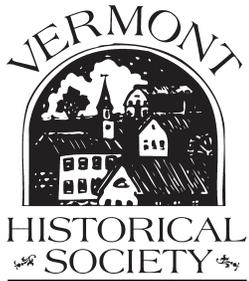


History Connections

Vermont Historical Society

News & Notes

Summer 2014 / Volume #8 / Number 4



Since 1838

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

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The Vermont Historical Society dares to say: It took more than Ethan Allen

The Vermont Historical Society is pleased to announce the forthcoming publication of *Moses Robinson and the Founding of Vermont* by Judge Robert A. Mello.

Years of research

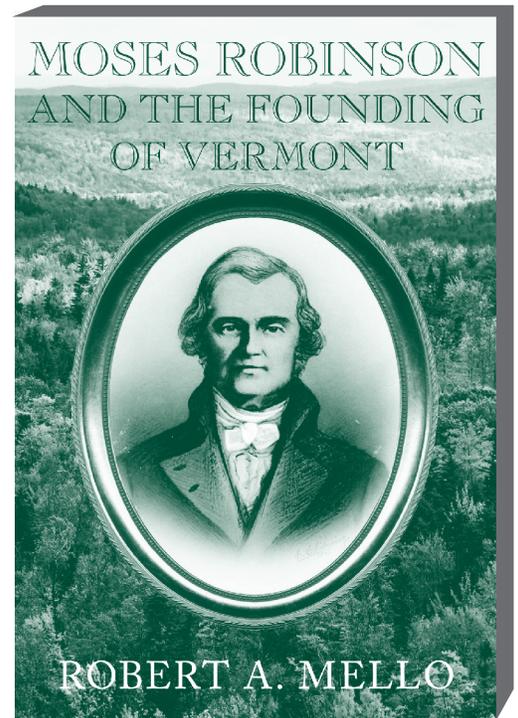
The work is the culmination of years of research by Judge Mello and provides a lively account of Vermont's early decades. Its introduction offers a wonderful synopsis of the book:

In the fall of 1761, more than sixty men, women and children from Hardwick, Massachusetts gathered their belongings, turned their wagons to the northwest, and, in unison, left their homes behind and headed for the frontier. Their destination was an unsettled tract of land in the wilderness that New Hampshire's colonial government had named Bennington.

This book tells the story of why these settlers left their homes, the hardships they endured on the frontier, and the titanic events that propelled them through two revolutions, the creation of an independent state, and Vermont's eventual admission to the Union after decades of opposition by its neighbors. Moses Robinson played a central role in these events, he was instrumental in developing Vermont's first government, and he helped establish the policies of Vermont's early statehood period.

About the author

Robert Mello is a Vermont Superior Court judge. Prior to serving on the bench he was an attorney in private practice and served as



counsel to state agencies in the 1970s. He is a graduate of St. John's Seminary and the Boston College Law School and served on the Board of Trustees of the Vermont Historical Society from 2004 to 2010.

Book will be available this fall!

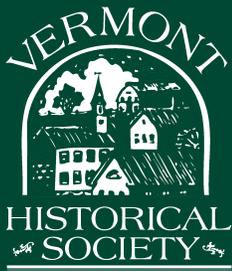
The book will retail for \$34.95. We anticipate its arrival in September. Be sure to put it on your holiday gift list! And don't forget, VHS members get a 15% discount!

Please check online at vermonthistory.org for special programs and events that will accompany the launch of *Moses Robinson and the Founding of Vermont*.

Preserving Vermont's Heritage Since 1838

IMAGE
IDENTITY

SAVE THE DATE!
September 27, 2014
see page 3



Since 1838

Summer 2014

Volume #8 / Number 4

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:

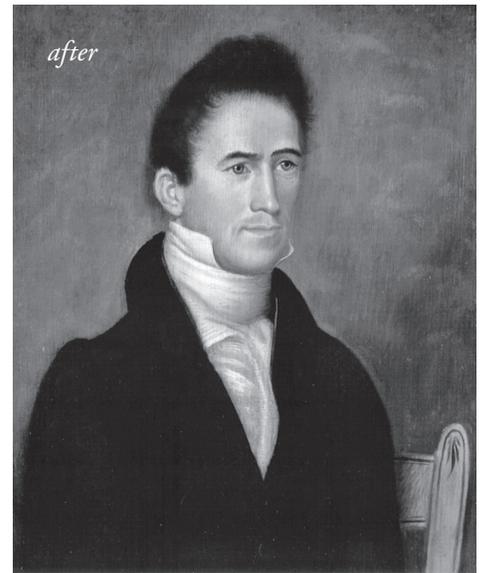
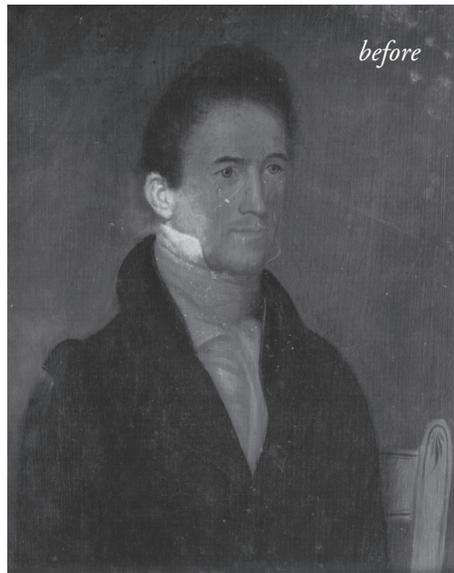
Families: \$12; Adults: \$5
Students, children, seniors: \$3
Members & children under 6: Free
Student school groups: Free
(802) 828-2180

www.vermonthistory.org

vhs-info@state.vt.us

From the Director

More than a warehouse



D.P. Thompson portrait recently conserved with the generous help of J. Brooks Buxton.

As I look upon the “before” and “after” images of portraits that recently underwent conservation treatments, I am reminded of the many ways collections management is an active and ongoing endeavor at the Vermont Historical Society. Members and friends of the VHS often express concern that items acquired for the collection simply go into storage and are never seen again. What they may not see is the tremendous effort our staff and volunteers expend to make our collections accessible and ensure they are preserved for future generations. More than simply a warehouse, the vaults and work rooms at the History Center are alive with activity.

Under the guidance of curator Jackie Calder and registrar Mary Labate Rogstad, volunteers and interns catalog museum objects as they are introduced into the collection. They assemble useful information about each item, including its history (or provenance), and create a unique record for each. Whether it is placed in storage or put on exhibition, each museum artifact is handled with great care in our environmentally-controlled facility. Through electronic monitoring and the vigilant observation of the staff, we can be certain collections receive the care they deserve.

A similar commitment to the care of library collections is shared by librarian Paul Carnahan, assistant librarian Marjorie Strong, and their staff and volunteers. They carefully balance the requirements of preservation with the need to provide public access to the books, photographs, maps, manuscripts, and other documentary materials in their care. Sometimes these efforts can work in tandem, such as an ongoing project to re-house and re-label the thousands of photographs in the collection. This project improves the care of the photos, while also enhancing access.

We are committed to preserving our collections for their enjoyment and use today, and for many centuries to come. Upholding this commitment is not easy, nor is it inexpensive. Our collections care needs are many, so we are especially grateful for the

Look for the VHS at these upcoming events in your community:

- Plymouth Old Home Day, August 2
- Champlain Valley Fair, August 22–31
- St. Albans Raid 150th, September 20–21

continued on next page—

Barre had big plans in 1966

Barre, home to the Vermont History Center, is currently in the midst of several exciting redevelopment projects. This is not the first time that Barre has undertaken urban planning efforts!

“Blighted” areas addressed in the ‘60s

In the 1960s, Barre and other Vermont towns and cities engaged in federally-funded “urban renewal” projects to clear their downtowns of “blighted” areas. The Leahy Library collection includes a report entitled *Urban Renewal, Barre, Vermont: What, Who, When, Where, How, Why* (ca. 1965), making the case for providing a “new look.”



Barre’s North Main Street in 1966. None of these stores exist today.

You can take a look at the plans

Last year, the library received a collection of 45 slides created by the Barre Urban Renewal

Commission. The presentation explains the project planned for the area bordered by Main, Elm, Summer, and Cottage Streets and includes photographs of Barre as it existed in 1966. The collection is a record of what parts of the city looked like and of the city’s aspirations for the future.

The slides show the active demolition of buildings on South Main Street now occupied by Tilden House and the post office parking lot, as well as unidentified derelict buildings that were targets for removal. The slides also include plans to rework popular Main Street storefronts in a pseudo-colonial style—plans that were never carried out.

These images can now be seen on the VHS website at vermonthistory.org/BarreUrbanRenewal. A small exhibit will be in the library through the end of October. 



Demolition of a building behind Barre’s old fire station, 1966.

More than a warehouse. . . *Continued from page 2—*

generous support of our members and friends, such as J. Brooks Buxton, VHS Trustee from Jericho, whose generous gift paid for conservation treatments for four portraits, including that of D. P. Thompson (shown at left), one of the founders of the Vermont Historical Society. My thanks are extended to Brooks for his generous support and to our staff and volunteers for their unwavering commitment to the care of these important collections.



The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Vermont Historical Society will explore *Image & Identity in the Green Mountain State* with a keynote by historian Jill Mudgett. We’ll take the day to explore the ways Vermont has been perceived by outsiders and insiders—how that image has shaped the identity of Vermonters—and how it continues to evolve and shape the state today.

We’ll share a specially prepared collection of clips from movies and television in which Vermont has been praised, criticized, stereotyped, and otherwise characterized, and then hear from researcher Cheryl Morse of the University of Vermont on the preliminary findings of the Vermont Roots Migration Project, which explores how Vermonters see themselves and their state in the 21st century—and why they may choose to stay or leave. 

Provide a lasting foundation for Vermont's history.



Have your name—or a loved one's—etched into a brick that will welcome History Center visitors for years to come!

Your personalized brick in the courtyard of the Vermont History Center in Barre will help preserve the former Spaulding school and maintain VHS exhibits for a donation of \$175 per brick.

Please order by August 31 at vermonthistory.org/bricks or call Jane Campbell at (802) 479-8516.



“Dear Bill Doyle,

We have known each other for many decades, and we have often toiled in the same vineyard. A fund in your name that encourages Vermont youth to discover some of the joy you and I have found in our history will touch the generations that of necessity must follow us. I have sent the Vermont Historical Society a donation to your fund, and I hope others will do as well. ”

—H. Nicholas Muller

Learn how you can help, too. vermonthistory.org/doylefund



Ferrisburgh Elementary School students march in the Parade of States at the National History Day Closing Ceremony.

Building connections between students and community

Local historical societies across the state are cultivating young people's interest in history and getting them involved in their local organizations by supporting History Day activities.

National History Day

In June, 34 Vermont students competed in National History Day at the University of Maryland, College Park. These students qualified to participate in the national contest by

winning at Vermont History Day—organized by the Vermont Historical Society. Although the students were in Maryland to compete at the national contest, they also had the chance to explore nearby Washington, D.C., and visit historic sites like Arlington National Cemetery and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Many of these students were able to make this exciting trip, coordinated by the VHS, with support from the local historical societies in their communities.

Local Historical Societies do valuable work

The Poultney Historical Society invited five students from Poultney Elementary School to present their documentary video and performance at a special fundraiser program in May. The event gave the students a chance to share their historical research with fellow historians and interested community members, and helped the students raise money to cover the cost of the trip to National History Day. The Poultney Historical Society's Ruth E. Roberts Educational Fund provided additional funding for the students.

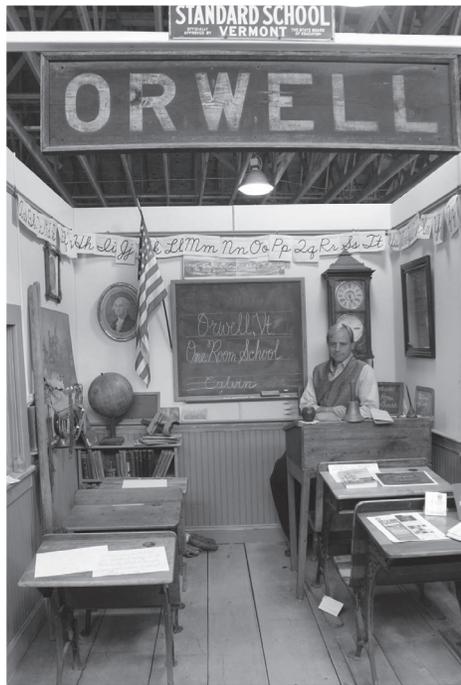
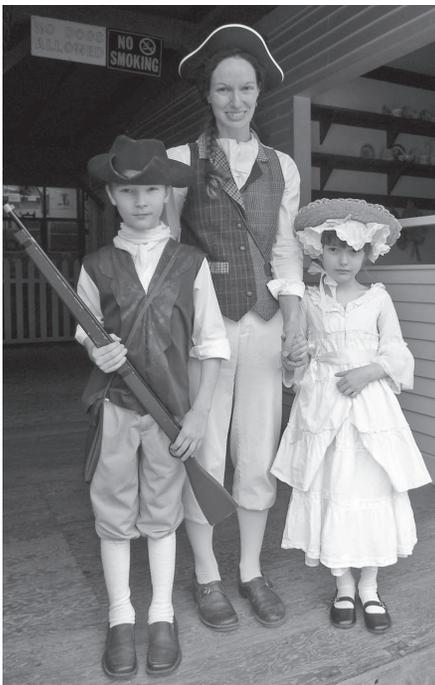
In Milton, representatives from the Milton Historical Society serve as judges for the school-level History Day competition at Milton High School in the spring. At the May meeting of the historical society, several of the 14 Milton students who competed at National History Day had the opportunity to show their projects and take questions from the audience. Interactions like these help build connections between the high school students and community members. The meeting was filmed and is available to watch on the website of Lake Champlain Access Television. The Milton Historical Society also made a contribution to help students with fundraising for the trip.

“The Black River Academy Museum in Ludlow has been a great supporter of the students . . . ”

Other local historical societies throughout Vermont are involved with students' preparation for Vermont and National History Day. The Island Pond Historical Society contributed funding to the Vermont History Day program at Brighton Elementary School and made a generous donation so students could attend National

continued on page 6—

Expo 2014 was a huge success!



Expo 2014 enjoyed perfect summertime weather, vintage base ball, and 3,700 attendees!

— See you in June 2016! —



Vermont History
EXPO 2016
History's Country Fair



Made in Vermont makes it special ... since 1941

Over 70 years ago, as the United States was on the verge of entering World War II, the Vermont legislature had the foresight to establish an Arts and Crafts Advisory Commission “for the economic and practical development and promotion of arts and crafts in the state . . .”

The collections of the Leahy Library include a large number of photographs of artists working as part of the resulting Arts and Crafts Service, in addition to numerous printed publications from the government agency. The library highlighted these pieces of Vermont history in an exhibit during this year’s Vermont History Expo.

The Arts and Crafts Service acted as a clearinghouse to network craftspeople and retailers. The director, working out of the Department of Education, traveled the state seeking artists and crafters, created a listing of Vermont craftspeople, and developed relationships between consumers, artists and artisans—though this became difficult because of wartime restrictions on travel. The Service also provided small loans to

artists. Through these programs, Vermont crafts were exhibited and sold at such stores as Filene’s and Jordan Marsh in Boston.

Artists such as David Gil of Bennington Potters, printmaker Sabra Johnson Field, and metal artist Harry McIntosh of Vermont Copper Crafters were able to benefit from the program. Labeling products “Made in Vermont” was one outcome of the Arts and Crafts Service’s experience in marketing Vermont products.

Stanley Ballard was one of the first artisans to use a Vermont-specific label. His simple oval label read: “Ballard Hand Made Porcelain, A Product of Vermont Craftsmanship.”

In January 1976, the Vermont Arts and Crafts Service closed due to budget cuts. While in existence, the Service was able to connect thousands of crafts people with each other, schoolchildren, and retailers.

A gallery of Vermont Arts and Crafts Service photographs can be viewed on the VHS’s website at vermonthistory.org/ArtsService. 

ARTS and CRAFTS SERVICE



Photograph by Sniively

The Arts and Crafts Service was established in 1941 by the Vermont Legislature in the Department of Education to develop and promote arts and crafts in Vermont.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MONTPELIER
VERMONT

“for the economic and practical development and promotion of arts and crafts in the state . . .”



Building connections . . . Continued from page 4—

History Day. The Ferrisburgh Historical Society has helped the students with research and monetary support, and has invited students to present at historical society meetings.

Shelley Townsend, the sixth grade teacher at Mount Holly School, reports that “The Mount Holly Historical Society takes a great interest in the kids’ projects” and also provides financial support for the trip to National History Day. The Black River Academy Museum in Ludlow has been a great supporter of the students at Black River Middle and High School, and shared the proceeds from the 2013

5K Walk for History with National History Day competitors.

And, members from local historical societies across the state volunteer as judges for the annual Vermont History Day contest in the spring.

We thank all involved and look forward to next year’s Vermont History Day and the opportunity to get even more students and local historical societies involved in the Vermont and National History Day programs. 





Calendar of Events

MISSION & CREATiViTY MAKING YOUR ORGANIZATION THRIVE

This Halloween, join our League of Local Historical Societies & Museums in Brattleboro for ideas on how to be creative without sacrificing the mission of your organization.

This year's annual meeting keynote speaker will be Linda Norris, author of Creativity in Museum Practice and former director of the Upstate History Alliance. Her keynote talk and afternoon workshop will help you explore new ways of thinking, working, and engaging your community—

See you Friday, October 31, 2014 in Brattleboro!

based on a deeper understanding of your organization's mission. The afternoon will also feature workshops on caring for textiles, walking tours, and more.

Watch for further information about the League's annual meeting in future editions of the weekly Local History Enews, as well as on the VHS website: vermonthistory.org/calendar. Contact Laura Brill, Community Outreach Coordinator, at laura.brill@state.vt.us or (802) 479-9825, for more information.



Saturday, August 9, 2014 at 2:00 pm
Second Saturday: Yankee Schoolmarms in the Reconstruction South
Amy Morsman, Middlebury College
Vermont History Center & Vermont Heritage Galleries, Barre

Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 2:00 pm
Second Saturday: Tools and Machinery that Created the Granite Industry
Paul Wood
Vermont History Center & Vermont Heritage Galleries, Barre

Saturday, September 27, 2014 at 9:00 am
VHS Annual Meeting: Image & Identity in the Green Mountain State
Jill Mudgett, University of Vermont
Vermont History Museum, Montpelier

Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 2:00 pm
Second Saturday: Genealogical Clues in Family Photographs
Maureen Taylor
Vermont History Center & Vermont Heritage Galleries, Barre
Co-sponsored by Genealogical Society of Vermont

Friday, October 31, 2014
League of Local Historical Societies & Museums Annual Meeting: Mission & Creativity
Linda Norris, museum consultant
Latchis Hotel and Theatre, Brattleboro

Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 2:00 pm
Second Saturday: Friends of France: John Aubrey Gordon and the American Field Service in World War I
Brennan Gauthier
Vermont History Center & Vermont Heritage Galleries, Barre

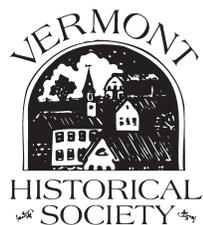
Second Saturdays sponsored by: KeyBank

Find out more on our web calendar: vermonthistory.org/calendar

In memoriam

We are sad to report upon the passing of a beloved member of the VHS family. Guy Nichols, a trustee of the VHS Board from 1997 to 2003, passed away on June 18, 2014.

Guy was a native of Colchester and a graduate of the University of Vermont. Although he spent most of his life in the Boston area, he never forgot his Vermont roots and his love of our state's history. Our sympathies are extended to his wife, Shirley, and the Nichols family.



Since 1838

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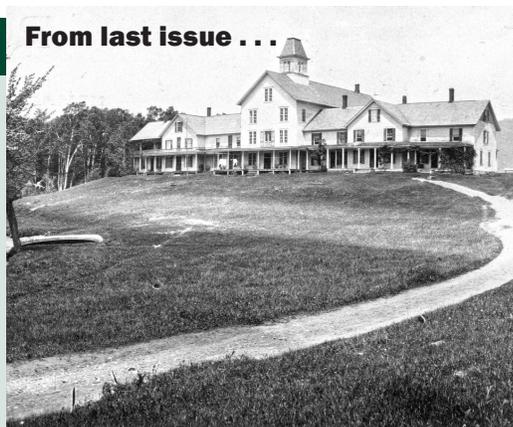
Return Service Requested

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Barre, VT
Permit #32

Mystery Photo

: Last issue's mystery photo was not a mystery photo to many
 : of our members! We thank you for all of the calls, emails,
 : and visits at the Vermont History Expo informing us that this
 : was Silver Lake Hotel, built by Frank Chandler, the evangelist
 : farmer of Leicester around 1880. The hotel burned in 1942.
 : Elaine Meyers from Chittenden was the first person to identify
 : this image. It was also recognized by one of our youngest
 : members, Xander DeBlois, who was a recent History Day
 : winner. Anyone interested in learning more about this fascinating
 : structure can consult William Powers' book, *Leicester Vermont's
 : Silver Lake: Beyond the Myths* (2000).

From last issue . . .



Do you recognize this?



This issue's mystery photo is a view of a village with a large school building in the center and a prominent church building to one side. It came to us as a Vermont village but it could actually be located in another state. To see a detail of the school and church building, visit our website at www.vermonthistory.org/mystery and scroll to the bottom of the page.

If you recognize this village, contact VHS librarian Paul Carnahan at paul.carnahan@state.vt.us or at (802) 479-8508.