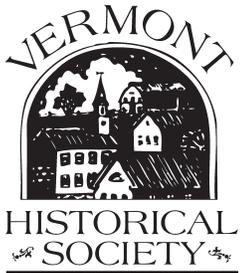


# History Connections

Vermont Historical Society

News & Notes

Summer 2015 / Volume #9 / Number 4



Since 1838

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

## Inside This Issue

- Matthew Lyon family trek
- National History Day winners
- 1970s interviewers on the road
- Interns learn about preservation
- Annual Meeting: Wild & Woolly
- League meeting topic
- September is archaeology month

Be sure to see the latest photos from the VHS collection

on: **flickr**

[www.flickr.com/photos/vermonthistory](http://www.flickr.com/photos/vermonthistory)

*The Vermont Historical Society and the University of Vermont present the inaugural lecture October 20, 2015*

## Honoring Professor Sam Hand

Three years ago we lost one of the true champions of Vermont history with the passing of UVM Professor Emeritus Samuel B. Hand. As a professor at the University of Vermont and President of the Vermont Historical Society, Sam's legacy at both institutions has been meaningful and enduring. Generations of UVM students attribute their abiding interest in Vermont history to their experiences in his classroom, and his contributions to the scholarship on the subject are vast.

### Annual series features new research

In recognition of his contributions to both institutions, the Vermont Historical Society and the Center for Research on Vermont at UVM are collaborating to present the annual Sam Hand Lecture Series. These lectures will feature new research on topics of interest to Prof. Hand, including history, political science, law and the judiciary.

The inaugural lecture in this annual series will be held on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 pm in UVM's Waterman Lounge. Historian and author Gary Shattuck will present research on opiate use in Vermont in the 1800s. While much has been written about Vermont's 19th-century efforts to control and prohibit the consumption of alcohol, the accompanying rise in opiate use has received little attention by historians.

### Opium use in Vermont, c. 1800

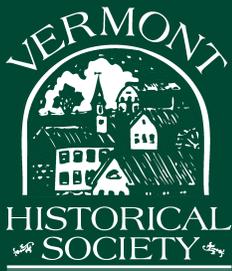
Gary Shattuck's new research reveals that opium abuse was rampant in the state and



*Sam Hand was known as the Dean of Vermont Studies at the University of Vermont.*

grew considerably during the second half of the century, due in large measure to the state's focus upon temperance, escalation of patent medicines containing opiates, and complicit medical and pharmaceutical professions overmedicating the population in unrestrained fashion. The surprising story of Vermont's early problems with addiction provides useful context for understanding

*continued on page 5—*



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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)

[info@vermonthistory.org](mailto:info@vermonthistory.org)

## From the Director

# Continuity and change in Vermont history

**A**s evidenced by a series of retirement parties I have attended in recent years, it seems Vermont is experiencing significant changes on our cultural heritage landscape. Three individuals, each of whom led statewide institutions for many decades, have departed to enjoy well-deserved rest in retirement.

It began in 2012, with the retirement of Gregory Sanford, Vermont's "larger than life" state archivist for 30 years. When he was hired in 1982 as editor of state papers, Vermont was the only state that did not have an archives. Over the next three decades

Greg built Vermont's archives and records management program through determination and a commitment to the belief that the past has important lessons for us today. Following in these enormous footsteps, Sanford's successor, Tanya Marshall, has distinguished herself as a leader in the field who is taking on the challenge of integrating records management with archives.

Last summer we wished Giovanna Peebles well as she retired after nearly 40 years as Vermont's first state archaeologist. At a retirement party held here at the Vermont History Center, I remarked on the vastness and diversity of people whose lives she had touched through her work. Like Gregory, Giovanna built Vermont's archaeology program from the ground up through persistence and a special quality I refer to as "Giovannaness." Her efforts culminated in the relocation of the Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center to our facility in Barre in 2012, a partnership with the state that epitomizes what public/private partnerships should be.

We are pleased to see this partnership continue to flourish with the new state archaeologist Jess Robinson,

whose outreach and public programming efforts are breathing new life into Vermont's venerable collections.



Most recently, we gathered in the Cedar Creek Room to honor John Dumville, who ended his 35-year career as operations chief for Vermont's state-owned historic sites

**Vermont is experiencing significant changes on our cultural heritage landscape.**

last winter. During this time, John demonstrated his love of Vermont history by initiating projects to restore and preserve the state's historic

landmarks and developing local partnerships that allowed these hallowed sites to be more than static structures on the landscape.

In retirement, John tells me he is perfecting his ability to say "no" to new responsibilities, though he assures me he can never turn down an offer to help the VHS. We take great comfort knowing these sites will be cared for under the capable leadership of former assistant state curator Tracy Martin who began in this position in late June.

To Gregory, Giovanna and John we express our gratitude for all you have done to preserve and share our state's rich heritage and extend our best wishes for the many enjoyable years of retirement that lie ahead. At the same time, we extend a helping hand to Tanya, Jess and Tracy as you build upon the good work that preceded you.

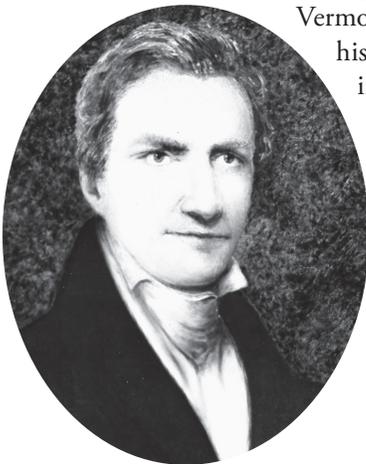
Mark S. Hudson, *Executive Director*

## Following the trail of the infamous Matthew Lyon

As many genealogists know, following the trail of family history can be labor-intensive and slow. Many endure long hours with manuscripts, letters, and computers. A lucky few are able to hit the road to find out more about their relatives. Sometimes that road leads to the Vermont Historical Society.

The Leahy Library staff recently met four such adventurous women from Alabama who made the trip to Barre to find more information about the tumultuous Vermont political figure Matthew Lyon (1750-1822).

Shirley Williams of New Hope, Alabama, a fifth great-granddaughter of Matthew Lyon through his son James, her two daughters and a granddaughter included



*Matthew Lyon portrait  
courtesy of Vermont State House*

Vermont as part of the family history trek. They arrived in Barre after stopping in Woodbury and Fairhaven, Connecticut, and also toured through Arlington, Vermont. They were excited to find books and documents attesting to Lyon's legacy in Vermont.

The visitors were shown a bill of sale signed by Lyon;



*Shirley Williams (front right), with daughter Cindy Williams Morrison (front left) from Huntsville, Alabama. Back row: Nancy Williams Honea and her daughter Lilly Noelle Honea of New Hope, Alabama.*

a letter from Lyon to Andrew Selden of Bennington, in which Lyon criticizes the Sedition Acts and enumerates the reasons that the approaching war with England is a mistake; and a copy of the report of the Judiciary Committee of the 23rd U.S. Congress, in which the committee overturned Matthew Lyon's conviction under the Alien and Sedition Acts as unconstitutional, and refunded the fine levied against him to his heirs. 

## Congratulations to 28 Vermont students at National History Day!

On June 18th, awards were presented at National History Day (NHD) at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. Nearly 3,000 middle and high school

students presented their work related to the 2015 theme, *Leadership and Legacy in History*.

Victoria Hughes, NHD Coordinator from the Vermont Historical Society, is pleased to announce that the 28 students from Vermont had a great time presenting their projects to the judges and exploring Washington, D.C. Emily Rooney from Vergennes Union Middle School won the U.S. Constitution prize for her exhibit *The Legacy of the Unstoppable Bradwell*. The winners of the Best of Vermont Awards were Lilianna Ziedins from Crosssett Brook Middle School and Ben Ward from Montpelier High School. 



*Vermont contestants and their mascots*



*Best of Vermont Awards:  
Lilianna Ziedins and Ben Ward*

## In memoriam

We are sad to note the passing of Terry Griswold, former VHS trustee (1991–1993) and generous donor. We appreciate her years of dedication and commitment to the goals of the VHS.

## New email addresses

As of June 1, 2015, all email addresses at the Vermont Historical Society have changed. To contact us, please use first name dot last name @ vermonthistory.org.

Please call (802) 479-8500 with any questions.

## 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](http://vermonthistory.org/bricks) or call Jane Campbell at (802) 479-8516.



Alan Weiss

## Alan Weiss says . . .

**I** was a history teacher and had a great love for U.S. history. I taught at Northfield High School and became president of the Northfield Historical Society.

*As I was changing my estate plan, I decided, "What better way to use my assets than for an organization that will be here forever?"*

We are very grateful to Alan for his generous pledge to preserve Vermont history for future generations. Please contact Jane Campbell at (802) 479-8516 or email [jane.campbell@vermonthistory.org](mailto:jane.campbell@vermonthistory.org) if you would like more information about including VHS in your will or estate plan.

# vermont 70s

1970s counterculture and its lasting influence



## Interviewers hit the road to bring us stories from the 1970s

**I**nterviewers Kate Blofson and Leslie Rowell have started their travels around the state—meeting, listening to, and recording people and their stories about 1970s counterculture and its influence on Vermont.

Kate is a beekeeper and community media organizer with training in oral history. She recently completed a place-based oral history project about the lower Winooski River Intervale for an M.S. in Natural Resources at UVM, and is working with the Greenhorns on an oral history project about the Grange. Kate now lives on the Huntington River in Richmond. She believes in the power and possibility of stories.



Kate Blofson



Leslie Rowell

Leslie is a librarian and archivist living in West Glover. She works at the Orleans County Historical Society, Brown Library at Sterling College, and the Bread and Puppet Theater. A Goddard College graduate, Leslie was involved with organic farming and organizing farmers markets in the 1970s.

We're looking forward to sharing the many stories they will be gathering. *This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*



## Honoring Sam Hand . . .

*Continued from page 1—*

how the state has battled these challenging issues throughout its history.

### About Gary Shattuck

Gary Shattuck is a retired attorney with a background in law enforcement. He is a graduate of the Vermont Law School, and he has served as a supervising officer with the Vermont State Police, Assistant Attorney General for the State of Vermont with the Vermont Drug Task Force, and as an Assistant United States Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. He is the author of *Insurrection, Corruption & Murder in Early Vermont: Life on the Wild Northern Frontier*, recently published by the History Press, as well as an article on the subject of opiate use in *Vermont History*, the journal of the Vermont Historical Society.

### About the lecture series

The Vermont Historical Society and the Center for Research on Vermont are pleased to honor Sam Hand through this lecture series. We invite you to join us for an exploration of this provocative topic. 

## Thank you.

### We thank these Barre History Collection donors to date:

Peter Anthony and Marsha Kincheloe, Barre Army & Navy Store, Susan Cary Beers & David Cary, in memory of Sally C. & Richard W. Cary, Anonymous. Paul Carnahan and Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, Community National Bank, Thomas C. Davis, Ann Dunleavy, Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius O. Granai Jr., Stephen and Nancy Martin, Robert & Dorothy McAllister, Robert and Nancy Pope, Margaret and Alban Richey, Gary and Anita Rogers, Kay and Max Schlueter, Richard S. Venmar, D.M.D., Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Whelpley



*This summer, Michelle Johnstone (left) and Clarke Haywood (right) are hard at work tagging, photographing, and cataloging artifacts from the Barre History Collection.*

## Interns learn how to preserve the unique character of Barre, Vermont, for you to see

Thanks to our interns, Michelle Johnstone and Clarke Haywood, the Barre History Collection will soon be ready for public exhibit and researchers alike.

Michelle comes to us with a B.A. in history from Worcester State University. She is enrolled in the Historic Preservation Graduate program at UVM. Clarke is a graduate of Norwich University and has a B.A. in history and a B.S. in secondary education. He resides in Northfield.

Since 1915, Barre citizens have collected objects that tell the story of a small town growing into the “Granite Center of the World.” Thousands of these archival documents, photos, business records, photographs, paintings, and uniforms have recently moved to the Vermont History Center in Barre from the Aldrich Library. The collection will now be housed in an environmentally-controlled storage

area—and eventually brought to the public with an exciting new exhibit!

To make this possible, Clarke and Michelle are hard at work, and the Vermont Historical Society needs to raise \$18,000 to fund internships and conservation materials. If you can help, please contact Jane Campbell at (802) 479-8516 or [jane.campbell@vermonthistory.org](mailto:jane.campbell@vermonthistory.org).



*With painstaking care, Clarke prepares records for the VHS database.*



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**September 26, 2015**



**Vermont Historical Society  
Annual Meeting  
& Fall Conference**

**Wild & Woolly:  
Animals in  
Vermont History**

This year, the focus will be on the importance of animals throughout Vermont's history, as drivers of economic, social, cultural, and political change.  
Hope to see you there!

**Vermont History Museum**  
Pavilion Building • 109 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont  
(802) 828-2180



CREDIT: TIMES ARGUS

*Paul Carnahan in '70s character. Like wow, man!*

**Were you there?**

Scenes from the  
Montpelier July 3rd Parade 2015:  
Vermont in the 1970s theme



*Left to right: Interns Michelle Johnstone and Caitlin Blake; VHS Public Program Coordinator Amanda Gustin and Education Coordinator Victoria Hughes.*



**Put it on your calendar!**  
**June 18 & 19, 2016**

.....  
**H2O: The Power of Water in Vermont History**  
.....

Contact Amanda Gustin  
for more information at (802) 828-2180  
or [amanda.gustin@vermonthistory.org](mailto:amanda.gustin@vermonthistory.org)



# Elements of Success

## Basics & Beyond

The League of Local Historical Societies and Museums (LLHSM) Annual Meeting will take place on October 30, 2015, in Burlington. This meeting is the largest yearly gathering of local history and museum professionals in the state.

The theme of “Elements of Success: Basics and Beyond” illuminates how, working with purpose and passion, organizations can utilize a good foundation as a springboard to growth and success. The meeting will include a keynote address by Stuart Comstock Gay, President & CEO of the Vermont Community Foundation; presentation of the annual LLHSM Achievement Awards; conference sessions on a variety of practical topics; and plenty of opportunities to network. Contact Community Outreach Coordinator Eileen Corcoran at [eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org](mailto:eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org) or (802) 479-8522 for more information. 

### September is Archaeology Month

## Mammoth Discoveries

**Did you know?** Woolly mammoths once roamed Vermont. For our Second Saturday Gallery Talks, AOT Archaeologist Brennan Gauthier will discuss the discovery of a mammoth tooth and tusk in 1865 in Mount Holly. He will talk about theories developed at the time to explain the bones, as well as what we know now after 150 years of archaeological and scientific progress. These specimens of extinct animal life tell a remarkable history of ages long past. *See listing at right for details about this Second Saturday talk.* 

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, September 12, 2015 • 2:00 pm**

Vermont History Center, Barre

### **Second Saturday: Mammoth Discoveries**

Brennan Gauthier is the featured speaker as we celebrate Archaeology Month.

**Saturday, September 26, 2015 • 9:00 am**

Vermont History Museum, Montpelier

### **Vermont Historical Society Annual Meeting: Animals in Vermont History**

From Merino sheep to the Morgan horse, Vermont has been the pastoral setting for a variety of creatures.

**Saturday, October 10, 2015 • 2:00 pm**

Vermont History Center, Barre

### **Second Saturday:**

### **Counterfeiting and Forgery in Vermont**

Archivist Mariessa Dobrick tells the stories of artistic criminals and their colorful crimes.

**Tuesday, October 20, 2015 • 7:00 pm**

UVM Waterman Lounge, Burlington

### **Sam Hand lecture series**

The inaugural tribute to Sam Hand, dean of Vermont historians and former president of VHS.

**Friday, October 30, 2015 • daylong conference**

1st Congregational Church, Burlington

### **League of Local Historical Societies and Museums Annual Meeting**

We will look at the essential elements for a nonprofit heritage organization's success. A must-attend event for small history organizations! Call Eileen Corcoran for registration information at (802) 479-8522.

**Saturday, November 14, 2015 • 2:00 pm**

Vermont History Center, Barre

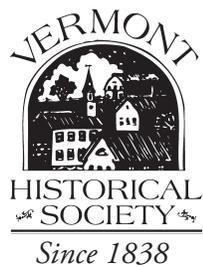
### **Second Saturday: Mountain Brew**

Author Tim Matson will share his high-spirited guide to country-style homebrew from the 1970s.

**Questions?** Please call Amanda Gustin for more

information at (802) 828-2180, except where noted.

You can always find more  
on our website:  
[vermonthistory.org/calendar](http://vermonthistory.org/calendar)



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*Return Service Requested*

## Mystery Photo

Last issue's mystery photograph generated a record number of responses: we tallied at least 20 positive responses. As many people recognized, the image is of the Rutland Railroad station in Proctor during the 1927 flood. Several buildings to the left in the photograph survive today. VHS member Real Parras was the first to identify the scene.



This issue's mystery photograph comes from the scrapbook of John C. Sherburne (1883-1959), of Randolph, Vt. Sherburne served as the chief justice of the Vermont Supreme Court from 1949-1955. This photograph is dated June 1917, but we don't know where the building is located. If you can help, contact Paul Carnahan at (802) 479-8508 or [paul.carnahan@vermonthistory.org](mailto:paul.carnahan@vermonthistory.org).

*NOTE: Several people also tried to identify our previous issue's Greek Revival building photograph donated by the Glover Historical Society. There has been no confirmed identification yet. One person thought the building might be in New Hampshire, which is a real possibility.*