



## Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Community Planning Grants

*Generously supported by Vermont Covered and administered by the Vermont Historical Society as part of their work with the Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission.*



### Awarded Grants: June 2024

In Vermont, the years 2025-2027 will focus on the semiquincentennial (250th) of the founding of the United States. This grant program is intended to help communities plan and prepare for the 250th at the local level. Grants of \$1,000 were given to support a range of activities that help to define and move forward programs, events, and resources for 2026-2027. Below are grants that were approved by June 2024.

#### Danville Vermont Historical Society

The Danville Historical Society will facilitate a town wide effort to educate, remember and celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary. The railroad station, which will function as a wellness stop on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, will serve as a focal point to inform and educate visitors from around the state and country about their history. The Society along with the various organizations in the Town of Danville will use a variety of subjects to bolster efforts and increase awareness during numerous community public events. Working with local K – 12 school, they will also involve students through classroom participation, community projects and educational programs.

#### Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Vermont Chapter of NSDAR (Cornwall)

The EMBA DAR is the owner and steward of the Samson Memorial Chapter House, originally a library, museum, and meeting house located in the center of Cornwall and is presently reopening and revitalizing the Chapter and the property. As part of their activities for the 250<sup>th</sup>, they will create a permanent Memorial Garden at the site. The theme of the garden is Never Forget and it will include memorial bricks surrounded by a beautiful pollinator garden with benches and picnic tables. The purpose of the garden is to honor patriots, veterans, family members, community members, and even pets. This project will support the new Cornwall Town Center goal which is to provide outdoor spaces for healthy activities that promote well-being and celebrate of the diverse population and history of the community.

#### Fairfield Historical Society, Fairfield

The Fairfield Historical Society will sponsor events and resources to commemorate the 150th Anniversary (2024) of the infamous murder of Marietta Ball, who was killed walking from Fairfield to Saint Albans in 1874, and whose case turned the region upside down with xenophobia and classism. Components would include author talks, permanent historic signage, and school programs about historic bias, legal process, and due court process.

#### Jamaica Historical Foundation, Jamaica

The Jamaica Historical Foundation will spearhead a multi-faceted project to encourage the village to “put themselves in Jamaica’s history” and commemorate 1776-1780. Components will include new historic signage around town, engagement of students, elders, and everyone in between to help research and “become” historic interpreters at different sites, and programs to welcome new families to town.

#### Morgan Historical Society, Morgan

The Morgan Historical Society will undertake a collection of programs and initiatives to highlight state and town residents and their contributions in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WW1, and WW2. It will include talks, news articles, identifying & marking grave sites, and exhibits at the Morgan Historical Society.

#### Pownal Historical Society

The Pownal Historical Society will use the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War as the catalyst for educating the town's population about the sacrifices made by the men from Pownal who served in the war, as well as their wives and families who often sacrificed to survive in the absence of the man of the house. The title of the project will be "Remembering those who sacrificed; those who fought, and those who stayed at home." In order to make this story compelling, they will focus on three Pownal men and their families, using both information in their archives as well as additional material gathered through research and community input. The final product will be a "moving wall" of profile stories on these Pownal citizens.

#### Sunderland 250 Commemoration Committee (Sunderland)

Sunderland will arrange activities for May 2025 along the route of Ethan Allen’s march to Ticonderoga, highlighting the role and place of the Ira Allen House, which was for a time the home of Ethan and Ira Allen. They will also work to locate Lockwood’s tavern (somewhere near Ira Allen house) and other places of Sunderland’s history, so historical signage can be erected. Other activities may include a cemetery scavenger hunt for Revolutionary War soldiers & family members, and activities that explore the everyday lives of early Sunderland residents in 1775-1777, including potentially recreating a small hut used by residents at the time as living accommodations.

#### Town of Bennington

This grant will cover part of a project to create a multi-day, multi-town 250th anniversary commemorating the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point by Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys. Specifically, this will support activities on Friday, May 2, in Bennington where students from around the region will be learning about this history using the Bennington Museum, Old Bennington, and the Battle Monument historic locations in conjunction with interpreters in period clothing to interpret this event both in it's local context and national importance.

#### Town of Pomfret, Vermont 250th Anniversary Committee, Pomfret

The Town of Pomfret, through its Vermont 250th Anniversary Committee, seeks to enhance citizen engagement and awareness of the upcoming historic anniversaries through a series of projects, events and other activities. This will include a new website for the Pomfret Historical Society, uploading new digital resources, and a community event to unveil the project and educate attendees about upcoming 250th anniversary programming in Pomfret and around Vermont, and inspire others to join the Committee's efforts.

#### Tunbridge Historical Society, Tunbridge

The Tunbridge Historical Society will coordinate a guided bus tour of historic places within town. This would include stops at different Raid of 1789 sites, the first mill, the location of the original meetinghouse, the location of the first settlers home as well as other early homes in town built by Revolutionary veterans, and visiting and telling the stories of some of the Revolutionary soldiers who are buried in town.

#### Weathersfield Proctor Library (Weathersfield)

A few years ago, staff from the Weathersfield Historical Society made a fascinating discovery at the Weathersfield Town Office-- an original two-page manuscript known as "Articles of Association" dated 31 July 1775 and signed by more than 20 freeholders of Weathersfield. The Articles drew attention to the increasing loss of legitimacy of British colonial rule in America. The Library and partners plan to use this original document as the basis for developing a one-act play to dramatize the Weathersfield town meeting of July 31, 1775 in which the Articles were discussed and debated by town freeholders.

#### Whiting Library, Chester

The Whiting Library will undertake a digitization project to make collections in the library's Vermont Room more accessible. The room houses a local history collection which includes town histories, family biographies, cemetery lists, photographs, postcards, cemetery records, and other objects. In addition, they will promote the project and the 250th anniversary with an open house and a Colonial-themed party.

#### Woodstock History Center, Woodstock

The Woodstock History Center will create a publication highlighting the many pivotal events in Woodstock's social, natural, political, and economic history— and place them within the context of Vermont's and the nation's history. The development of this publication will begin in 2024 and be published in 2025. It will be distributed at several high trafficked points in Woodstock. The goal of this project is to increase the community's sense of history and identity.

#### Worcester, Vermont Historical Society, Worcester

The grant will fund planning for a focused event at the annual Worcester Arts Festival, sponsored by the Worcester, Vermont Historical Society, dedicated during the anniversary year focusing on the 250th celebration. Local artists will be encouraged to contribute artistic endeavor of any genre, including performance, related to the theme. A division for children and youth will be included. After the main event, exhibits will be created to be displayed in public buildings in the Town.