

# History Connections

Vermont Historical Society  
News & Notes

Fall 2014 / Volume #9 / Number 1

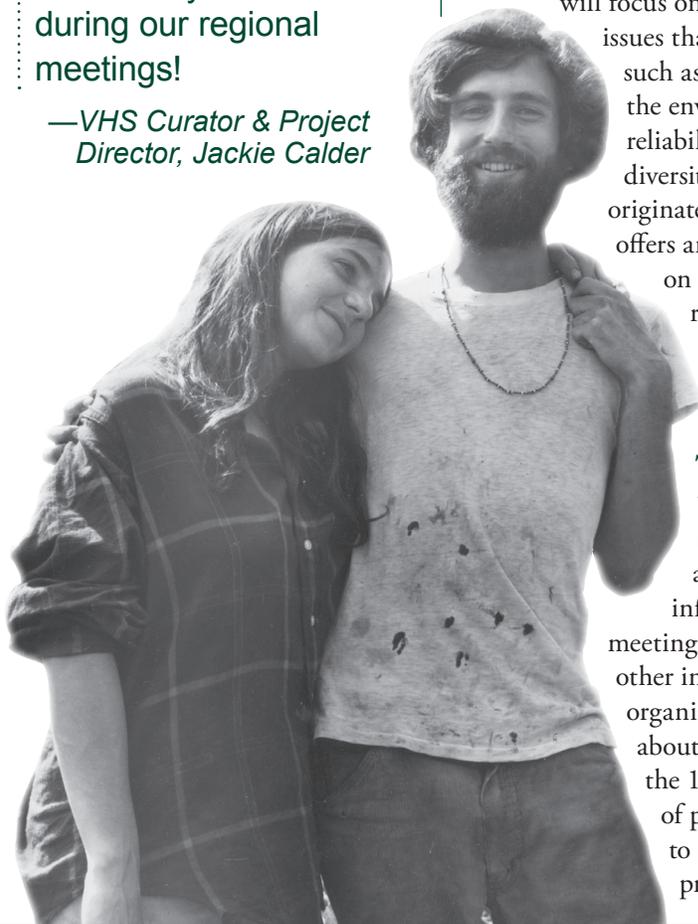


Since 1838

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

We're looking forward to some lively discussions during our regional meetings!

—VHS Curator & Project Director, Jackie Calder



## 1970s Counterculture project receives IMLS funding Colleges, Communes & Coops

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded the Vermont Historical Society a grant to explore *Colleges, Communes and Coops: 1970s Counterculture in Vermont*.

### Counterculture's lasting effects

During the next two years VHS staff will capture, preserve, and present to the public the history of the 1970s counterculture movement, which played a key role in shaping present-day Vermont. This project will focus on how many current issues that interest Vermonters—such as food resources, security, the environment, energy reliability, land use, political diversity, and arts and crafts—originated in the 1970s. This era offers an important perspective on today's issues but has received little exploration and lacks original documents and eye-witness accounts.

### Tell us your story

The project will begin this fall and winter with a series of regional information-gathering meetings. VHS will partner with other interested groups to organize these meetings to hear about people's experiences in the 1970s and gather names of people who might want to participate in the project. UVM Professor

Dona Brown, an expert on the Back-to-the-Land Movement in America, will be our consultant. She will help throughout the project—training staff, providing information about historical resources, and reviewing content. The Vermont Folklife Center will provide training for VHS so we can record a minimum of 50 oral histories. At the same time, VHS staff will search for counterculture artifacts to document or add to its museum and library collections.

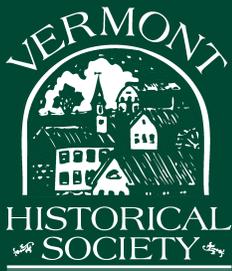
During 2015, we will research and organize what we have recorded and collected. Then another series of regional meetings will be held to tell the public about findings and get more input on Vermont's counterculture.

### Exhibit to open in 2016

In the fall of 2016, the Vermont Historical Society will open a 1,200 square foot exhibit and an online exhibit using counterculture discoveries. We will feature borrowed and donated materials, as well as oral history excerpts. VHS will host an exciting symposium about the 1970s counterculture movement and how it impacts our world today. All research, interviews, and materials will be archived and added to the collections at the Vermont History Center in Barre—accessible for future researchers.

### Watch our site for more info

Look for announcements about the project and where the regional meetings will be taking place near you. For more information, contact Jackie Calder at (802) 479-8514 or [jackie.calder@state.vt.us](mailto:jackie.calder@state.vt.us). *This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*



Since 1838

Fall 2014

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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.

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

**Vermont History Museum & Bookstore**

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

**Vermont History Center**

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

• **Vermont Heritage Galleries, Offices & Book Nook**  
• Monday–Friday 9am to 4pm

• **Leahy Library**  
• Tuesday–Friday 9am to 4pm  
• Wednesday 9am to 8pm  
• Second Saturdays 9am to 4pm  
• (802) 479-8509

• **Library admission:**  
• Non-members: \$5  
• Members and students: Free

**One admission fee gives access to both the Vermont Heritage Galleries & Vermont History Museum:**

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

### Tribute to Lola Aiken

Lola Aiken was a true friend to the Vermont Historical Society. In the weeks since her passing on September 8, we have joined with other Vermonters in remembering her extraordinary life. In addition to making history during her 102 years, Lola shared our passion for preserving Vermont's history.

Her service to heritage organizations was considerable. She served as a Vermont Historical Society Trustee from 1985 to 1991, as vice president from 1991 to 1993, and as an honorary trustee for the past two decades.

Lola's passion for the past was expressed through her involvement with the Friends of the Vermont State House, the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation, and Rockingham Meeting House.

While I did not know her well, I remember each encounter with fondness—a smile and a friendly wave at her

favorite coffee shop in Montpelier, a handshake and some encouraging words in the halls of the State House, or her gleeful laughter when

I shared a photo of her husband with her at the Vermont History Museum one afternoon. Her 100th birthday celebration in the Cedar Creek Room a couple of years ago was a memorable event. I am glad I was there.

Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to Lola Aiken's family and her many friends from throughout the Green Mountain State. She will be missed by each of us whose lives she touched and the many organizations whose cause became her cause.

She will be missed by each of us whose lives she touched . . .

Mark S. Hudson, *Executive Director*



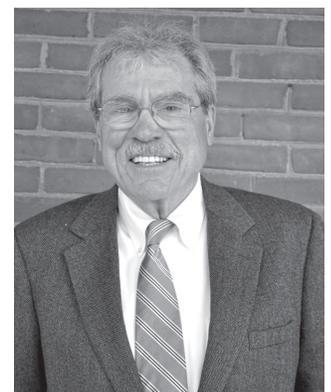
### Please welcome our new trustees!



For 37 years, **Mary Leahy** was co-director of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education. She is a resident of Marshfield and active in the Marshfield Historical Society. Mary also is chair of the Friends of the Vermont State House.



**Nancy Hill** is a native of Greensboro. She is active with the Greensboro Historical Society, a founder of the Greensboro Land Trust, and works as a commissioner for the District 7 Environmental Commission.



**Mark MacDonald** of Williamstown represents Orange County in the State Senate. He served in the Vermont House of Representatives from 1983–1994, and in the Senate from 1996–1998 and from 2002–present.

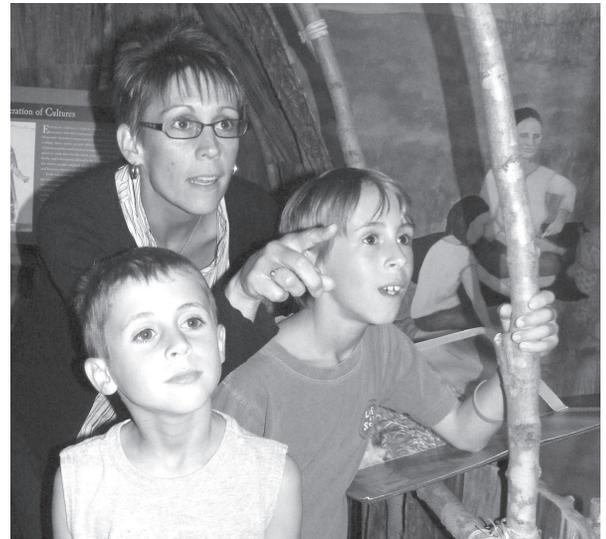
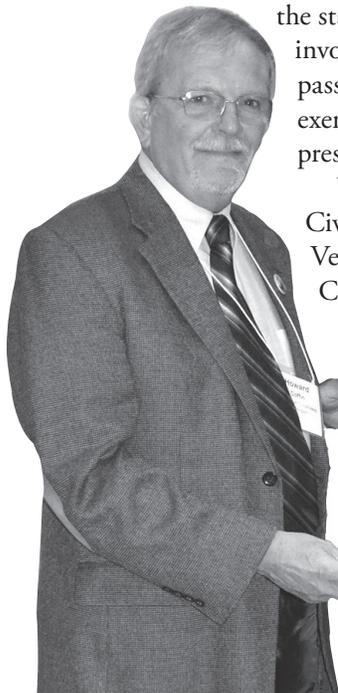
## Award fund established in 2006— Hathaway continues to inspire

The Vermont Historical Society presented Howard Coffin with the Richard O. Hathaway award for his book *Something Abides: Discovering the Civil War in Today's Vermont*.

"It was a difficult decision among five other nominees from around the state," said Mark Hudson. "Howard's long involvement with historic preservation and his passionate publications about the Civil War exemplify Dick Hathaway's dedication to the preservation of Vermont history."

With the guidance of *Something Abides*, Civil War sites can be located in beautiful Vermont towns that still resemble the Civil War era.

The Hathaway Award is given each year in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the field of Vermont history. This fund was begun many years ago and continues to inspire the same scholarship, passion, and deep inclusiveness that Richard Hathaway brought to his life and work. 



Kelly and her sons were featured in many Vermont Historical Society promotional materials.

## Good luck to Kelly Carbo!

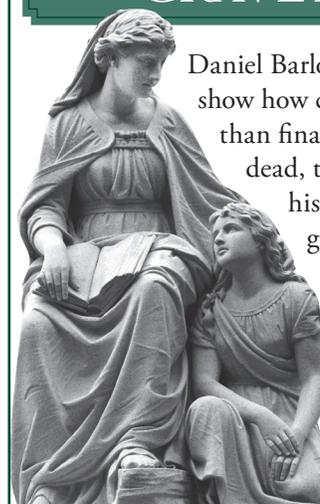
For the past eight years our Director of Finance and Operations, Kelly Carbo, has been making sure that our finances are handled properly, that our facilities operate smoothly, and that everyone gets paid on time! Last month she departed the VHS to take a position managing the financial operations of the state's judiciary. The staff and Board of Trustees of the Vermont Historical Society extend thanks to Kelly for her dedication and positive attitude in this challenging position. We wish her the very best in her new position with the State of Vermont. 



Laura Warren, KeyBank's District Operations Manager, presented Executive Director Mark Hudson with a check from KeyBank to help support Second Saturday programs at the History Center in Barre.

**NEW EXHIBIT!**

## Green Mountain GRAVEYARDS



Daniel Barlow and Scott Baer show how cemeteries are more than final resting places for the dead, they are also important historic sites that express grief through art.

Exhibit on display at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier until April 2015. Admission included with museum fee.

Highlights of fiscal year

# 2014

**July 2013**

Launched the first season of Second Saturdays, a monthly lecture series at the History Center in Barre

**August 2013**

Published the book: *Uncommon Law, Ancient Roads and Other Ruminations on Vermont Legal History*, by author and legal historian Paul Gillies

**September 2013**

Presented the symposium "Colleges, Communes and Coops" as part of the VHS annual meeting

**October 2013**

Offered the Webinar broadcast: *Beyond Ancestry.com*

**November 2013**

Celebrated our 175th birthday with a bash at the History Center in Barre

**December 2013**

Continued *History for Homeschoolers*, hands-on education for Vermont children ages 6 to 12

*continued next page—*



## FY2014 Unaudited Statement of Activities June 30, 2014

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**Revenue**

Contributions and Bequests	595,761
State Appropriation	919,184
Investment Income	388,072
Admissions, Fees and Earned Income	73,772
VT History Bookstore Sales	65,776
Other Revenue	28,403

**Total Revenue** 2,070,968

**Expense**

Administration & Finance	231,486
Facilities Operations	188,515
Pavilion Rent	214,016
Interest on Debt	20,714
Development	185,021
Community Relations	24,376
Museum	263,259
Library	257,258
Public Programs & Publications	565,104
VT History Bookstore	38,915

**Total Expenses** 1,988,664

**Change in Net Assets** 82,304

**Interfund Transfers** 0

**Net Assets, June 30, 2013** 7,515,290

**Prior Year Net Asset Adjustment** 0

**Net Assets, June 30, 2014** 7,597,593



**FY2014 Unaudited  
Balance Sheet  
June 30, 2014**

**Assets**

Cash	324,863
Investments	2,364,819
Other Current Assets	357,164
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,046,846</b>
Property & Equipment	7,500,556
Depreciation	(1,862,737)
<b>Total Property &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>5,637,819</b>

**Total Assets**

**8,684,665**

**Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	102,263
Other Current Liabilities	32,280
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>134,543</b>
Mortgage Payable	883,864
Other Long-term Liabilities	68,665
<b>Total Long-term Liabilities</b>	<b>952,529</b>

**Total Liabilities**

**1,087,072**

**Net Assets**

**7,597,593**

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets**

**8,684,665**

**The Leahy Library is used by researchers of all ages**

Online Public Access Catalog  
total records: 32,990  
on-site library patrons: 773  
phone, email, and mail: 1,193



**Public programs & outreach statewide**

VHS event attendees: 8,675

**Teacher workshops**

7 workshops, 89 teachers

**Homeschool classes**

total participants: 611



**January 2014**

Commemorated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with programs by Amani Whitfield on the topic of his book, *The Problem of Slavery in Early Vermont*

**February 2014**

Presented a lively program of stories and music from World War I to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the conflict

**March 2014**

Explored the role of women artists in Vermont during a Vermont Women's History Project program

**April 2014**

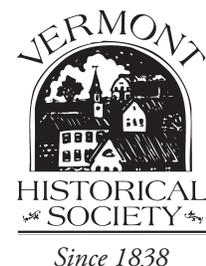
Coordinated Vermont History Day at Spaulding High School in Barre—a statewide competition for middle school and senior high school students

**May 2014**

In conjunction with our co-publisher, The Woodstock Foundation, released *The Vermont Difference: Perspectives on the Green Mountain State*, a collection of 20 essays on distinctive aspects of life in Vermont

**June 2014**

Shared stories of Vermont's artists and artisans at Vermont History Expo 2014 in Tunbridge



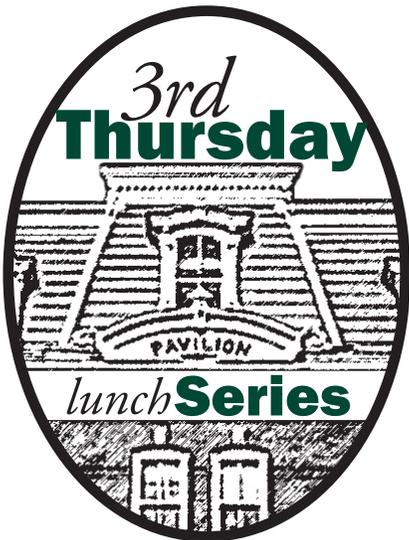


*This fall, Carmen Dente visited the Barre Heritage Gallery's Granite City exhibit, which was made possible in part by a generous gift from Carmen and her late husband Gino Dente.*

## Vermont history research wins accolades



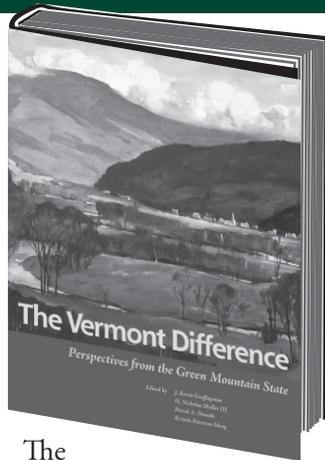
*Above left, Laura Warren presents the president's award to Gene Sessions. At right, Susan Nevins receives the Weston Cate award from Mark Hudson. Michael Laramie won the Ben Lane award, but was unable to attend the VHS annual meeting.*



The Third Thursday lunch series will begin in January for the second year at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. Please feel free to bring your bag lunch so you can eat while you listen to informative programs about Vermont history!

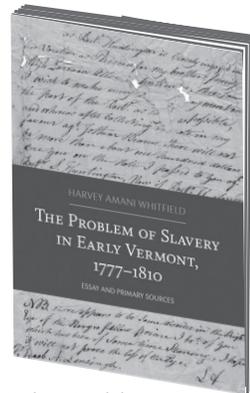
For more information, contact Amanda Gustin, Public Programs Coordinator, at (802) 828-2180. You can also check our website at: [vermonthistory.org/calendar](http://vermonthistory.org/calendar).

## Essential gifts for your favorite history buff!



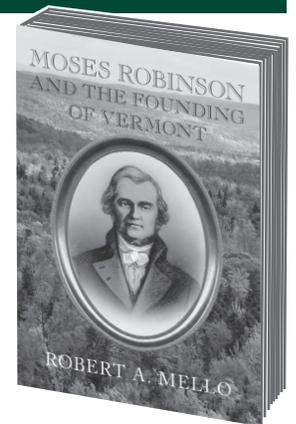
The Vermont Difference: Perspectives from the Green Mountain State, edited by J. Kevin Graffagnino, H. Nicholas Muller III, David A. Donath and Kristin Peterson-Ishaq

**Hardcover \$39.95**  
**Softcover \$27.95**



The Problem of Slavery in Early Vermont, 1777-1810, by Harvey Amani Whitfield

**Softcover \$19.95**



Moses Robinson and the Founding of Vermont, by Robert A. Mello

**Softcover \$34.95**



Take a peek at more publications in **New Titles** included inside this issue of **History Connections!**

Easy to shop online: [vermonthistory.org/store](http://vermonthistory.org/store)



## Vermont history is worth saving

Please help us protect something special! Vermont's traditions and artifacts are priceless treasures—some of the most important tools used to explore and understand our communities and our state.

The Vermont Historical Society is the caretaker of these artifacts and histories—and the wisdom they bring.



### And we need your help.

Our **History Worth Saving Campaign** needs to raise \$25,000 to help protect the history that we work to preserve—the Vermont history that is available to you and thousands of others each day.

This is part of the \$567,000 we need to raise this year to bring you exhibits, books and programs.

Won't you please help? You can send a check or use our secure site: [vermonthistory.org/give](http://vermonthistory.org/give). Thank you! 

## Library takes time to catch up!

The Leahy Library at the Vermont History Center will close for two weeks again this winter to help the staff catch up on processing in-coming collections.

**The library will be closed  
January 26 through February 6.**

The library will reopen on Tuesday, February 10.

## Be a Technogiver!

**M**any things we do rely on computers—to keep up with technology, we replace three to four computers each year.

A gift of \$800 will make you an official VHS Technogiver and will buy a new computer for VHS.

To become a Technogiver, please contact Jane Campbell at (802) 479-8516 or [jane.campbell@state.vt.us](mailto:jane.campbell@state.vt.us).



*Many thanks to the Lucy Downing Nisbet Charitable Fund for helping with some of our technical needs.*

## Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 15, 2015

### Third Thursday: The War of 1812

Art Cohn shares Lake Champlain maritime history.

Monday, January 19, 2015

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program

Charles Slack: *Liberty's First Crisis: Adams, Jefferson and the Misfits Who Saved Free Speech.*

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

### Farmers' Night program

Seven Times Salt, an early-music ensemble, will perform songs "From Plimoth to Yorktown."

Thursday, February 19, 2015

### Third Thursday: lunch series continues

Watch our website for more information.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

### Do We Still Need (Vermont) Women's History?

A conversation about the future of women's history.

Thursday, March 19, 2015

### Third Thursday: lunch series continues

We'll get you through the wintertime doldrums.

Saturday, March 28, 2015

### Vermont History Day

Students present Leadership & Legacy projects!

Thursday, April 16, 2015

### Third Thursday: Inventing Ethan Allen

H. Nicholas Muller, III, presents the myths and legends.

Thursday, May 21, 2015

### Third Thursday: Stories in Stitches— Vermont-Made Samplers

Ellen Thompson shares samplers made by Vermont girls between 1791 and 1840, and their stories.

### History for Homeschoolers

These classes are exceedingly popular and are full through May 2015. To join the waiting list, please contact Victoria Hughes, Education Coordinator, at [victoria.hughes@state.vt.us](mailto:victoria.hughes@state.vt.us) or (802) 828-1413

**Find out more on our web calendar:  
[vermonthistory.org/calendar](http://vermonthistory.org/calendar)**



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**Vermont Historical Society**

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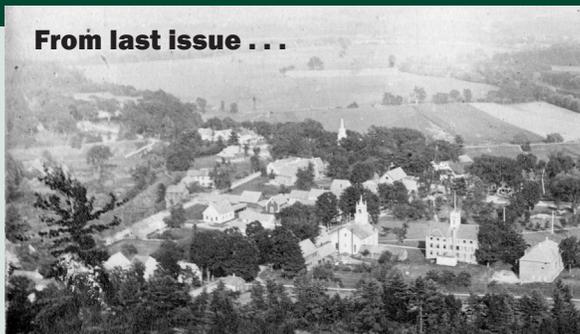
*Return Service Requested*

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Barre, VT  
Permit #32

## Mystery Photo

Last issue's mystery photo caught the attention of several of our readers. Selenda Girardin, Reg Welch, Lucille Bertram, and Claudia Noyes all recognized the image as the view of Newbury from Mt. Pulaski sometime before June 14, 1913, when a fire destroyed most of the buildings in the photograph. The image was apparently taken by Charles Ross Taggart, the fiddler who called himself "The Man from Vermont."

### From last issue . . .



### Do you recognize this?

This issue's mystery photo is a postcard that was originally identified as a scene in East Barre, but it does not look familiar to us. If you recognize this intersection and church, please contact VHS librarian Paul Carnahan at [paul.carnahan@state.vt.us](mailto:paul.carnahan@state.vt.us) or at (802) 479-8508.