

CHistory Connections

Vermont Historical Society

News &
Notes

Winter 2009 / Volume #3 / Number 2



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

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

Many thanks to our newsletter sponsor:



Community, Connections and Collections

VHS Co-Presented the 55th Annual League of Local Historical Societies Meeting

Downtown Bellows Falls was alive with energy on November 7th, 2008, as 120 representatives of local historical societies gathered from all over the state to attend the 55th Annual League of Historical Societies meeting at the opera house.

"With over 195 historical societies in Vermont, here was our chance to mix and network, and learn more in depth about the history of our state," said Lisa Evans, VHS's League of Local Historical Societies Manager. "We also learned from each other about running a local historical society, as most of these historical societies are volunteer organizations without a full-time staff."

The presentations covered a range of topics including acceptance of donations, standards of scanning software, surveying Vermont barns, local archaeology digs, and ways to encourage younger generations to become involved in Vermont's history.

Along with panel forums, the day-long event featured a theatrical historical performance, "Mildred Taken Crazy," performed by the Mudtime Theater Group. Participants also toured downtown Bellows Falls, and enjoyed an awards ceremony honoring their achievements. "I was so impressed by the passion and selfless dedication that our participants have for the study and preservation of our state's history," said Evans. "We all benefit from their efforts, whether it be cataloging the epitaphs in town cemeteries, rehabilitating historic buildings, or publishing individual and town histories."

Keynote speaker David Donath agreed. "Our stories root people deeply to their places." Donath, American Association for State and Local History Chair and Executive Director of the Woodstock Foundation, added, "Through the study of history, we can get perspective, grounding, and a sense of who we are today."

The League of Local Historical Societies Annual Meeting is presented yearly by the Vermont Historical Society and The Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance. This year's event was sponsored by Chroma Technology Corp., Sovernet Communications, TransCanada Corporation, Main Street Landing Co., Governor Thomas P. Salmon, R.A.M.P., and Massucco Law Offices, PC.

For the award winners of this event, please see:
<http://www.vermonthistory.org/leagueawards>



Stephen Hays accepting Montgomey Award.



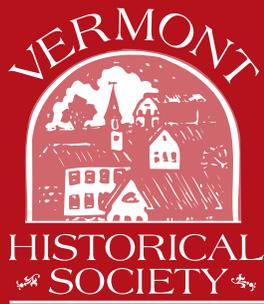
Robert McBride, R.A.M.P.; Jane Lendway, VT State Historic Preservation Officer; John LaBarge, Scenic Byway Coordinator; Leann Tingay, Downtown Specialist.



Sherman Howe, Woodstock, Lifetime Achievement Award.



Members of Halifax Historical Society accepting an award for publications.



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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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Nick Ward

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second Sat. of each month / 9am-4pm
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From the Director

Connecting with the Past, in Good Times and Bad



As you may have noticed, the Winter 2009 *History Connections* newsletter you are holding looks different. Changing paper, using fewer inks, and not stapling saves a few cents per newsletter. VHS has begun making some changes which you may begin to notice over the next few months. These kinds of subtle and sometimes not so subtle changes are a reflection of the times we live in.

We've had to reduce the hours and days of access to our Freedom and Unity museum exhibit. We've made staff reductions and asked the entire staff to reduce the hours that they work. The big news is the suspension of this year's Vermont History Expo. We made the decision on November 21st, sent out press releases, notified our local historical societies, and have received dozens of emails and letters of support of this decision. Please see Tess Taylor's article on page 5 for more details.

Although as Vermonters we may often feel set apart by our state's heritage and free-thinking spirit, our economy is not exempt from the effects of what is going on nationally. Taking care of our most vulnerable populations are, of course, at the top of anyone's priority list. That's the unity and community part of our *Freedom and Unity* motto. But, where does protecting the foundation of our state fit in?

Fortunately we live in a remarkable state, where there is pride in the values, quality of life and physical landscape that make the Vermont experience unique. Preserving our heritage is a responsibility that is understood and accepted by our loyal members, donors and state officials, all of whom make the work of VHS possible. If, in these times, we need to look for less from the government and accept that the generosity of our donors may, by necessity, be curtailed, it's only appropriate that we take prudent steps to keep our own budget in equilibrium.

Since our founding in 1838, we have provided a healthy model for private/public partnership. Most of our operating costs have been covered or funded by members and donors. Government help has varied from year to year, but our independent private status has allowed us to survive the vicissitudes of budget cycles. We're confident that this cycle, while challenging, will be no different. We are, after all, Vermonters.

I was contacted recently by a major financial journal wanting me to comment on why Vermont had the lowest incidence of mortgage foreclosures of any state in the union. It was clear this reporter didn't want to hear about the fact that we had been spared much of the effect of skyrocketing home values, or that we have one of the oldest populations in the country or other fact-based explanations.

No, he wanted to ascribe it to the iconic history of "Vermonters" ... a perception that Vermont is not prey to the allure of conspicuous consumption, a place more virtuous, more conducive to imagined qualities of a simpler time in an imagined past. He wanted to hear about a Vermont history that was a crucible for forging Vermonters who are more frugal, industrious, temperate and shrewd than the mass of populations in other states who have lost touch with their past.

While the truth is far more complicated than the sound bite he was seeking, who was I to shatter his vision of Vermont and its connection to the past? In times like these we all need visions that nurture the spirit. As he agreed to send in a VHS membership I felt just a bit more frugal, industrious, temperate and shrewd. Perhaps he was right.

– Nick Ward, *Interim Executive Director, Vermont Historical Society*



Vermont History Center, Barre. Library: Tues. - Fri. / 9am - 4 pm; Wed. (Labor Day - Memorial Day) / 9am - 8pm; second Sat. of each month / 9am - 4pm.
Administrative Offices & Store: Mon. - Fri / 9am - 4pm.
Museum & Store, Montpelier, Pavilion Building: Tues - Fri / 10am-4pm.

VHS's Coolidge Portrait Goes to Washington



The Vermont Historical Society Library is participating in a new exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., that opened on Inauguration Day 2009. The exhibit, entitled *Presidents in Waiting*, focuses on the office of the vice presidency and the individuals who first served in that office and then later became president.

The office of the vice president was created by the framers of the Constitution to provide a quick and peaceful succession in the event of the president's death or incapacity. Fourteen of the men who were vice presidents became president either by winning election on their own, upon the death of an incumbent or, in one case, by the resignation of the president. One of those vice presidents who became president was Vermont's native son Calvin Coolidge.

Coolidge was elected vice president in 1920 with Warren G. Harding as president. Coolidge was visiting his boyhood home in Plymouth Notch, Vermont, when Harding died suddenly on August 2, 1923. Coolidge was sworn in to office by his father in the family parlor by the light of kerosene lamps, providing a dramatic start to his presidency.

The VHS library has lent the National Portrait Gallery a photograph of Calvin Coolidge chiseling out a damaged portion of a tree in front of his father's house. The photograph was taken the day before he became president. Coolidge is seen wearing a tie, vest, and hat as he stands on a plank to reach the tree. Although there are several versions of this photograph in existence, all taken by professional photographers, the photograph loaned by the VHS is from a small photograph album kept by Coolidge's wife Grace, who herself would become first lady the next day.

"The role of the vice presidency has been debated throughout the history of our country," said Martin E. Sullivan, director of the National Portrait Gallery. *Presidents in Waiting* is a show that will be of interest to all who love the lore and legends of political history."

Joining Coolidge and the 12 other vice presidents in the exhibit is the other Vermonter who became president, Chester A. Arthur. The VHS did not loan any items about Arthur, who left the state as a young man. The exhibit continues through January 3, 2010, at the National Portrait Gallery, Eighth and F Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. 

Two-Week Closing Reaps Benefits for Leahy Library

For the past three years the library has closed for two weeks to give the staff an opportunity to catch up on processing. The same was also true this year when the library was closed from January 26 through February 6. This two-week hiatus, while not sufficient to eliminate the library's backlogs, has been the occasion for uncovering some interesting items. This was especially true during the winter of 2008 when we uncovered an album containing early twentieth century photographs of Dummerston, Vermont.

The album was assembled by Kate Albro Dix of Baltimore, Maryland, and it documents her visits to her relatives in Dummerston during the period 1901-1908. The photographs show different sections of the Windham County town focusing on "The Hollow" on Salmon Brook. This community included a sawmill, a store, and numerous residences. The album also shows the peach trees and bee hives at the nearby Miller orchards. Wonderfully, all of the photographs are labeled.

The album is organized roughly seasonally, depicting activities throughout the year including haying, husking corn, gathering potatoes, harvesting apples, cutting ice, maple sugaring, and strawberry picking. The album shows several scenes of people engaged in activities that are often overlooked by photographers. One photograph shows people spitting seeds from watermelons while on a picnic and another shows

an old woman bleaching her linens in the sun. "The depiction of the seasonal activities of this community will make this album especially useful to users of the Vermont Historical Society library," according to VHS Librarian Paul Carnahan.

Charles Fish of the Dummerston Historical Society has scanned the Dix album so that the images can be made available to researchers in that town. According to Fish, "This is a wonderful album; it contains photographs of Dummerston we have never seen before." Fish observed that the photographs are particularly well composed and technically executed. "They are superb photographs," he remarked.

The Dummerston photograph album, a relatively conventional black album with black pages, was carefully stored in a "Special Cataloging" box in the VHS vault, waiting for the right person to catalog it. As other projects demanded immediate attention, the materials in the box were all but forgotten. As the current library staff was looking through boxes in the vault, it was "rediscovered" and given the full cataloging treatment it deserved. At the same time, other interesting items were uncovered and cataloged by Marjorie Strong or Kay Schlueter so that they could be used by the public. The "Special Cataloging" boxes are now a thing of the past, although our cataloging backlogs persist. 

DECEIT or VALOR? *One Vermont Family's Decisions During the Civil War*

As a VHS volunteer, my current assignment is to sift through the Society's collections and identify Civil War material buried within them. While going through the Stevens Family Papers, I came across several very interesting letters from John C. Dolloff and his son Charles W. Dolloff, written to members of the Stevens family.

Forty-four-year-old John C. Dolloff, from Island Pond, Vermont, enlisted in Company E of the 12th Vermont Infantry Regiment on September 15, 1862. His regiment was in the Second Vermont Brigade, a nine-month unit, serving in Northern Virginia protecting the nation's capital. The letter that I was reading was dated Sunday, January 4, 1863, and written from Aquia Creek several miles from Fredericksburg. I thought this was odd as the Second Vermont Brigade's area of operation was much closer to Washington. Also, instead of writing about infantry operations the letter talked about building construction at Aquia Creek. Again, I thought this was odd. Then Dolloff revealed what was going on when he wrote:

There are some 1,000 men here building buildings, wharves and storehouses. This is the first Sunday for a long time that I have not worked. I have quite a little sum of money earned but when we shall get our pay I do not know. We may get our pay within a week and we may not in a month . . . I am getting good pay over Sixty \$ per month but don't let this letter be seen if you do I shall loose my chance and pay. I have got a chance that no other private has got and can keep it until my nine months is out if there is nothing said. I am not known here as a soldier by [but] I am simply detached but I save leave from my colonel to get all I can if I keep it still. Now burn this letter when you read it and don't say nary about me.

Now I understood. John C. Dolloff was serving in the 12th Vermont as an infantryman, while at the same time working as a civilian contractor and raking in the money. He seemingly was doing this with the permission of his colonel, Redfield Proctor. I thought Dolloff was just bragging about something that was not true. Surely his colonel would not condone this. I put all of this in the back of my mind for several months until I had the chance to go to the National Archives in Washington, D. C., on a research trip. While there, I requested Dolloff's compiled military service record and lo and behold, there it was in his record. He was "On detached service with the Engineer Dept." from November 1862 until June 1863. It was true. His colonel, a future Vermont Governor, Secretary of War and U.S. Senator, was complicit in this illegal arrangement.

On June 23, 1863, the Second Vermont Brigade was assigned to the I Corps of the Army of the Potomac and three days later was on the march to Gettysburg with the rest of the army. Just before the move, John C. Dolloff was recalled from his "detached service" and assigned to the division wagon train. So instead of making the grueling march to Gettysburg on foot, he drove a wagon. When the Second Vermont Brigade arrived at Gettysburg, the 12th and 15th Vermont regiments were assigned to guard the I Corps wagon trains five miles



Father & son: John C. Dolloff and Charles William Dolloff (right).

behind the battlefield. After the battle of Gettysburg the Second Vermont Brigade's nine months of service was up. John C. Dolloff was mustered out with the rest of the 12th Vermont on August 5, 1863, without ever firing a shot in combat. He returned to Vermont and went back to farming in Island Pond. He died a little less than a year later on April 23, 1864 and was buried in Island Pond's Old Protestant Cemetery.

Now for the irony. Charles William Dolloff, John C. Dolloff's son, was born May 10, 1844, in Parishville, New York, and moved with his family to Island Pond, Vermont, sometime prior to 1860. He enlisted in Co. K of the 11th Vermont Infantry Regiment on November 25, 1863. The 11th Vermont had been mustered into service September 1, 1862, and sent to Washington, D. C. Upon arrival in Washington the regiment was converted to a heavy artillery unit and manned several of the forts ringed Washington. Such was the unit's mission when Private Charles W. Dolloff arrived. In May 1864, after the Army of the Potomac's horrific losses at the battle of the Wilderness, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant ordered the heavy artillery units in Washington to be converted back to infantry regiments and hurried to the front. The 11th Vermont arrived at Spotsylvania Court House on May 15 and was under fire for the first time three days later. After that, the 11th Vermont fought at Cold Harbor and Petersburg. Then, with the rest of the Old Vermont Brigade, it fought in the Shenandoah Valley at Charles Town, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek. Then, in December 1864, the Vermonters returned to the trenches around Petersburg.

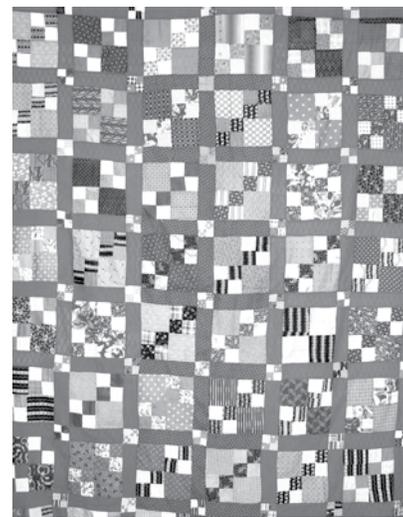
On April 2, 1865, the Army of the Potomac broke through the Confederate defenses at Petersburg. The Old Vermont Brigade was the tip of the spear that penetrated the Confederate lines. During that assault Charles W. Dolloff, by now a sergeant, captured the battle flag of the 42nd Mississippi Infantry Regiment. For this act of bravery he was awarded the Medal of Honor on April 24, 1865. Unlike his father, Charles W. Dolloff met the enemy on many fields of battle during his time in the army. He was mustered out August 25, 1865, and like so many other Vermonters after the war, he moved west. He died August 2, 1884, near Cancon, Wisconsin and was buried in Forest Cemetery in nearby Stevens Point. 

Paul G. Zeller is a volunteer at the VHS. The letters referenced here come from the Stevens Family Letters, Misc. 1330. The photos are from the Stevens Family Papers, MSC 175.

Family FUN at the Museum!

Thanks to the generosity of the Walker family of Weston, the museum has added two quilts and two quilt tops to the collections. One of the quilt tops was made by Henry Walker (shown right) in the 1920s to keep himself busy while he was bedridden with arthritis. Walker was born in Andover in 1859 and graduated from Black River Academy in Ludlow in 1881. He taught school for a while, married at age forty, and settled on a farm in Weston. According to the family, Henry was active in community affairs, serving as Weston town moderator and as a deacon of the Simonsville Congregational Church. Not only is the Double Four Patch quilt top unusual because it was made by a man, but by a man crippled by arthritis who also damaged some of his fingers in a cornshucker accident as a child. Even more extraordinary is the fact that Henry Walker pieced together twenty-two quilt tops in the two years before his death in 1927. A special note of appreciation must be given to the Vermont Quilt Search staff, especially Richard Cleveland, who advised the Walker family to give the quilt to the VHS. 

Quilt top in the Double Four Patch pattern. Made by Henry Walker, circa 1925, from pieced cotton. 



Educational Outreach

Vermont History Expo is Postponed for 2009

This year's Vermont History Expo was suspended. We sent the following information to our local historical societies:

The Board of Trustees of the Vermont Historical Society met on Friday, November 21st. We regret to inform you that at that meeting, the decision was been made to suspend the History Expo for this upcoming year ('09). Just like our fellow not-for-profits, VHS is looking at a shortfall in our budget due, factors beyond our control: cuts to our state appropriation and the economic downturn that has reduced the likelihood that some of our donors will be able to maintain their level of giving, plus our own investments have been compromised.

Expo has had a broader and more positive impact than anyone anticipated when it was first conceived. It has become a VHS signature event. This year of suspended activity will afford us the opportunity to create a plan for keeping the EXPO experience fresh and responsive to our audiences.

This was a difficult decision. Everyone is fond of Expo. We understand how it increased recognition of local historical societies and has fostered interest in Vermont History like no other event or program has. However, Expo has a huge budget that utilizes a large amount of staff time, and it will help us to keep the rest of the on-going programs on track. Other factors we considered are that it will be more difficult to secure donors at this time, costs to the Local Historical Societies will probably mean that fewer will attend, and the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial celebration is likely to draw support and attendance away from Expo.

We've since been overwhelmed by messages from Expo participants. Their words were first of disappointment and then understanding. Most were enthusiastic – seeing this decision as an opportunity to change or improve the Expo experience. Please contact Tess Taylor at tess.taylor@state.vt.us or 802.479.8505 if you have any suggestions you'd like to share about the future of the Vermont History Expo. 

History Day 2009

The 2009 Vermont History Day curriculum packet is available. Open to students in grades 6-12, including home study students, Vermont History Day challenges students to be historians. Students, working individually or in small groups, research a topic related to the annual theme and present their analysis as a documentary, performance, exhibit, web site, or essay. The 2009 theme is "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies." The Vermont History Day contest will be held Saturday, April 4, 2009 at Spaulding High School, Barre. State winners can qualify to attend National History Day at the University of Maryland in June.

For additional information or to request a curriculum packet, please contact Victoria Hughes at victoria.hughes@state.vt.us; (802) 828-1413 or www.vermonthistory.org/historyday. Vermont History Day is sponsored by the VHS and is affiliated with National History Day.



The 2008 Vermont delegation participated in National History Day in Washington, DC.

Ten Tuttle Treasures Exhibit Celebrates Library Fund

The display case in the library currently highlights contributions of the Tuttle family of Rutland to Vermont publishing. It also honors Reiko and Charles E. Tuttle, Jr., on the occasion of the creation of the library fund bearing their names.

The Tuttle family trace their publishing and printing heritage to George A. Tuttle & Co., founded in 1832 in Rutland. The company grew and Charles E. Tuttle, Sr., a member of the third generation of Rutland Tuttle, became a dealer of antiquarian books and supplier to special collections libraries around the country. His son, Charles Jr., established the Tokyo branch of his father's company in 1948 and built a reputation as the premier publisher of books about Japan.

The VHS library exhibit includes sales materials from the Tuttle Company and two books published by the Rutland firm. Most of the materials relate to Charles E. Tuttle Sr., and his relationship with the Vermont Historical Society as a life member and supplier of rare books.

The display includes a broadside for an 1862 political convention in Chelsea and a signed copy of Robert Frost poems, both purchased from Tuttle. Joining them in the display case is a drawer from the card file at the Tuttle's store that maintained the antiquarian bookstore's inventory.

Also on display is a November 19, 1927, letter from VHS librarian Dorman B. E. Kent to Harold G. Rugg of the Society's collections committee, describing Charles Tuttle's trip to Montpelier to assist the Society in its salvage efforts after the devastating 1927 flood. The exhibit will remain on display through the end of February.

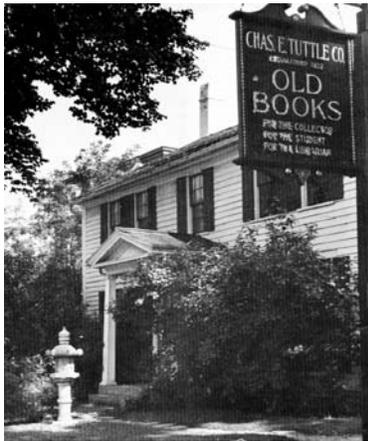


Photo courtesy of Sherman Howe, Jr., originally published in Vermont Life, Autumn 1967, p. 31.

VHS Teams up with St. Michael's To Present Martin Luther King Jr. Day Program

In celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, VHS and St. Michael's College teamed up to present "Brothers and Sisters in Selma: Vermont Catholic Activism in the Civil Rights Era," a series of dramatic readings about the Society of St. Edmunds' involvement in the civil rights era. Over 40 years ago, priests from the Society of St. Edmunds, largely against orders, traveled to Selma, Alabama to show solidarity with the civil rights movement. Last spring, St. Michael's College History Department Chair Susan Ouellette and Archivist Elizabeth Scott worked with students to process archives related to the priests' trip to Selma. The students worked from the Society of St. Edmunds' archives, which reside at St. Michael's College, and they subsequently traveled to Selma themselves, which made their research alive and real to them. This program presented their findings in the archives as well as a recounting of their trip. The event, scheduled for January 19 at the History Center in Barre, and January 12 in Colchester at St. Michael's, takes place as this publication is being printed. Sponsors: Robin Lloyd & Rubin, Kidney, Myer and DeWolfe.

Thank You to our League Sponsors

Many thanks to the generous sponsors of the 55th Annual League of Local Historical Societies Meeting:

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TransCanada Corporation

Other Sponsors:

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R.A.M.P. – Rockingham Arts and Museum Project
Gov. Thomas P. Salmon

In Memorium

Margot George, assistant to the director of the Vermont Historical Society from 1973 through 1983, passed away December 17, 2008, after a brief illness. Margot, who was known as Margaret George Cueto when she worked at the VHS, was involved in the Society's planning for the U.S. Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. In 1975 Margot was a founder of the Montpelier Heritage Group, an organization that advocated for the restoration of the historic appearance of the capital city's buildings. Margot, who ran her own real estate agency in Montpelier and Berlin for 25 years, served as a member and then chairperson of Montpelier's Design Review Committee for almost two decades, working to preserve and protect Montpelier's historic character. Her outspoken advocacy for Montpelier's historic structures will be missed.

We are also sad to note that Janet McCloskey Strauss, a founding supporter of the Vermont History Expo, passed away recently.

Each of Us Leaves a Legacy

Each of us leaves a legacy – to our loved ones and our communities – through a lifetime of words, deeds and accomplishments. Your legacy can also help save Vermont’s heritage for future generations, offering them the wisdom, stories and objects of Vermont’s past.

When you include Vermont Historical Society in your will or estate plan, you join our special Vermont Historical Society Legacy Circle. You will receive a Legacy Circle certificate, and if you wish, your name will be included in the next annual report listing of the Legacy Society. If you’d like to provide for VHS in your estate plan, it can be simple:

- Amend your will or trust
- Name Vermont Historical Society as beneficiary of an IRA or insurance policy
- Create a trust to save taxes and include the Society
- Give real estate or other assets

Some of these options have tax advantages. For more information or to let us know VHS is in your estate plan, please contact: Jane Campbell, 802.479.8516 or jane.campbell@state.vt.us.

Give Through Your IRA!

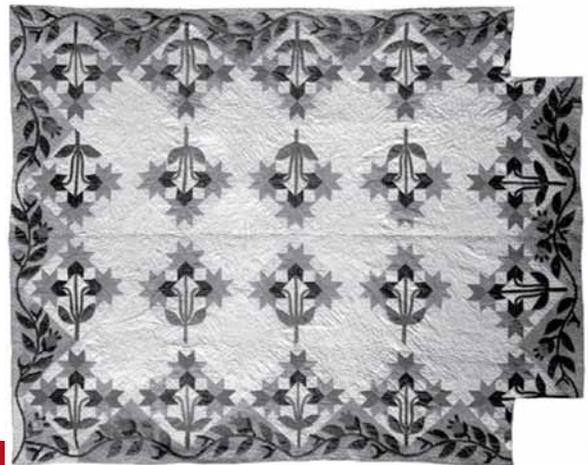
If you are 70½ or older, you may want donate to Vermont Historical Society from your IRA and save on taxes! Or, you can designate Vermont Historical Society as a beneficiary of your IRA. As always, please consult your financial advisor to see what’s best for you.

Do You Love Quilts?

Antique quilts represent daily life, family history, and social activities, ranging from simple bed-coverings to works of art made for special occasions. We are looking for people who understand the important role quilts play in telling the story of our history. The VHS quilts and rolled textile collection contain items that document over 200 years of Vermont-made or Vermont-owned handiwork.

Unfortunately, the rollers these fragile textiles are stored on are sagging, straining the delicate fabrics.

We have a generous grant from the Bay and Paul Foundation to replace the storage system but we need to raise an additional \$3,700 to protect this invaluable antique textile collection. If you’re interested in donating toward this project, please contact Jane Campbell, 802.479.8516 or jane.campbell@state.vt.us. Thank you! 🍷



October 10-25, 2009

Holy Land & Cradle of Civilization Cruise

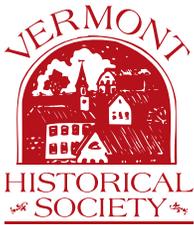
Join other history enthusiasts on this trip co-sponsored with the Maine Historical Society. Visit Luxor, the Sphinx, the Pyramids and the Suez Canal. Ancient history and the modern world come together in the biblical cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. From the cradle of Christianity, you’ll sail to the Byzantine Empire, ending the 14-day cruise in Sicily and Sorrento.

For more info, go to www.vermonthistory.org/cruise, or contact Jane Campbell, 802.479.8516 or jane.campbell@state.vt.us.



What is the use of living, if it be not to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who will live in it after we are gone?

– Winston Churchill



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Upcoming Events

Calendar 2009

Saturday, February 14

(Ages 6-10): **Family Fun at the Museum! Celebrating George Washington: Creating Wigs and Silhouettes.** 10 am-12 noon at the Vermont History Museum, Pavilion Building, 109 State St., Montpelier. \$8/child; members, \$5. Parents free. Call 828-2180 or e-mail geraldine.brown@state.vt.us.

Wednesday, February 25

In honor of the Lincoln bicentennial, **Linda Radtke** performs from the "**Vermont Civil War Song book**," 7:30 pm-8:30 pm, Vermont State House, State Street, Montpelier. Part of the popular Farmers' Night series. Linda searched the VHS archives to find songs from the Civil War era. Linda will be accompanied on the piano by John Lincoln (very distant relative!). All are welcome, the performance is free.

Saturday, March 14

(Ages 11-13) **Family Fun at the Museum! Tying Up the Season: Rope Twisting and Knot Tying,** 10 am-12 noon, at the Vermont History Museum, Pavilion Building, 109 State St., Montpelier. \$8/child; members \$5. Parents free. Call 828-2180 or e-mail geraldine.brown@state.vt.us.

Saturday, April 4

Vermont History Day. Theme: **The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies.** Spaulding High School in Barre.

See our website for calendar updates:
vermonthistory.org

Mystery Photo

Last issue's mystery photograph (inset) was identified by members Susanne Rappaport, Ferguson McKay, and Betty Gilbert as the Pawlet Town Hall. Ms Rappaport, who is curator of the Pawlet Historical Society, tells us that the photo dates from about 1890 when Orlando Bushee was the Town Clerk. The photo was probably taken by his daughter, Nellie Bushee, a photographer who succeeded her father as town clerk.

This issue's mystery photograph is of a man skiing through a town as crowds look on. A sign on one building says "Murray Inn." If you can identify this building, please contact the Society's librarian, Paul Carnahan: paul.carnahan@state.vt.us or 802-479-8508.

