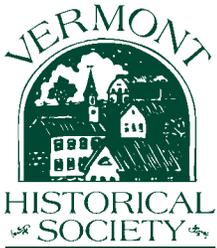


History Connections

Vermont Historical Society

News & Notes

Spring 2012 / Volume #6 / Number 3



Since 1838

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



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History Expo will change you forever!

The Civil War affected every town and village in Vermont in ways that continue to capture our collective imagination today. *Vermont in the Civil War* is the theme of this year's Vermont History Expo on June 16th and 17th, where visitors will learn how Vermonters lived through this time and how our state was forever changed during and after the war.

Buildings, tents, stalls and open spaces will once again be filled at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds with history that comes alive (both Civil War and other history): local historical societies exhibiting about their towns; living historians staging scenes of the time; musicians and crafters adding hands-on and collective experiences for visitors; authors and speakers presenting stories of Vermont's past. Heritage breed animals will delight and amuse, and the Morgan Horse folks will present our noble state animal in the context of the Civil War. If you are looking to make discoveries about your ancestors, genealogists will be on hand, too. There will be plenty of great food and good old-time fun with children's games culled from the past.

In honor of the Civil War theme, more living historians will be at the History Expo than ever before. In addition to Vermont infantry and cavalry soldiers, there will be a contingent portraying a Confederate infantry

regiment plus medical personnel, musicians, and staff officers. Others will portray civilian men, women and children of the period. At the sutler's tent, visitors will play the role of soldiers using a signed note of credit against the next month's pay to buy supplies and extra goods.

You can take a stroll through the Tunbridge Cemetery, hear a lecture on the guns made in Vermont during the war, discover how music gave comfort and strength to soldiers and those waiting at home alike. Exhibits on sharpshooter training, a soldiers' hospital, colorful local figures and letters to and from home will be highlighted.

On the Saturday evening of the History Expo, a town supper will be served by local Tunbridge school students. After dinner, folks will stroll back down to the fairgrounds

continued on page 3—

New exhibits come alive in Barre!

ICONS, ODDITIES & WONDERS

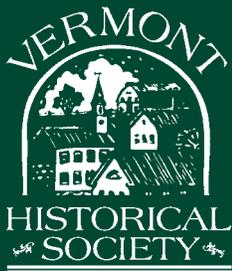
THE GRANITE CITY



VHC
VERMONT HISTORY CENTER

more details on page 2—

Preserving Vermont's Heritage



Since 1838

Spring 2012
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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 Center
60 Washington Street, Barre, VT
(802) 479-8500

Administrative Offices & Store:
Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm

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

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

Museum & Store
Pavilion Building
109 State Street, Montpelier, VT
Tuesday-Saturday 10am to 4pm
(802) 828-2291

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

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

From the Director

Come share the sense of achievement!

Outside my office window, workers are disassembling the final row of scaffolding that has surrounded the History Center's bell tower since September. The sounds of hammers and saws in the new gallery spaces have ended and the dust is beginning to settle after three months of ongoing construction activity. On the second floor, painters are applying the final touches in the rooms that will become the Vermont Archaeology Center.

After years of planning, months of fundraising and weeks of construction, it gives us great satisfaction to see all of these exciting endeavors come to fruition. In the coming weeks we will begin fabricating the initial exhibitions and the state's archaeological collections will arrive. The staff and I are preparing for the many changes that will accompany the History Center's transformation into a key visitor destination and the expanded services we will be providing in support of archaeological research.

Conclusion of the *Saving Vermont's Treasures* Capital Campaign and the arrival of the Vermont Archaeology Center give us great cause to celebrate. The festivities will begin on July 26 when

we open the inaugural exhibition in the Barre Heritage Gallery, *The Emergence of the Granite City* and its companion Special Collections Gallery exhibit, *Icons, Oddities and Wonders*. Celebrations later in the summer will greet the archaeology center and open *Service and Sacrifice: Vermont's Civil War Generation* in the Special Exhibitions Gallery. We welcome you to be a part of all of these



memorable occasions.

Our thanks are extended to all of our members and friends who supported the

campaign and made all this possible. Our deep appreciation is extended as well to the State of Vermont for the faith they have expressed through the Vermont Archaeological Center partnership. We hope that you share in the pride and genuine sense of achievement that these endeavors bring. See you on July 26!

Mark S. Hudson
Executive Director

The festivities will begin on July 26 . . . we welcome you to be a part of all these memorable occasions.

SAVE THE DATE! July 26, 2012

The grand opening of the Barre Heritage Gallery and its first exhibit, *The Emergence of the Granite City: Barre 1890 to 1940*, as well as the Special Collections Gallery and its first exhibit, *Icons, Oddities, and Wonders: Stories from the VHS Collections*, will take place at the Vermont History Center on Thursday, July 26, 2012, 5:00 to 7:00 pm. More details to come about the *Service and Sacrifice* exhibit opening in the fall.



Opening in fall 2012.

Vermont Women's History Project 2012

Panel discussion by women who helped change legal rights for Vermont women



Upper photograph: (L to R: the Honorable Denise Johnson, Vermont Law professor Cheryl Hanna, and Senator Peg Flory.) Left photo: Sandy Baird, Esquire. Right photo: Mary Just Skinner, Esquire.



Live Country Auction at the Expo

Auctioneer: Peter Mallary

On Sunday, June 17 at 2:00 pm, the bidding starts on more than 60 items that range from round-trip travel from JetBlue to sailing on Lake Champlain. You can start your bidding online but you'll want to join in on the bidding and banter that makes live auctions fun!

Check out the items on our website: www.vermonthistory.org/auction.

Vermont History Day 2012 Revolution, Reaction and Reform



"I had no idea there were so many revolutionary and just plain impressive people in history."

—April Ambrose, Vergennes Union High School

Many thanks to our sponsors: Patricia Passmore Alley, Cargill Animal Nutrition, Vermont Association for Middle Level Education, and the Walter Cerf Community Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation.

Expo . . . Continued from page 1—



June 16 & 17
Tunbridge Fairgrounds

to join soldiers and musicians around the campfire and sing the songs that would have been heard on a typical battlefield. Tunbridge is a town that has changed little since the time that Union soldiers returned from the war. Please join us for a weekend trip back to that time! 

What's a sideboard? And what's this one doing in Barre, Vermont?

A sideboard is an item of furniture traditionally used in the dining room for serving food. The one you see here has taken over 175 years to return, but it's now back in Vermont.

George Perkins Marsh owned this elegant mahogany veneered piece and it positively shines with its new French polish and recreated gold band borders. The impressive piece is stamped in several places, "G P Marsh" and marked in chalk "Burlington, VT", "1828" and "Wm H Livingston." In 1828, Marsh married Harriet Buell and we believe the sideboard was built for their Burlington home. Livingston was probably the cabinetmaker. We haven't been able to find any record of William, but cabinetmakers named Livingston were working in St. Albans.

Marsh practiced law in Burlington until he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served from 1843 until 1849. He is known today for his writings on nature and conservation. In 1861, he was appointed as the first U.S. Minister to Italy. It appears that the sideboard traveled to Italy since it has a very faint customs stamp found during conservation. Another clue to its travels is a pencil inscription indicating that it was repaired in Scarsdale, New York in 1891. UVM intern Christy Hotaling researched Marsh's papers at UVM and U.S. Census records and found that Caroline Marsh, George's second wife and widow, was living in Scarsdale, New York at that time.

The sideboard next turned up in 2010 at an antiques dealer in South Carolina. He contacted VHS and we purchased it even though it was in desperate need of repair. It was shipped directly to the workshop of Meeting House Restorations in Woodstock. It was carefully conserved by owner Jonathan Schechtman with the help of Adam Krakowski and can now be seen at the Vermont History Center in Barre. 



Marsh sideboard before . . .



Marsh sideboard after restoration.



**FREE ADMISSION
to the
Vermont History Museum
for all active-duty
military personnel
and their families.**

Ask about the Blue Star Museum discount
May 30 to September 5, 2012.
Call (802) 828-2291.



If you missed the Quilt Festival last year . . .

**The VHS Quilt Collection
is now online!**

Now you can see some of the beautiful VHS quilts online. We are presenting these quilt images on our website so you can sample the variety and quality of the VHS collection from anywhere. The quilts range from whole-cloth examples from the early 1800s to a commemorative piece from 1991. All of the quilts are documented as Vermont-made. If you have questions about any of the quilts you see here or about the rest of the quilts in the VHS collection, please email us at vhs-museum@state.vt.us.

Thank you to Jeffrey Lomicka, of Jeff and Cricket Quilts, for photographing the quilts. And a special thank you to Katherine Poarch, volunteer extraordinaire, for creating this wonderful gallery for you to share.

Go to www.vermonthistory.org/quiltexhibit. 



“Localvore” Louise Andrews Kent

70-year-old advice to “buy local” still works today

It is popular now to advocate for the consumption of local, seasonal foods, but such ideas are not new. In 1942, as World War II was drawing to a close, Calais, Vermont, resident Louise Andrews Kent published *Mrs. Appleyard’s Kitchen*.

A copy that was once the possession of Vermont book collector Gertrude Mallary recently joined our library collection and drew the attention of the library staff. In its introduction Mrs. Kent’s alter ego, Mrs. Appleyard, is asked by the editor if the book is intended for wartime. “Not specifically,” Mrs. Appleyard replies, “but I think it might be helpful. Its point of view is that you eat things when they are at their best rather than dragging them over the country when they are out of season.”

The advice given 70 years ago by Mrs. Appleyard still rings true today.

Hobson/Wade collection shows more than a lot of history

The Vermont Historical Society library recently acquired a collection of 124 surveys of Northeast Kingdom towns from the estate of surveyor Nelson E. Wade (1913–2005) of Island Pond. Most of the surveys in the collection were created by an earlier surveyor, H. H. Hobson (1854–1940), also of Brighton, in the period from the early 1900s through the 1930s.

The collection is particularly strong in renderings of lotting plans that show the arrangement of original lots in various towns and form the basis for later surveys. Hobson created new maps based on earlier maps and historical research. The collection includes some of the tattered, older maps that were used by him to create the fresh lotting maps.

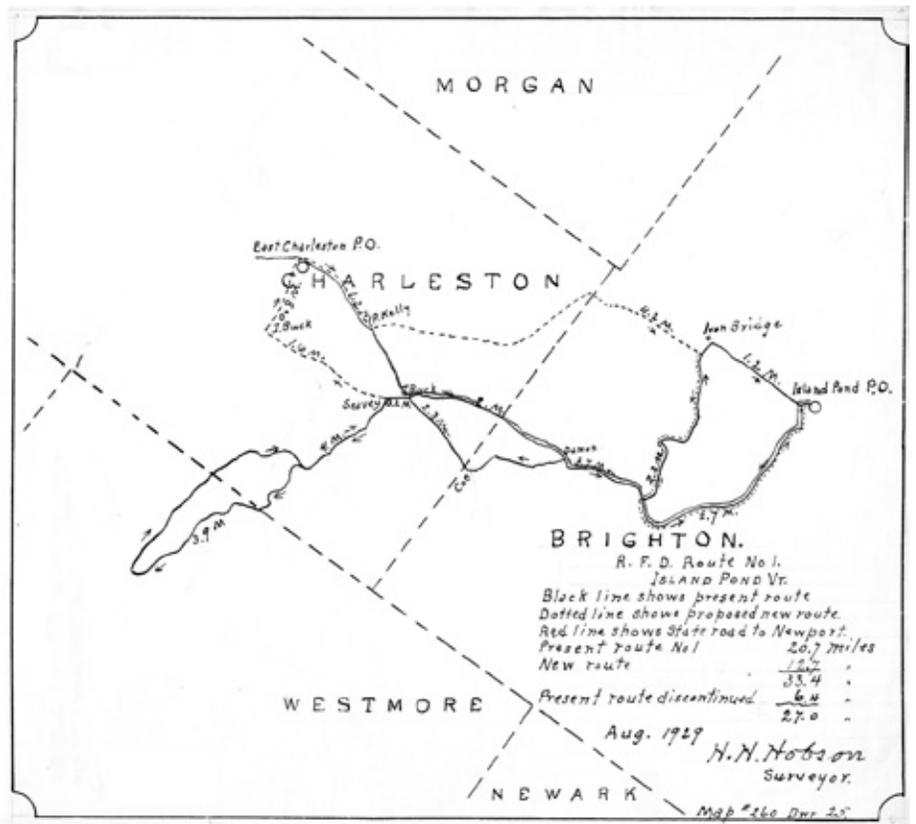
The towns that have lotting maps in this collection are Averill, Bloomfield, Bolton, Brighton, Brunswick, Canaan, Charleston, Concord, Derby, Ferdinand, Holland, Lemington, Lunenburg, Maidstone, Morgan, Newark, Norton, Richford, Troy, Warner Grove, and Westmore.

The collection includes more than lotting plans—it also includes surveys of



H. H. Hobson, Vermont surveyor

continued on page 6—



Map for a new Rural Free Delivery route for Brighton, Vermont, as created by H. H. Hobson, showing revised distances, old and new routes.

Volunteer at VHS:

Let us know about your strengths and interests. Call Diane Campbell at (802) 479-8503.



One of five paintings by James Hope from the battle at Antietam demonstrates how the war was documented. Courtesy Antietam National Battlefield, National Park Service.

Mark Hudson shares Hope at Antietam's Vermont Day

Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland will recognize the role of the Green Mountain State on May 27, 2012. Antietam's Vermont Day will feature a presentation by VHS Executive Director Mark Hudson about James Hope, a Vermont artist who documented the battle of Antietam with detailed sketches and created five large paintings of scenes from the battle which currently are the centerpiece of the exhibits at the battlefield's visitor center. Hudson will explore Hope's life in Vermont, his military service and career as an artist after the war. He also will discuss other Vermont artists who documented Civil War

events through their paintings. This illustrated program will be held in the Visitor Center auditorium beginning at 2:00 pm. For more information visit www.nps.gov/anti.

This event is one of several being held at Antietam in 2012, the 150th anniversary of the battle, in recognition of the role of units from individual Union and Confederate states. Information about Vermont's Civil War events and sites will be available at the Antietam Visitor Center that day. For more information about Vermont's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration, please visit www.vermontcivilwar150.com. 

Hobson/Wade . . . *Continued from page 5—*

lumber company land holdings, railroad locations, a cemetery, a shirt factory, the border crossings at Derby Line and Canaan, the location of Ford dealerships, a couple of murder scenes, and several accident scenes. There are several diagrams of murder scenes, including one at a logging camp. These additional surveys, maps and diagrams make the collection a treasure trove for the social scientist and local historian as well as the surveyor and early map enthusiast.

H. H. Hobson, the creator of most of maps in the Hobson/Wade Collection, spent his life in Brighton. His father owned lumber mills and H. H. worked as a foreman in a lumber mill in the 1880s and beyond. He is listed in the 1910 and 1920 censuses as a U.S. customs inspector. Hobson reportedly did not become a surveyor until he was in his 50s, but the surveys he produced after that are aesthetically very attractive and sophisticated.

An inventory of the Hobson/Wade Collection can be seen on the VHS's web site at www.vermonthistory.org/documents/findaid/HobsonSurveys.pdf. 

Changing lives at VHS . . .

The Leahy Library at the Vermont History Center in Barre often helps people research their family history. The result is often touching. This case involved sending an audio CD of a family member:

“ *I received the CD today. It was so amazing to hear my Grandfather's voice again and listen to him talking about his life. My Grandfather was a very special man and was loved by many.*

Each September our family (my brothers, sister and her husband, my husband and I) attend the Tunbridge Fair to demonstrate pump log boring. It is a talent we have passed on to the next generation and will teach our grandchildren when they are older. **”**

We believe that an understanding of the past changes lives. Let us change lives together.

Marion's love of Vermont lives on with her gift

Marion Galbraith Merrill *loved* Vermont. Though she lived the last years of her life elsewhere, she never forgot her beloved state. When we received the news of her passing, we knew Vermont had lost a devoted friend. Even after her passing, however, Marion gave the gift of history to future generations, by including a bequest to the Vermont Historical Society in her estate plan.

A 2009 celebration of Marion's life included a piece written by a good friend of Marion's, which noted that "The Vermont character is part of her personality DNA. The motto of Vermont is 'freedom and unity' and this just about says it all. Marion has cherished her freedom, freedom to make up her own mind, and she has striven all of her life for unity, unity of all peoples without regard to race, religion, class, education, social status or sexual orientation . . . Freedom and unity; this is the Vermont spirit that has lived for 95 years in Marion."

Thank you Marion—we are honored and proud that you chose Vermont Historical Society to carry on your Vermont spirit. 



Marion Galbraith Merrill

Be a part of history!



Be part of the photograph re-enacting the "Huge Mass of People" in Barre to hear Teddy Roosevelt

"One Huge Mass of People." This is how the *Barre Daily Times* described the throng that greeted presidential candidate Theodore Roosevelt when he came to Barre on the campaign trail. According to the newspaper, "Trains and street cars brought large loads of people . . ." enabling the gathering of the largest audience in Barre's history.

In 2012, VHS will reenact the scene 100 years later on August 31—including a visit from Teddy! Call Tess Taylor for more information at (802) 479-8505.

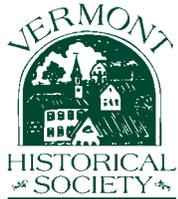
In memoriam

We are sad to note the passing of Richard M. Ketchum (1922–2012), former VHS trustee, author and editor.

Some years ago, Dick shared these words of wisdom: "Vermont's past is a captivating and often inspiring story of ordinary people who had to live by their wits, their native skill, and a stubborn determination to make it in a place where the odds, more often than not, were stacked against prosperity. The best way I know to get a real sense of that past is through the many resources of the Vermont Historical Society—its museum and archives, its public gatherings, and its first-rate publications."

For a complete obituary, please visit goo.gl/TeUa2

Please note: *Renovations mentioned in this newsletter are supported in part by a grant from the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation and a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. The Vermont Historical Society would like to also acknowledge exhibit support from the Vermont Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior, the National Endowment for the Humanities, or the Vermont Humanities Council. The Vermont Historical Society does not discriminate against any person in regard to their race, color, sexual orientation, national origin, disabilities, religion, age, or sex.*



Since 1838

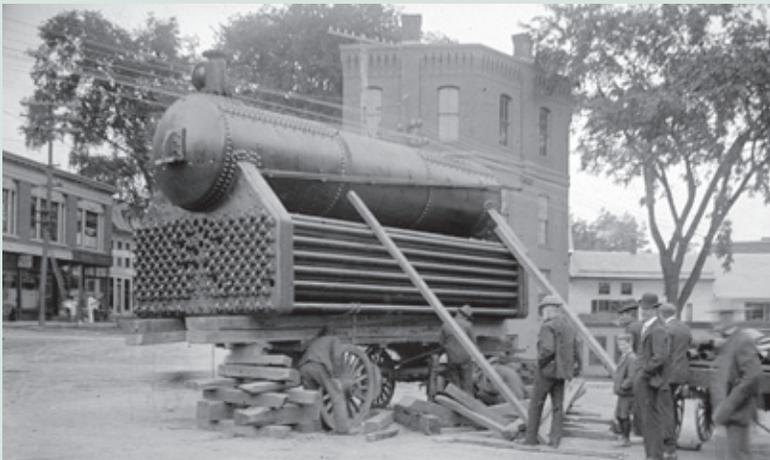
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Mystery Photo

Do you recognize this?



This month's mystery photograph was printed from a collection of unattributed glass plate negatives that were given to the VHS several years ago. It shows a large industrial device, perhaps a boiler, in the middle of a village street. If anyone can explain what this object is or can identify the town, we would appreciate it. Please contact the VHS Librarian Paul Carnahan at paul.carnahan@state.vt.us or at (802) 479-8508.

From last issue . . .

Last issue's mystery photograph was identified by member James Garvin of Pembroke, New Hampshire. Mr. Garvin, who once served as his state's architectural historian, recognized the brick building in the photograph as the Grafton Hotel, circa 1815, in Haverhill, New Hampshire.

