

# History Connections

Vermont Historical Society

News & Notes

Winter 2015 / Volume #9 / Number 2



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Since 1838

**Vermont Historical Society**

60 Washington Street  
Barre, Vermont 05641-4209

## Inside This Issue

- Appreciating our volunteers
- Seventh graders discover Richford
- Vermont in the 1970s
- Vermont History Day
- Save your favorite teddy bear!
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## Were you there?

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## One of Vermont's most important local history collections . . . Witness life in the Granite Capital

After many years under the care of the Aldrich Library, the artifacts and archival materials documenting the “Granite Center of the World” will soon be settled into residence at the Vermont History Center in Barre. As Paul Carnahan dubbed the acquisition, “It’s a collection of collections! It will be the largest number of collections we have processed at one time.”

### Collection will be safe and sound

The ownership of the Barre History Collection was officially transferred by the trustees of the Aldrich Public Library to VHS this past August, ensuring the ongoing access and preservation of one of Vermont’s most important local history collections. “We are relieved to know that these treasures from our community will be cared for so well,” remarked Aldrich Librarian Karen Lane.

“We already have researchers working with these records.”

— Paul Carnahan

the Barre Historical Society (predecessor to the current organization of that name) between 1915 and 1979. These items were



*Celebrating Barre History Collection’s historic move to the Vermont History Center at 60 Washington Street are (L to R) Karen Lane, Laura Warren, Marianne Kotch, and Paul Carnahan.*

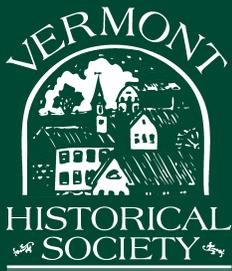
given to the Aldrich Library in 1979 after the BHS disbanded.

Subsequent additions enlarged the collection and introduced more contemporary materials. Over 230 linear feet of archives are included—personal papers, organizational and business records, photographs and other items that document life in the “Granite Capital.”

### These objects will amaze

There are hundreds of artifacts in the collection, dating from the late 1700s to late 1900s. These objects show us how Vermonters looked—with portraits of early

*continued on page 3—*



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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) 479-8500

• **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

### To our dedicated volunteers . . .

As the VHS senior managers gather to plan our annual volunteer appreciation luncheon, I am given to reflect upon my personal experiences with you this past year.

It is extraordinary to consider that you have given thousands of hours in support of our important mission, doing things ranging from processing collections in the museum and library, to leading tours for students at the museum. We recognize the importance of your efforts and know that we cannot do it without you, but I also can't help but think about the many ways that you have enriched my life and given me reasons to smile this past year.

Visiting a VHS member or donor with trustee Bill Wilson is always a learning experience. You are truly blessed with the gift of conversation and your vast knowledge of nearly any subject leaves me enthralled. I hope we will have the opportunity to have many more of these experiences.

What better place to be on a warm Saturday afternoon at the History Expo than chuckling in the back of the author's tent with you, Fred Pond. You take on this project for each Expo with such joy and execute it well. It was a delight to see

your childlike wonderment as we introduced new credit card processing technology to your author's tent. Save me a seat in 2016.

Many volunteers helped staff our exhibits at the Champlain Valley Fair in August. I shared that experience with museum volunteers David and Marianne Book on a Saturday afternoon, where I learned that David had missed his true calling in life as a side-show barker—

"Step right up folks and meet the director of the Vermont Historical Society!"

These and many other experiences have reminded me why each of you are so essential to the Vermont Historical Society. You are the heart and soul of this organization and you inspire our work every day.

As we hurry to get the exhibits opened, usher in the next school group, or get you started on your next project, I know we fail to say "thank you" loud enough or often enough. As a humble gesture of gratitude, a grateful staff extends to you a personal invitation to a luncheon being given in your honor, on Monday, March 16, beginning at 11:30 at the History Center. You will receive more information soon. The food will be prepared by the loving hands of the staff, so you know it will be good.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Mark S. Hudson, *Executive Director*



*At left, trustee Bill Wilson introduces one of the first Third Thursday lunch lecturers in Montpelier at the Vermont History Museum.*

## Life in the Granite Capital . . .

*Continued from page 1—*

Barre residents; how they worked, lived, and dressed—with tools, clothing, quilts, military equipment; and how they conducted business—with advertising materials from Barre’s many businesses.

Overall, the collections document the evolution of a small, late-18th-century Yankee village into one of Vermont’s most cosmopolitan and successful commercial and industrial centers by the mid-20th century.

### Moving to the hill

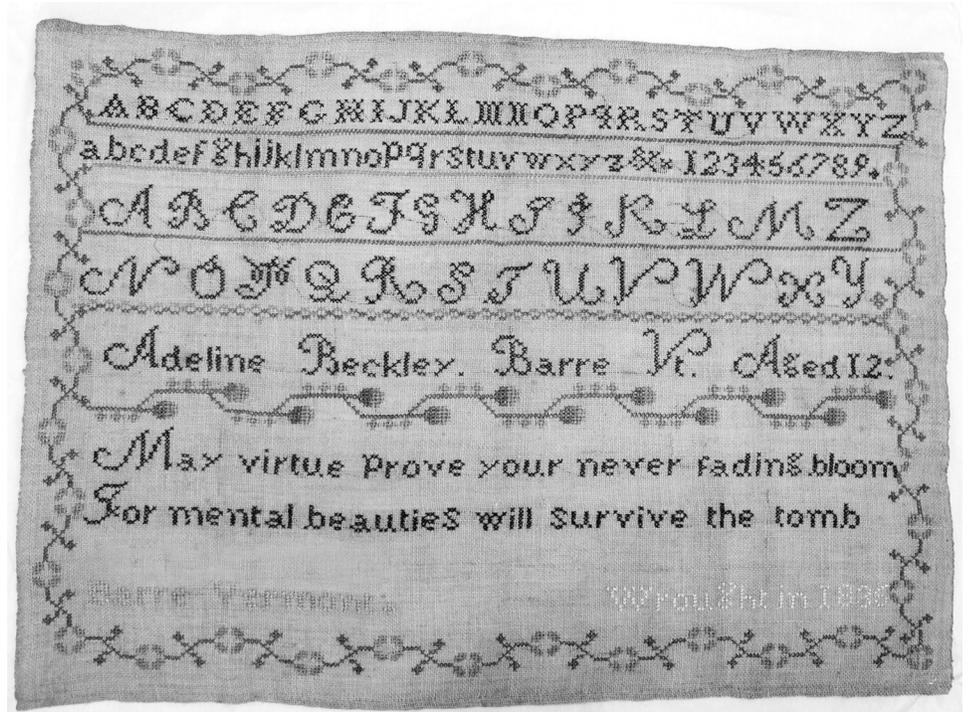
Archival items were transferred from the Aldrich’s off-site storage facility to the Vermont History Center on October 1; artifacts followed in the cold, windswept month of January.

A portion of the archival records are now available for use in the VHS’s Leahy Library. “A guide published by the Aldrich in 1997 greatly improved access to the archives,” noted VHS Librarian Paul Carnahan, who added, “We already have researchers working with these records.”

In early December 2014, local media were invited to the History Center for this historic moment and a closer look—with a full tour of the climate-controlled areas where many items will be housed.



*Portrait of Ellen Alantha Kinsman (1833–1852) by an unknown artist. This is one of the acquisition’s five portraits of the Kinsman family.*



*Sampler made by Adeline Beckley in 1836 when she was twelve years old. The Beckleys were a prominent family that settled on farms on the north side town—in the area today called Beckley Hill.*

### For your wondering eyes . . .

In recent years, this assembly of items has been seen by very few people and will bring many surprises as the Society unveils the entire collection. For example, Montpelier and Barre are traditionally considered two very different places with very distinct lineage. Curator Jackie Calder says, “The Montpelier records from this ‘Barre’ collection demonstrate how the two communities actually intermarried between the upper- and upper-middle classes of their day.”

These collections had been cataloged by earlier custodians, but much work remains to transfer the paper records

into the VHS library and museum databases. Even more work will be needed to rehouse all these items at the Vermont History Center. Some images and objects from the Barre History Collection can currently be seen in the exhibition *The Emergence of the Granite City: Barre 1880-1940* at the Vermont History Center.

### You can make this possible!

To make this work possible during the next year, the Vermont Historical Society needs to raise \$18,000 to fund internships and purchase conservation supplies. For more information about how you can help, please see below. 

## You can help preserve the Barre History Collection!

We need to raise \$18,000 to hire interns to sort, photograph, and catalog objects and documents. Funds are also needed to purchase conservation supplies.

For more information, please contact Jane Campbell at (802) 479-8516 or [jane.campbell@state.vt.us](mailto:jane.campbell@state.vt.us).

## Wouldn't you like to give the gift of history to future generations?

I love watching schoolchildren in the Vermont History Museum. They arrive bubbling over with the excitement about a field trip, and as they go through the exhibit, they say, "Hey, that looks like my town!" or "My grandfather was a farmer!"

Students learn how Vermont has stayed true to certain traditions over the years, and they discover a sense of pride in being Vermonters themselves.

You can help us keep this important state and community history alive—for our own under-

### Discovering a sense of pride in being a Vermonter

standing and for future generations, by including us in your will or estate plan.

It's important to take action now. Start your estate planning early to ensure that your values are carried forward into the future.

As you know, tax guidelines change each year. There may be new ways to take advantage of plans that will affect your beneficiaries.

For a confidential discussion of how you can make it easier for your loved ones as well as help preserve Vermont history, please contact me at (802) 479-8516, or go to [vermonthistory.org/plannedgift](http://vermonthistory.org/plannedgift) for more information. Always consult your financial advisor before choosing the best options for you and your family.

Thank you,



Jane Campbell  
Director of Development

## VHS helps students unravel the past— Seventh graders discover their own town along with skills to last a lifetime!

Did you know the Vermont Historical Society shares secrets about how to unravel the past with Vermont teachers and students? In the summer of 2014, twelve Vermont educators attended the class *Old Documents, New Technology*, co-taught by VHS Education Coordinator Victoria Hughes and Sigrid Olson from the Vermont Agency of Education. Participants learned ways to use technology to engage students with history.

Inspired by the class, Library Media Specialist Annette Goyne at Richford Junior-Senior High School, collaborated with Social Studies teacher Martin Vallender to have students create a digital portfolio of Richford history. In December, Annette reported on the success of a project that brought together 7th grade students, community members, and representatives of the Richford Historical Society.

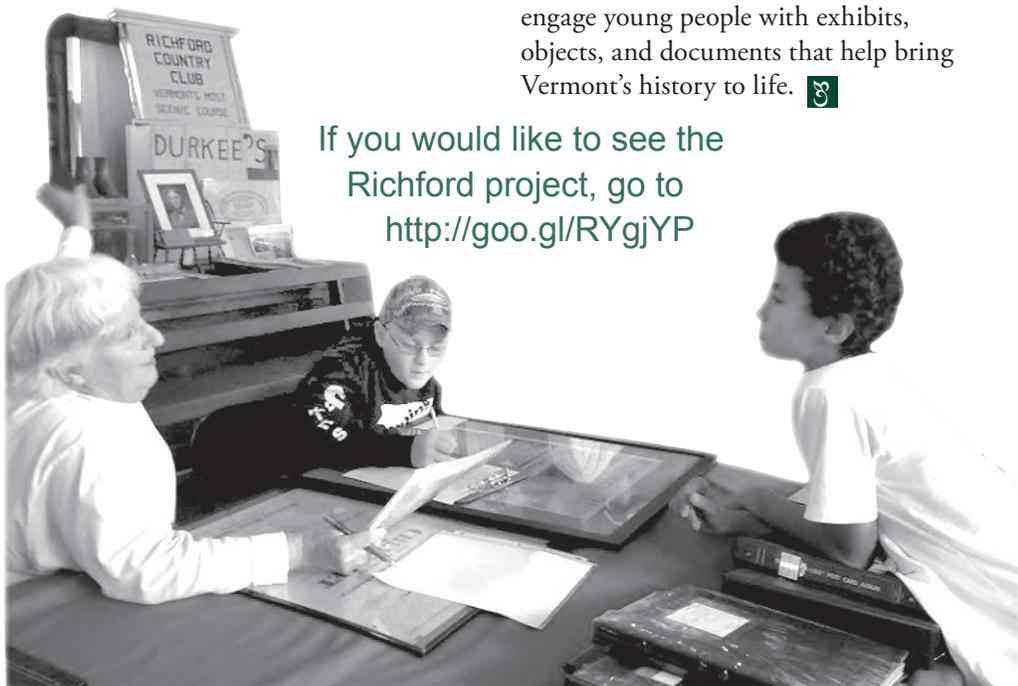
Annette's letter says, "Thanks again for such a great class.

The students really learned a lot of skills—how to think like a historian . . . the steps and skills involved in research, how to conduct interviews, how to use quotes, and how to edit . . ." The students posted their work online where it is available for all to see.

The Richford students worked closely with their local historical society and Mae Kittell, making a field trip to the museum to see artifacts and documents from Richford's past. They enjoyed the project because it involved their town, their interests, and technology. Students used books and articles from old *Richford Gazette* newspapers and learned first-hand by interviewing Richford citizens. One student even asked if they could do it again as 8th graders!

In addition to working with teachers and students at Vermont schools, Education Coordinator Victoria Hughes also teaches classes for homeschoolers at the Vermont History Center in Barre and the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. All of these programs help engage young people with exhibits, objects, and documents that help bring Vermont's history to life. 

If you would like to see the Richford project, go to <http://goo.gl/RYgjYP>





## Vermont History Day inspires discoveries and teaches skills

The Vermont Historical Society is looking forward to Vermont History Day 2015, the annual contest for student historians. This year's theme is "Leadership and Legacy in History," and the event will be held at U-32 High School in East Montpelier on March 28.

For participating students, the challenge will be to go beyond the typical biography of a famous person and instead explore the historical impact of an individual's or group's leadership.

Affiliated with National History Day, Vermont History Day provides an

**Can you be a  
judge at  
History Day?**

opportunity for students to research a topic and present their

analysis in an exhibit, documentary, performance, website or paper.

This remarkable program also helps students develop skills which are critical for future success:

- critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- research and reading skills
- oral and written communication
- presentation skills
- self-esteem and confidence

If you are interested in serving as a History Day judge, please contact Victoria Hughes at [victoria.hughes@state.vt.us](mailto:victoria.hughes@state.vt.us) or (802) 828-1413. 

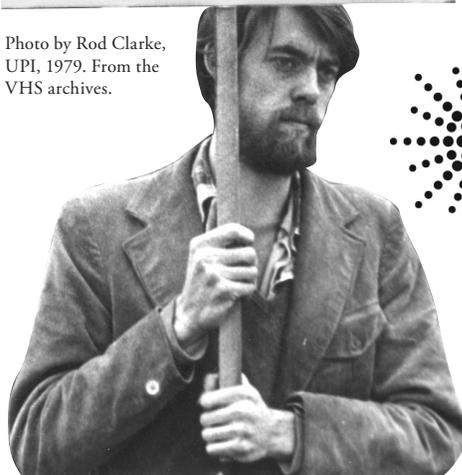
# vermont 70s

## 1970s counterculture and its lasting influence

The 1970s in Vermont were a time of radical change in culture, population, politics, and social life. An influx of young men and women who wanted to build a better life made Vermont an epicenter of communal living as they experimented with local organic food systems and progressive politics.



Photo by Rod Clarke, UPI, 1979. From the VHS archives.



Several of the state's colleges also fostered social and community engagement, and young people who came for education stayed and made a lasting impact on the state's history. Many of the features that are today considered quintessentially Vermont—its politics, its local food movements, and its offbeat culture—have their origins in this period of recent history. Community conversations will be held with Vermonters all over the state. If you have a story to tell or objects to share, we want to talk to you!

### Take our survey online!

Take our survey and watch our website for community forums near your town: [vermonthistory.org/vt70s](http://vermonthistory.org/vt70s).

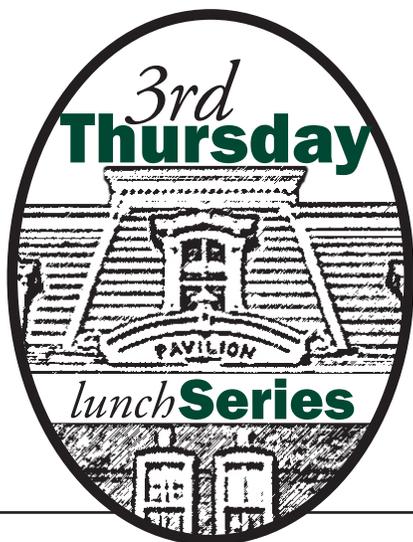
### Third Thursday will feature Vermont in the 70s

On March 19, Curator Jackie Calder and Public Programs Coordinator Amanda Gustin will present the history of this era, as well as an overview of our two-year project to collect the history from the 1970s.

Third Thursdays are free monthly brown bag lunch programs at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, so bring your lunch!



*This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. (Grant #MA-10-14-0279-14)*



Don't forget to bring  
your bag lunch!  
[vermonthistory.org/calendar](http://vermonthistory.org/calendar)

## Thank you to our sponsors!

The Vermont Historical Society  
would like to thank these  
organizations for sponsoring  
our League of Local Historical  
Societies and Museums  
meeting in November:

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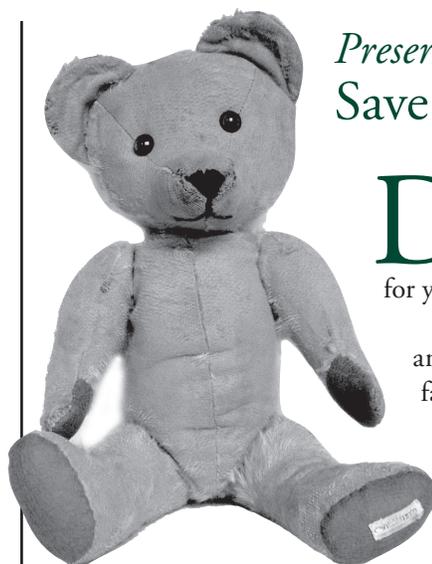
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## Preserve your treasures— Save your favorite teddy bear!

**D**o you have a wedding dress, christening gown,  
favorite stuffed animal, family quilt, or some  
other cloth keepsake that you'd like to keep  
for your grandchildren or nieces and nephews?

Conservator Sarah Stevens will discuss tips  
and best practices to store, clean, and keep your  
family heirlooms secure and looking great for  
future generations.

Please mark this important date on your  
calendar for March 25 at 7:00 pm at the  
Vermont History Center, 60 Washington  
Street in Barre. You can call Amanda Gustin,  
public programs coordinator, if you have questions  
at (802) 828-2180 or email [amanda.gustin@state.vt.us](mailto:amanda.gustin@state.vt.us). This event is free to the  
public, thanks to a Historic New England Community Preservation Grant.

## Textile workshop for your history organization

Thursday, March 26 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Vermont History Center, Barre

Limited to  
25 participants

Textile conservator Sarah Stevens will talk about the  
preservation and care of textiles and garments. Fibers and  
fabric structures will be reviewed as well as environmental factors  
such as temperature and relative humidity.

Participants will use hands-on activities to learn:

- techniques for handling, storing and displaying collections
- how to clean textiles using a low-suction vacuum
- how to roll and box textiles
- how to determine the best way to mount and display a textile

Please register online soon. \$30.00 includes lunch, a vacuum kit,  
and preservation tips on a flash drive. Snow date: Thursday, April 2.

*This presentation was made possible by a Historic New England  
Community Preservation Grant.*

## Wouldn't you like to help preserve the Barre History Collection?

See our story on page 3  
for more details about this  
exciting new acquisition.

You can help in many ways.



## Do you know how Farmers' Night began? Mid-week entertainment for legislators and all Vermonters

Each year, you can join us for an entertaining winter evening in the House Chamber of the Vermont State House in Montpelier. Farmers' Night performances are free, featuring music, poetry, historic displays and more about our state of Vermont. The series began in 1923—long before the interstate was built—when many legislators stayed in Montpelier during the session and organized mid-week entertainment for themselves. All members of the public are welcome to attend free of charge.

For our 2015 Farmers' Night performance on Wednesday, February 25th, we're pleased to welcome the award-winning, early music ensemble Seven Times Salt, visiting from Boston. They have performed at museums and concert halls throughout southern New England, and this concert will mark their first appearance in Vermont.

“From Plimoth  
to Yorktown:  
Music of  
Early America”

We invite you to enjoy an evening of music from the American colonies—from the first settlers at Plimoth to their descendants on the eve of the Revolution. The program will include refined English consorts,

early shapenote hymns, songs of liberty and taxation, wartime laments, and George Washington's favorite dance tunes. Composers will include Dowland, Ravenscroft, Arne, Billings and others.

Before the concert at the State House, you can visit the Seven Days Salt website: [www.seventimesalt.com](http://www.seventimesalt.com). You'll find more information, background, and musical samples to enjoy! See you at the State House. 



*Boston-based Seven Times Salt presents repertoire from early days.*

## Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 19, 2015 • 12:00 to 1:00 pm

### Third Thursday: The Lost Shul Mural

Jeff Potash and Aaron Goldberg present the story of the gloriously-painted Burlington synagogue.

Thursday, February 19, 2015 • 6:30 pm

### Moses Robinson at Phoenix Books

Get your book signed by Robert Mello in Burlington.

Wednesday, February 25, 2015 • 7:30 pm

at the Vermont State House in Montpelier

### Farmers' Night program

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

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 • 12:00 to 1:00 pm

### Do We Still Need (Vermont)

### Women's History?

Panel discussion about the future of women's history.

Thursday, March 19, 2015 • 12:00 to 1:00 pm

### Third Thursday: Vermont and 1970s Counterculture

Vermont was an epicenter of radical change in culture, population, politics, and social life in the 1970s.

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 • 7:00 pm

Vermont History Center in Barre

### Taking Care of Your Textiles

Sarah Stevens gives tips to preserve your heirlooms.

Saturday, March 28, 2015 • 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

U-32 High School in East Montpelier

### Vermont History Day

Students present Leadership & Legacy projects!

Thursday, April 16, 2015 • 12:00 to 1:00 pm

### Third Thursday: Inventing Ethan Allen

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

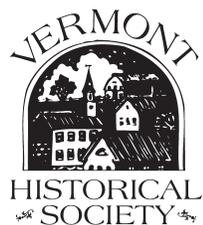
Thursday, May 21, 2015 • 12:00 to 1:00 pm

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

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

Events above are free and will be held at the Vermont History Museum at 109 State Street in Montpelier unless otherwise noted.

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



Since 1838

**Vermont Historical Society**

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Barre, Vermont 05641-4209

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## Mystery Photo

The current mystery photograph was passed on to us by the Glover Historical Society. They do not know where this scene is located, and our friends on Facebook have also come up empty-handed. Perhaps one of you readers recognizes this scene! If so, please contact VHS Librarian Paul Carnahan at paul.carnahan@state.vt.us or at (802) 479-8508.



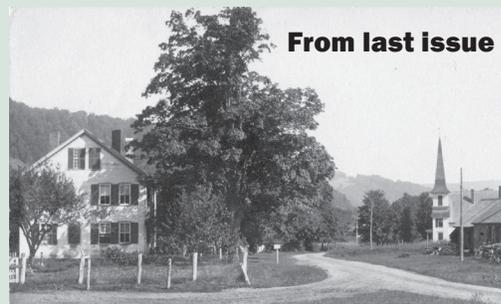
**Do you recognize this?**

You can participate in identifying mystery photographs between issues of *History Connections*. Become a friend of the VHS on Facebook!



facebook.com/  
VermontHistoricalSociety

Last issue's mystery photo was identified as the church on East Cobble Hill Road in Barre Town, just off Route 302.



**From last issue**