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JENNIFER BLAIR
(Began Mar 2023)
Director of Finance & Operations
(802) 479-8513
jennifer.blair@vermonthistory.org

EILEEN CORCORAN
Director of Service & Outreach
(802) 479-8522
eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org

CRAIG FARNHAM
Program Assistant
(802) 479-8519
craig.farnham@vermonthistory.org

CLAIRE GILBERTSON
Library Assistant
(802) 479-8509
claire.gilbertson@vermonthistory.org

TERESA TEIXEIRA GREENE
Collections Manager
(802) 479-8517
teresa.greene@vermonthistory.org

JOHN GROSVENOR
Director of Finance & Operations
(Until Dec 2022)

AMANDA GUSTIN
Director of Collections & Access
(802) 479-4264
amandagustin@vermonthistory.org

DANIELLE HARRIS-BURNETT
(Began Jan 2023)
Museum Educator
(802) 479-8524
danielle.harris-burnett@vermonthistory.org

Tori Hart
Director of Stewardship & PR
(802) 479-8516
tori.hart@vermonthistory.org

VICTORIA HUGHES
Ed Outreach & Curriculum Manager
(Until April 2023)

DAPHNE KINNEY-LANDIS
Stewardship Coordinator
(802) 479-8503
daphne.kinney-landis@vermonthistory.org

ANDREW LIPTAK
PR & Guest Services Coordinator
(802) 828-1414
andrew.liptak@vermonthistory.org

ANDREW MILES
Museum Educator
(Until Sep 2022)

STEPHEN PERKINS
Executive Director
(802) 479-8515
steve.perkins@vermonthistory.org

KATE PHILLIPS
Librarian
(802) 479-8508
kate.phillips@vermonthistory.org

MARJORIE STRONG
Assistant Librarian
(802) 479-8507
marjorie.strong@vermonthistory.org

JULS SUNDBERG
(Began Oct 2022)
Metadata Librarian
(802) 479-8509
juls.sundberg@vermonthistory.org

GAIL WIESE
Library Assistant

PATTY WILEY
Library Assistant
(802) 479-8509
patty.wiley@vermonthistory.org

The Vermont Historical Society was chartered in 1838 by an act of the Vermont Legislature. It is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization, governed by a board of trustees.
THANK YOU to all our volunteers, who generously donated amazing amounts of time, talent, and energy to the Vermont Historical Society. Because of you, we have the impact and outreach of an organization twice

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**President's Report - S. Crocker Bennett II**

Welcome to the VHS’s 2022-2023 Annual Report. This October will mark the end of my second year as president of the VHS. As last year, I can state that the Society is in great shape and what follows is almost entirely good news.

First, I would like to take the time to thank all our members for remaining faithful to the organization over the years. Thank you also to those non-member donors who may chance to read this report. And thank you to Governor Scott and the Vermont legislature who understand the VHS’s crucial role preserving and presenting our state’s long and proud past and continue to support us with much-needed funding.

We closed out fiscal year 2023 (FY23) in good financial shape. As noted above, contributions for the year exceeded budget projections. Grant income remains strong. Our income from the museum has grown significantly, primarily due to the bus tours who bring tourists to see the capital city and the State House in the late summer and autumn. We are now the primary draw for these tours and enjoy welcoming our neighbors and helping them to learn about Vermont.

Some highlights from the just-closed FY23:

We finally hosted the long-delayed (due to Covid) Vermont Eats! The Italian Experience in Barre. This was held at Pearl Street Pizza in Barre and quickly sold out. Moreover, we were able to bring back our Freedom and Unity Luncheon held again at the Capital Plaza.

As noted above, our Vermont history fans want content, and in FY23 we did not disappoint them. We produced 75 additional videos highlighting the amazing objects preserved within our collections.

From Congress, we secured the funding necessary to create open storage galleries at the Vermont History Center in Barre. These galleries will allow more of our collections to be on permanent display. The idea is to display more of our collections, which have heretofore remained in storage, to visitors, while still maintaining the climate control necessary for preservation. The installation of the open storage galleries complete the original vision for the Vermont History Center created in 2002.

We hosted a History Adventure Raffle, which featured a 5-day stay in Rome, Italy, for the winner. It quickly sold out and brought new donors to our doors.

FY23 saw us kick off our Collecting COVID-19: A Vermont Story project. Funded by a grant from IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) we will be collecting and archiving over 100 oral histories of Vermonters’ experiences during the pandemic. These histories will be woven into a book written by Garret Graff and a limited-series podcast.

Our work with local historical societies goes on with positive changes and increasing cooperation. We moved the LLHSM (League of Local Historical Societies and Museums) Annual Meeting to the spring, with great workshops on artifacts and audience. The move to spring will facilitate local historical societies implementing new presentations/events to have them ready for their
busy summer/fall seasons. We also hosted cataloging workshops for local historical societies and restarted mentorships and site visits around the state.

On the education front, we created several new hands-on history programs for K-12 learners, including in-person and virtual versions of Pandemics: Then and Now and the Green Mountain Parkway Debate. We have also increased the number of stories and activities on the Vermont History Explorer website (VHS’s main resource for Vermont history curriculum and materials for teachers, parents, and students).

As some of you may be aware, VHS experienced the departure of our long-serving Director of Finance and Operations (DFO) during FY23. I am happy to report that Jennifer Blair, who took on the role of DFO in March, has injected new ideas and enthusiasm into the role. She is presently working with Steve Perkins and the Board to adopt a more user-friendly, financial software system that will be more accessible and help facilitate our annual audit. Thank you Jennifer and Steve!

Although our membership is modestly declining, it is not due to members giving up on us. In fact, our membership has shown remarkable loyalty. Once we enroll a new member that person tends to remain a member for many years. The shrinking number of members has more to do with the aging of our membership base and the different ways that young people interested in Vermont history interact with the VHS. Our sense is that membership is not as important to younger history enthusiasts as are access and content. While membership is declining, visits to our web-based videos, lectures, and events have grown. Also, annual giving is increasing. We believe our visits and donations are growing because we provide more and better content in many forms, and our donors are impressed and willing to help us continue to do so. We need to find new approaches to engage our younger audience who aren’t members to the point that they will pay to help us create the content they enjoy. How best to accomplish this is a specific area of focus as we work on our new strategic plan, which is ongoing and will be completed by the end of the present calendar year.

This will be my last report to you as president of this wonderful organization. I have loved serving in various positions on the board and as an officer for over a decade, but it is time to step down. I have it on good authority that our present First Vice-President, Jan Albers, is ready and willing to step into my role. As a published author on Vermont’s history, she is well qualified to be your next President.

Bless you all.

S. Crocker Bennett II, President
The past year saw a number of institutional changes that have helped provide increased program and content support in an efficient and meaningful manner. In considering the modern operations of a multi-faceted historical society, it made sense to think about how we organize our work to meet today’s needs.

Long operated separately, the library and collections department have been brought together into one unit, the Collections and Access department under new Director of Collections and Access Amanda Gustin. One of the greatest strengths of the Vermont Historical Society is the interplay between archival materials and the physical objects of our past. This realigned department will serve in-house researchers as well as providing rich content through a variety of channels such as web media, physical exhibitions, and our traditional publishing program. A new face in the department is Librarian Kate Phillips, who replaced longtime librarian Paul Carnahan who retired at the end of the last fiscal year.

We’ve also brought all of our services under one department headed up by Director of Service and Outreach Eileen Corcoran. This very capable group manages education programs, educator support, adult programs, and the varied services we offer to historical societies and small museums statewide.

We’ve been lucky enough to increase the number of educators on staff and welcomed Danielle Harris-Burnett as Museum Educator and, after saying goodbye to longtime educator Victoria Hughes in April, Outreach Educator Meg Mallory.

Our Stewardship and Public Relations department continues to work with members, donors, foundations, and granting agencies to successfully fund all of the good work you come to expect. In addition to stewardship, this group also manages all of our communications, social media, and guest services at the History Museum.

Finally, our Finance and Operations department is capably helmed by Jennifer Blair who joined us in March after John Grosvenor’s exit. Jennifer has the daunting task of managing all of our bookkeeping, financial analysis and reporting, and project management as well as riding herd on our wonderfully complex, beautiful, and sometimes frustrating, idiosyncratic historic headquarters in Barre.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Stop by to meet our new professionals and your old friends. Here’s to a wonderful year!

Steve Perkins, Executive Director
Statement of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>FY 2022</th>
<th>FY 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Bequests</td>
<td>383,950</td>
<td>870,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Appropriation</td>
<td>1,022,891</td>
<td>1,085,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>-306,780</td>
<td>276,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions, Fees and Earned Income</td>
<td>76,995</td>
<td>76,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT History Bookstore Sales</td>
<td>36,038</td>
<td>38,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State and Federal Grants</td>
<td>320,435</td>
<td>502,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>191,134</td>
<td>190,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>1,724,663</td>
<td>3,040,239</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>FY 2022</th>
<th>FY 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Programs</td>
<td>756,743</td>
<td>671,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>429,520</td>
<td>521,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>248,547</td>
<td>208,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum</td>
<td>424,248</td>
<td>578,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Finance</td>
<td>153,779</td>
<td>130,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>233,191</td>
<td>178,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT History Bookstore/Guest Services Museum</td>
<td>65,696</td>
<td>59,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>2,311,724</td>
<td>2,349,066</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Depreciation of capital assets allocated across expense lines. Total depreciation for FY22 was $272,756 and for FY23 was $268,374. Operational revenues and expenses were balanced each year.

Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>FY 2022</th>
<th>FY 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>760,898</td>
<td>917,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>376,794</td>
<td>751,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>2,308,567</td>
<td>2,572,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>9,538,087</td>
<td>9,555,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>-3,402,175</td>
<td>-3,670,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Property Plant &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>6,135,913</td>
<td>5,884,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>9,582,172</td>
<td>10,126,059</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>FY 2022</th>
<th>FY 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>146,501</td>
<td>17,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term Liabilities</td>
<td>174,535</td>
<td>160,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Payable</td>
<td>976,854</td>
<td>977,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>1,297,890</td>
<td>1,155,641</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Assets</th>
<th>FY 2022</th>
<th>FY 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Net Assets</td>
<td>8,892,959</td>
<td>8,279,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>-608,675</td>
<td>691,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENDING NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>8,284,284</td>
<td>8,970,418</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you for getting back to me, and for your patient and helpful explanation. Dealing with you has been a great pleasure. Thank you again and best of luck!

-Grateful Researcher

Most Searched for Terms in the Museum Catalog

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communion</th>
<th>Doll</th>
<th>Sterling</th>
<th>Abenaki</th>
<th>Baseball</th>
<th>Clasp</th>
<th>Hair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Peeler</td>
<td>Bicentennial</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>Press</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VHS is partnering with the Vermont Department of Libraries, and Vermont State Archives on a statewide collections platform.

Everything was laid out so well that it was easy to work through the materials. Highly efficient!

-VHS Donor

Strategy One Supporters in FY23:
Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Institute of Museum & Library Services, John M. Bissell Foundation, National Historical Publications & Records Commission, St. Andrew’s Society of Vermont Scholarship Foundation, Vermont Judicial Historical Society, and generous individual donors.
HOPE MESSAGE

INSPIRATIONAL SAYINGS

I rush to open (the enewsletter) and see what’s happening. It’s great that events all over the state are listed so that people can have choices on entertainment or expanding their knowledge.
-Local History Enews subscriber

History in the 252

History in the 252 aims to highlight a “nugget” of history from each municipality in Vermont. The website was launched via a display in the State House in April.

Keep up the good work! Anyone who didn’t attend this meeting really lost out.
-LLHSM Conference Attendee

Strategy Two Supports in FY23:
This year we nearly doubled the amount of Vermont history video content featuring items from our collection and stories and places around the state. We finally hosted the long-awaited Vermont Eats! event and look forward to more programs that engage people in history and culture through storytelling and good food.

600 participants in talks, trivia, workshops, & classes  
50 new objects on exhibit  
27 hours of new programming available online

I am grateful that such a profound time in Vermont will be preserved.
-Senator Patrick Leahy on Collecting COVID-19: A Vermont Story

YouTube Vermont History Content FY23
360 New Subscribers  65,500 Total Views  2,500 Hours of Content Consumed
Most Popular Video: This Place in History: First Ski Tow in the U.S.  (3,665 views)

Collections Video
Fukuda Trunk

Our Collections videos and This Place in History segments continue to inspire further exploration into the people, places, and events that make up Vermont's story.

YouTube recommended this video to me. It was so interesting!
-YouTube Subscriber

Strategy Three Supporters in FY23:
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Vermont Arts Council, and generous individual donors.
We engaged with more students in person for our Hands-on History programs, History for Homeschoolers, and Vermont History Day than ever before. Virtual programs and new content on Vermont History Explorer allowed us to serve even more students from near and far.

Thank you for letting us come and play games. We liked trying new games like dominoes, graces, marbles, sack races, jacks and bean bag toss. We had an amazing time!
- Barre City Elementary School third graders

Strategy Four Supporters in FY23:
We are deeply grateful to you, our many donors and members, who help preserve Vermont's rich history, so each generation can learn from the legacy of our past. Your generous contributions provide the critical support needed to host public programs, educate students, present exhibits, publish unique stories, and preserve and share Vermont's treasures.

The Legacy Circle is comprised of individuals who share a love of learning, a sense of wonder about Vermont, and a commitment to ensuring our cultural and scientific heritage is passed to future generations. By supporting the Vermont Historical Society through an estate or life income gift, these individuals have recognized the timeless value of VHS's work and the enduring place it has in Vermont history.

The 1838 Society, named in honor of the organization's founding year, recognizes loyal individuals, families, and organizations based on their lifetime giving of $5,000 or more to the Vermont Historical Society. Members of the 1838 Society are among a timeless cadre of philanthropists who envision a future of infinite opportunity for VHS.
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Chittenden Bank Community Fund
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Lisman Family
Brigadier General Edwin Loren Little
Bob and Polly Maguire
Maple Capital Management, Inc.
Marie H. Ankeny Charitable Legacy Fund
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George D. Milne Family
Addison and Adelaide Minott
Monterey Fund, Inc.
Lyman Orton
Patrick Foundation
The Honorable Louis P. Peck
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Grant and Jo Reynolds
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Tirzah J. Sweet Trust
The Boston Foundation
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Turrell Fund
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Union Mutual of Vermont Companies
Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services
Mr. Robert T. Wetherbee Trust
Virginia C. Wood
Christopher S. Wren

Ash ($10,000 - $24,999)
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Mrs. George D. Aiken
W. Thomas Anderson
Jean L. Andrews
Anonymous
Mimi Baird
Susan C. Beers
BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont
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John Cadwell
Jacqueline Calder
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Dorothy and Jim Douglas
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Hazelett Corporation
Nancy D. Hill
Barbara J. Holt Estate
Mark Hudson
Joan Huguenin
Penrose and Schuyler Jackson
John M. Bissell Foundation
KeyBank Foundation
Laurance & Mary Rockefeller/Woodstock Foundation Fund
Laurence W. Leonard
Norman L. Lewis
Lintilhac Foundation, Inc.
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TD Banknorth
Rhoda W. Teagle
The Red diets Foundation
Dave and Pat Thomas
Vermont Agency of Transportation
Vermont Arts Council
Vermont Business Magazine
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Vermont Mutual Insurance Group
Vermont State Employees Credit Union
Ms. Nancy Ann Walker
Laura Warren
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Donald and Patricia Whelpley
Whitman Communications, Inc.
Wonder & Wisdom

Beech ($5,000 - $9,999)
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Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation
Anonymous
Peter Anthony and Marsha Kincheloe
Atwater Kent Estate
David and Joanne Austin
Mr. Hamilton V. Bail
Bates & Murray, Inc.
Carmen Beck
Benefit Community Impact Fund
James M. Betts, M.D.
Black River Design
Lucien J. Bolduc Estate
Bond Auto Parts, Inc.
Margaret Bracken
Mr. Lincoln C. Brownell
Edward Brynn
George C. Burrill
Cabot Family Charitable Trust
Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation
Carris Financial Corporation
and Subsidiary
Jack Carter
Joanna and Stephen Caswell
John and Deborah Cave
Mary Ann and Bob Chaffee
Brianne E. and David S. Chase
William M. Chester, Jr.
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Concept 2 Rowing
Muffie Conlon
Valerie and Kevin Crowley
Gainor B. Davis, Ph.D.
Denis, Ricker & Brown, Inc.
Dennis J. Devereux
Rolf Diamant and Nora Mitchell
Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC
John and Heather Dwight
Ellen C. Hill Charitable Remainder Trust
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The utmost care has been taken in preparing this report. Occasionally, however, errors do occur. We apologize if this has happened and ask that you notify us with any inaccuracies or omissions.

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