

## 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: <http://vermonthistory.org/community/league-of-local-societies-and-museums-directory>

For a listing of town clerks, visit the Vermont Secretary of State web site:  
<https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections/town-clerks-election-workers.aspx>

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

**Bennington Museum** (Bennington) <http://www.benningtonmuseum.com/>  
Genealogy; American paintings & sculpture; military artifacts; Bennington Pottery Gallery & Study Center.

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

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

**Fort Ticonderoga/Thompson-Pell Research Center** (Ticonderoga) <http://www.fort-ticonderoga.org>  
18<sup>th</sup> military history; 19<sup>th</sup> tourism.

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

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

**Middlebury College Library and Special Collections** (Middlebury)  
<http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/lib/libcollections/collections/special> Flanders Ballad Collection.

**National Museum of the Morgan** (Middlebury) <http://www.morganhorse.com/museum/>  
Development of the Morgan horse; life of Justin Morgan.

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

**Robert Hull Fleming Museum at UVM** (Burlington) <http://www.flemingmuseum.org>  
Broad collection of art and anthropology: history from early Mesopotamia to contemporary America.

**Robert Todd Lincoln's Hildene** (Manchester) <http://www.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) <http://rockinghamlibrary.org/index.html>  
Family genealogies, complete NEHGS Register, local newspapers, town directories.

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

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

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

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

**Sullivan Museum and History Center** (Northfield) <http://academics.norwich.edu/museum/>  
Military and academic history.

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

**Vermont State Historic Sites** <http://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.

**University of Vermont Special Collections** (Burlington) <http://library.uvm.edu/sc/>  
Manuscripts, rare books, UVM archives.

**Vermont Department of Libraries** (Montpelier) [http://libraries.vermont.gov/state\\_library](http://libraries.vermont.gov/state_library)  
List of public libraries: <http://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) <http://www.vermonthistory.org/library>  
Extensive collection of books, maps, photographs, journals, broadsides, other library materials documenting history and people of Vermont.

**Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum** (Stowe) <http://www.vtssm.com/>  
Vermont ski and snowboard industry.

**Vermont State Archives** (Middlesex) <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/archives-records/state-archives.aspx>  
Vital records (birth, death, marriage, divorce); state records, historic newspapers.