

Museum/Organizations/Special Collection: Resources in Vermont



The following museums, organizations, and special collections are available to students working on History Day research. Check the websites for hours and contact information. It is always a good idea to call ahead to ensure the availability of materials and the assistance of research librarians.

The best way to find primary sources on local topics relating to a less documented event is to go to the **town clerk's office, the local library, or the local historical society** of the community in which the event occurred. You will find many important documents such as **birth certificates, marriage licenses, death records, diaries, photographs**, and other primary sources related to your topic. If your topic focuses on a more recent event, you may be able to conduct an **oral history** with someone who experienced the event.

For a complete listing of the local historical societies in the state, visit the Vermont Historical Society website at: <https://vermonthistory.org/local-vermont-historical-societies-and-museum-directory>

For a listing of town clerks, visit the Vermont Secretary of State web site:
<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/town-clerks/>

American Precision Museum (Windsor) <https://americanprecision.org/>
Heritage of the mechanical arts and Vermonters in the machine industry; machine tools.

Bennington Museum (Bennington) <https://benningtonmuseum.org/>
Genealogy; American paintings & sculpture; military artifacts; Bennington Pottery Gallery & Study Center.

Billings Farm & Museum (Woodstock) <https://billingsfarm.org/>
Rural, dairy, and farming history of the state.

Ethan Allen Homestead (Burlington) <https://ethanallenhomestead.org/>
Life and times of Ethan Allen; Abenaki and French colonial life.

Fort Ticonderoga/Thompson-Pell Research Center (Ticonderoga, NY)
<https://www.fortticonderoga.org/> 18th military history; 19th tourism.

Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History (Middlebury) <https://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/>
History of Middlebury and Addison County; industry and agriculture.

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (Vergennes) <https://www.lcmm.org/>
Maritime history and nautical archaeology of the Champlain Valley; shipwrecks of Lake Champlain.

Middlebury College Library and Special Collections (Middlebury)
<https://www.middlebury.edu/library/special-collections> Flanders Ballad Collection, college archives.

Old Stone House Museum (Brownington) <https://www.oldstonehousemuseum.org/>
Life and times of Alexander Twilight; Orleans County history.

Robert Hull Fleming Museum at UVM (Burlington) <https://www.uvm.edu/fleming>
Broad collection of art and anthropology: history from early Mesopotamia to contemporary America.

Robert Todd Lincoln's Hildene (Manchester) <https://hildene.org/>
The restored historic house of Robert Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's son, and artifacts and primary source documents native to the house and Lincoln family.

Rockingham Free Public Library and Museum (Bellows Falls) <https://rockinghamlibrary.org/history/>
Family genealogies, complete NEHGS Register, local newspapers, town directories.

Rokeby Museum (Ferrisburgh) <https://rokeby.org/>
19th c anti-slavery & religious newspapers, family letters, diaries & books; emphasis on agricultural life & Underground Railroad activity.

Russell Collection of Vermontiana (Arlington) <https://www.marthacanfieldlibrary.org/russell-collection/>
Dorothy Canfield Fisher; documenting towns of Arlington, Sunderland and Sandgate; genealogical files.

Shelburne Museum (Shelburne) <https://shelburnemuseum.org/>
Wide range of Vermont and American arts, architecture, and artifacts, mainly from pre-industrial era.

Slate Valley Museum (Granville, NY) <https://www.slatevalleymuseum.org/>
Immigration and quarrying in the Slate Valley of Vermont and New York.

Sullivan Museum and History Center (Northfield) <https://www.norwich.edu/museum>
Military and academic history.

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum (St. Johnsbury) <https://www.stjathenaeum.org/>
Fairbanks family; Caledonia County records dating back to 1837; records of local community organizations, nineteenth century landscape paintings, and marble sculpture.

University of Vermont Special Collections (Burlington) <https://specialcollections.uvm.edu/>
Manuscripts, rare books, UVM archives.

Vermont State Historic Sites <https://historicsites.vermont.gov/>

1. **Chimney Point** (Addison) Native American, French colonial, and early American artifacts.
2. **Justin Smith Morrill Homestead** (Strafford) Household items and printed materials related to the life & career of influential Senator Justin Morrill, chief sponsor of Land Grant College Act.
3. **Mount Independence** (Orwell) Revolutionary War artifacts on site of colonial fortification.
4. **President Calvin Coolidge Historic Site** (Plymouth) Coolidge homestead, other public buildings of Plymouth Notch. Artifacts, exhibits, presentations related to life of Calvin Coolidge.

Vermont Department of Libraries (Barre) List of public libraries: <https://libraries.vermont.gov/find>

Vermont Folklife Center Archives (Middlebury) <https://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/>
Over 3,800 taped interviews, over 200 videotaped interviews, photographs, etc.; farm and rural life; social, economic, environmental, and cultural history; occupational and labor history; ethnic cultures.

Vermont Historical Society (Barre) <https://vermonthistory.org/leahy-library/>
Extensive collection of books, maps, photographs, journals, broadsides, other library materials documenting history and people of Vermont.

Vermont National Guard Museum (Colchester) <https://vt.public.ng.mil/Museum/>
Military artifacts and memorabilia, Vermont and US.

Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum (Stowe) <https://www.vtssm.org/>
Vermont ski and snowboard industry.

Vermont State Archives (Middlesex) <https://sos.vermont.gov/vsara/>
Vital records (birth, death, marriage, divorce); state records, historic newspapers.