VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2019 ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019
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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.
Thanks to all our volunteers, who generously donate amazing amounts of time, talent, and energy on behalf of the Vermont Historical Society. Because of you, we have the impact and outreach of an organization twice our size.

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Under the leadership of Executive Director, Steve Perkins, the VHS continues to be both active and dynamic as it endeavors to preserve the past, inform the present, and promote Vermont’s shared legacy to the future.

In 2018, the Board and the staff of the VHS did extensive planning on how to better address its mission by conducting extensive interviews with our constituents, analyzing our programs and services, and meeting as a group of staff, Board and members at a strategic planning session in July. In January 2019, the Board approved a new strategic plan for 2019-2024. The broad goals of that plan are: to provide better access to our rich collections from anywhere in the world; to support Vermont’s many vibrant local historical societies; to help Vermonters increase their knowledge of our state’s past and to come to a better understanding of Vermont and its people; and to help Vermont’s students better understand Vermont history and its place in the broader world. These are wide-reaching goals, but progress is already being made to achieve them.

The VHS website has been updated and expanded. Website visitors can view our collections and explore our library holdings. It is more user-friendly and enables people to cyber-visit our Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. The library staff, under the direction of Paul Carnahan, are working hard as ever to add more documents and photographs online.

All summer VHS staff and trustees, under the guidance of Eileen Corcoran, community outreach coordinator, have been visiting local historical societies around the state in “listening sessions” to hear how the VHS can better serve their needs.

In order for Vermonters to increase their knowledge and understanding of our state’s past and better understand Vermont and its people, Amanda Gustin, the VHS public program manager, has been hard at work, developing new and exciting programs and continuing older successful ones. Third Thursday lectures are continuing, and a new book discussion program based on the VHS published book by Paul Searles *Repeopling Vermont*, is being offered around the state.

Vermont History Day, organized by Victoria Hughes, has long been a way for Vermont’s students to interact with history and share their enthusiasm. Under the new strategic plan, the VHS will offer more professional development for teachers, increase home-school programs, and provide more opportunities for students and teachers to explore the Freedom and Unity exhibit in Montpelier.

In addition to the completion of the Strategic Plan, there have been other exciting developments. In the fall of 2018, we held our first Freedom and Unity luncheon honoring donors of our Freedom and Unity Circle. In June of 2019, we held our first Vermont Eats dinner in Burlington, with recipes taken from our collection and a silent auction of goods donated by Vermont farmers and businesses. Our development staff of Kate Olney and Tori Hart continue to devise new ways of connecting our constituents with history.

This has definitely been a busy year at the VHS, but all our achievements wouldn’t be possible without the generous support from the state of Vermont and our many members and donors. We are lucky to have a dedicated, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic staff, and a Board of dedicated volunteers.

It is my pleasure to report that all is well at the Vermont Historical Society. For that I would like to thank the donors, the staff, the Board of Trustees, and our many volunteers who make it all possible.
In the spring of 2018, staff and board members interviewed stakeholders (members, donors, local societies, partners, etc.) regarding Strengths, Opportunities, and Aspirations for the Vermont Historical Society over the next five to ten years. The content of these interviews created the thematic groupings and topics investigated through a day long planning retreat including Board, Staff, and key stakeholders representing groups statewide. The July planning retreat built upon the strengths and opportunities identified through the stakeholder interview process and identified four areas of work that would be developed into strategic goals. These areas included: access to collections, engaging new and existing audiences, providing meaningful support to local societies, and making sure the study of Vermont history remains in our schools. Staff and management refined the topic areas into goal statements and broad strategies with Board of Trustee approval in October of 2018. Staff with content area specialties created sub-strategies with metrics and draft workplans. On January 25, 2019, the Board of Trustees approved the following plan.

1. Provide Vermonters and Vermonters-at-heart the resources to access Vermont’s rich historical collections from anywhere in the world.

The Vermont Historical Society understands that in our rapidly digitizing world, patrons expect to be able to access as many resources as possible in a digital and online format. Though nothing can replace experiencing collections in real life, we endeavor to provide greater access through museum and library objects cataloged online as well as developing a state-wide platform for use by local history groups.

2. We will recognize and support local history efforts; understanding that local societies are an integral part of sharing and preserving Vermont’s story.

There are over 190 local historical societies in Vermont as well as numerous small museums and library collections that tell our important cultural story in unique and diverse ways. The Vermont Historical Society is dedicated to supporting this work in ways that are directed by both the museum field and the small organizations themselves.

3. Vermonters will increase their knowledge of our state’s past and understand how their unique experience impacts and shapes this ongoing narrative. Guests will enrich their visit through deeper understanding of Vermont and its people.

The Vermont Historical Society believes that history is the collective story of a society. Those stories can be shared, specifically individual, or communitywide. Those experiences continue to evolve as new perspectives are added and as the perspective of time is applied. Through programming, exhibits, and direct engagement, the Historical Society will continue to be a driving force in historical literacy.

4. To build resilient and connected communities, students will understand Vermont’s history and its place in the broader world.

As the education of Vermont’s young people changes from a state-wide curriculum to personalized learning and flexible pathways, Vermont Historical Society will actively participate in and advocate for the inclusion of state history in learning standards. The Historical Society will provide resources to educators and specific outlets for individual students and classes. The Vermont History Museum will continue to provide an enriching venue for classes exploring their state’s capital and its history.

As you can see, we have complex strategies that we look forward to tackling head-on. Please join us in achieving and exceeding these lofty goals.

Steve Perkins, Executive Director
...all while preserving and interpreting over 50,000 catalogued books and serials, 30,000 photographs, broadsides, maps, manuscripts, ephemera, films, and audio, as well as 20,000 items in our collection. Your contributions to our K-12 Education programs, Statewide Programming & Outreach, Exhibitions, Publications, Library and Museum Collections, made all of this possible!
Statement of Activities

Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Bequests</td>
<td>474,994</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Appropriation</td>
<td>1,033,043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>176,120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admissions, Fees and Earned Income</td>
<td>46,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT History Bookstore Sales</td>
<td>29,905</td>
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<tr>
<td>State and Federal Grants</td>
<td>1,420,152</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>17,898</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>3,198,522</td>
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Expenses

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<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Public Programs</td>
<td>329,625</td>
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<td>Library</td>
<td>310,789</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>301,371</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museum</td>
<td>263,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Finance</td>
<td>226,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>150,686</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>131,850</td>
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<td>Local League of Historical Societies</td>
<td>84,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>VT History Bookstore/Guest Services Museum</td>
<td>65,925</td>
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<tr>
<td>VHS Publications</td>
<td>18,836</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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Balance Sheet

Assets

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<tr>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>239,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>403,513</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>2,181,608</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>9,369,215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>-2,492,640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Property Plant &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>6,876,575</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>9,700,722</td>
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</table>

Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>60,956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short-term Liabilities</td>
<td>150,185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage Payable</td>
<td>918,086</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>1,129,227</td>
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Net Assets

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Net Assets</td>
<td>7,256,542</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>1,314,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENDING NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>8,571,495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 the 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 the 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 the VHS.

MAPLE ($100,000+)
A. D. Henderson Foundation, Inc.
Allen L. Stratten Trust
Anonymous
Barbara J. Beecher
Joan T. Bok
Rev. and Mrs. C. Frederick Buechner
Estate of J. Brooks Buxton
Cabot Creamery Cooperative
Sarah L. Dopp
Ellison Foundation
Estate of Ronald J. York
Fiduciary Charitable Fdn.
Albert H. Gordon
Mrs. Serena Hatch
Housing and Urban Development
IBM
Institute of Museum & Library Services
William and Margaret Mather
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National Life Group Foundation, Inc.
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State of Vermont
The Gordon Fund
Times Argus
Lola Van Wagenen and George Burrill
Vermont Humanities Council
VT Housing & Conservation Board
Walter Cefn Community Fund
Estate of Alan H. Weiss

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Anonymous
Atwater Kent Foundation
Cynthia H. Babcock Living Trust
Mrs. Nina Bacon
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Marion Galbraith Merrill Estate
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and Carol A. Muller
Joan H. Nichols Estate
Northfield Savings Bank
Sanborn Partridge
Paul & Virginia Cabot Charitable Trust
David Perrin
Malcolm and Gladys Severance
Janet M. Strauss
Verizon Inc.
Nick and Leslie Ward
WCAX Mount Mansfield Community Television, Inc.
Windham Foundation
Woodstock Foundation, Inc.
Yankeetown Inc.

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Adm. Wm. Nelson Foundation
Alyson Foundation
Anonymous
Patricia Passmore Alley
Alma Gibbs Donohue Foundation
John and Mary Carnahan
Chittenden Bank Community Fund
Ellen C. Desmeules
Carmen L. Dente
John P. Dumville
Freeman Foundation
Judy Gerck and Dick Dreissigacker
J. Kevin Graffagnino and Leslie Haker
Teresa Grieswold
Hestnes Family
Edward A. Hoyt, Jr. Estate
KeyBank
Lanc Press, Inc.
John A. Leppman
Lisman Family
Brig. Gen. Edwin Loren Little
Bob and Polly Maguire
Maple Capital Management, Inc.
Marie H. Ankeny Charitable Legacy Fund
Stephen B. Martin
Robert A. Mello
and Priscilla K. Reidinger
George D. Milne Family
Adison and Adelaide Minott
Monterey Fund, Inc.
The Honorable Louis P. Peck
Judith and James Pizzagalli
Mr. Fletcher D. Proctor
H. Driscoll Reid Family
Grant and Jo Reynolds

ASH ($10,000 - $24,999)
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Hank and Joan Adams
Mrs. George D. Aiken
Miss Hazel J. Anderson
W. Thomas Anderson
Dawn K. Andrews
Jean L. Andrews
Anonymous
Mimi Baird
Susan C. Beers
Croker Bennett and Christina Boerner
BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont
Elizabeth and Theodore Bogner
Braxton Fund, Inc.
Randy and Andrea Brock
John Cadwell
Douglas and Katie Campbell
Jane Campbell and Ted Zilius
Robert and Virginia Mitchell Charitable Remainder Trust
Kay and Max Schlueer
Mrs. Anne F. Spencer
Karen K. Steele
Tirzah J. Sweet Trust
The Boston Foundation
Patrick Foundation
W. Russell and Caroline W. Todd
Turrell Fund
Mrs. Charles E. Tuttle Jr.
Union Mutual of Vermont Companies
Vermont Dept. of Buildings & General Services
Mr. Robert T. Wetherbee Trust
Virginia C. Wood
Lola Van Wagenen and George Burrill
Nick and Leslie Ward
Lauren Warren
Virginia Cabot Wood
Allen Rice Yale, Jr.
Martin Cheney was born in Connecticut into a well-known clockmaking family, and moved to Windsor, Vermont, in 1803. He stayed for only a few short years, moving on to Montreal in 1809. While in Windsor, he made and signed this “banjo” clock. 

Estate of J. Brooks Buxton, 2018.18.1
The Freedom & Unity Circle celebrates and recognizes the commitment and generosity of individuals, families, and organizations who give at a leadership level. Recognition in the Freedom & Unity Circle begins with an unrestricted pledge or cash contribution of $1,000 or more. These gifts provide critical immediate-use funds for the Museum’s access programs, educational initiatives, exhibit support, and areas of greatest need.
The Circle of Friends recognizes those individuals and organizations who have made unrestricted and/or restricted contributions to the Vermont Historical Society during the year, totaling less than $1,000.

**DIAMOND ($750 - $999)**
- Don Miller
- Northfield Savings Bank
- Donald and Patricia Whelpley
- Estate of Eleanor Angell

**SILVER ($100 - $249)**
- Against The Grain Gourmet Foods LLC
- Mr. Jason Aldous
- Roger and Ann Allbee
- Rep. Janet Ancel
- Ms. Theresa Anderson
- Mr. Malcolm H. Appleton
- Barre Lions Club
- Allen and Martha Beach
- Carmen Beck
- Arthur and Carole Bell
- Ms. Barbara Benedict
- Ms. Kathryn Bennett
- Ms. Carlene Bermann
- Bill and Catherine Bixler
- Ms. Elisabeth A. Bosi
- Ms. Johanna Branson
- Mr. Paul A. Bruhn
- Ms. Josephine Busha
- Ms. Suzanne Butterfield
- Robert G. Cain
- Paul Carmahan
- and Eve Jacobs-Carmahan
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Cecchini
- Mary Ann and Bob Chafee
- Mr. Michael Charter
- Jules and Kate Chator
- Mr. Dale Christie
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- Ms. Mary Conrad
- The Honorable John M. Conroy
- and Mrs. Sarah Conroy
- Ms. Wanda Cosman
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- Mr. Jeff Danziger
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- Sandra Doyle
- Ms. Melinda Durller
- Mr. Ralph G. Eddy
- Mr. Raymond Edson
- Mrs. Janet Fabricius
- Monica Farrington
- Mrs. Mary P. Feidner
- Ms. Gabrielle Fernandez
- Christopher and Michelle Fleury
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- Joseph and Cathy Frank
- Mr. Robert Fuller
- Robert and Sharon Gardner
- Ms. Elizabeth Genung
- H. Allen Gilbert and Lila Richardson
- Clive Gray and Nancy Hill
- Ms. Kelly Gray
- Elise A. Guyette
- Burt and Marjorie Hamrell
- Marvin and Barbara Harvey
- Mr. William Harwood
- Beth Hayles and Tim Brennan
- Mr. Ronald H. Hirsch
- Ms. Sarah Hofmann
- Ms. Pamela Hunt

**GOLD ($250 - $499)**
- Patricia Passmore Alley
- Peter Anthony and Martha Kincheloe
- Dr. Ross Brewer
- Fred and Linda Brownson

**PLATINUM ($500 - $749)**
- Atwater Kent Foundation
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Community National Bank
- Robert Cooper
- Co-operative Insurance Companies
- Don and Marty Dewees
- Collier Hands

**BRONZE ($1 - $99)**
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- Ms. Majorie W. Adams
- Mr. Richard Aiguier
- Mr. Steve Aikenhead
- Ms. Joan F. Alexander
- Ms. Elaine Altman
- AmazonSmile Foundation
- Lucy A. Andrews and Knox Cummin
- Ms. Marilee Astley
- Ms. Claire W. Austin
- Charlie and Rosemary Avrett
- Stuart and Melanie Bacon
- Mr. Caleb Bandy
- Irene and Ed Barna
- Ms. Jackie Barnett
- William and Virginia Barry
- Harold L. Barton
- Scott and Kathryn Bascomb
- Ms. Renee Bean
- Allison Belisle and David VonHolden
- Mrs. Margaret L. Bellak
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- Ms. Iris Berezin
- Michole Biancosino
- Donald and Elizabeth Bicknell
- Ms. Mary Alice Bisbee
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- Penrose and Schuyler Jackson
- Mr. Travis B. Jacobs
- James B & Beverly C. Thompson Fund
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- Mr. Stephen C. Terry
- John and Ellen Thompson
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Though not a new addition to the Vermont Historical Society, the "Merci Train" collection was inventoried and catalogued thoroughly this year by collections volunteer Nancy Remsen. Each state, plus Hawaii and the District of Columbia, received a toy model of a Renault car, went to the Historical Society. Merci Train Collection, 1964.63.96.
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Harry Shokler studied in New York and Paris, and spent several years working and studying in Europe and Africa before settling in Londonderry, Vermont in 1934. He was primarily known as a printmaker, and was a pioneer of the technique of silk-screening, but he also frequently painted his rural surroundings. Gift of Warren E. Broderick, VHS-A-1117.
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Sally C. and Richard W. Cary

Harry L. Hall worked for the Vermont Marble Company as a night watchman during the 1935-1936 strike. He used this night-stick, or club, in his work, and after the strike, decorated it extensively to document his experiences.

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The Vermont Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, the Vermont History Center in Barre, and the Leahy Library in Barre; educates Vermont’s schoolchildren; provides support to Vermont’s local historical societies; publishes books of historic interest; and offers programming throughout the state.

Established in 1838, the Vermont Historical Society’s purpose is to reach a broad audience through our outstanding collections, statewide outreach, and dynamic programming. We believe an understanding of the past changes lives and builds better communities.

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.

Tori Hart
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(802) 479-8516
tori.hart@vermonthistory.org