for the Holidays!

Keep friends and family in touch with Vermont's heritage by giving them a VHS membership. They'll get history articles and news all year long!

*For that special gift for the history lover on your list!*

- Check out the store online or stop in at the Vermont History Museum store in Montpelier.
- VHS memberships keep giving all year round: there is free admission to the library and museum, a subscription to *Vermont History* journal, 15% discount on museum store purchases and more!



**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](mailto:jane.campbell@state.vt.us).

### Mystery Photo

Last issue's mystery photo of a trolley (inset) was another one that stumped our readership.

One reader thought it was the parade of the last trolley in Burlington before it was ceremonially burned in 1929, but this is a different trolley car than the one in that event; we also can not identify the buildings in this photo.

This issue's mystery photo comes from a collection of glass plate negatives by H. L. Chapman of Windham (see page 4). It shows one of the many local ski jumps that once dotted Vermont's winter landscape. It was probably located in northern Windham County or neighboring New Hampshire. If you can identify the location of this scene please contact the Society's librarian, Paul Carnahan, at [paul.carnahan@state.vt.us](mailto:paul.carnahan@state.vt.us) or 802-479-8508.

