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.
This was an exciting and transformative year for our Vermont Historical Society.

After bidding farewell to outgoing Executive Director, Mark Hudson, at the 2015 Annual Meeting, we welcomed former Governor James Douglas aboard in order to serve us in that role on an interim basis. He not only furnished us with a good-humored presence and reassuring hand as we searched for a permanent replacement, but also with an objective eye in assessing our overall operations and financial situation. The importance of that analysis to the future of our Society quickly became evident to the full Board.

By November a dedicated search committee had identified and narrowed a strong field of Executive Director candidates and the Board voted to extend an offer to Steve Perkins from the ECHO Leahy Center. To our pleasure, he accepted, joining us in December, 2015.

As we hoped, he already has brought his sense of dynamism and vision to the Society. We are confident that Steve’s arrival and new ideas will prove important in carrying out our responsibility for the preservation and advancement of Vermont history – a charge we now have carried out faithfully for over 175 years.

Several of Steve’s ideas already have been implemented or are nearing fruition. We are moving into the media world with new television features highlighting events from each day in Vermont’s rich history. We also are entering into a joint project with National Life of Vermont for moving a huge historical mural from their Montpelier headquarters to our Montpelier Museum.

With National Life’s generous support, we not only will conserve this important mural, we also will create a striking welcome for a much more inviting entrance to our Museum. And, of course, the past year also saw a full range of lectures, research and museum services, advice and special events for local societies, schools and students, our Journal, History Expo, our 225th Birthday Party, The 70s Project, and much more.

We also engaged this year in a much needed and careful process to address the Society’s long term financial future. We have been very fortunate in receiving partial state appropriations which have remained quite stable even in tough economic times, as well as in our generous member support. Despite that, we saw that our budget had become seriously over-reliant on one-time gifts and on unsustainable withdrawals from our endowment.

We recognized that continuing on this path ultimately would threaten the very future of the Society. With initial help from Governor Douglas and ongoing work by our CFO, we identified areas for savings without undercutting our services or terminating staff. These already have been implemented, cutting our “structural deficit” in half. Even better, with your continuing and increasing help, we expect to fully eliminate that deficit in our next fiscal year.

In short, the Vermont Historical Society is poised for an even stronger role in our state and in bringing its incredible history alive for all the generations to come. Thanks your help in making that possible!

Sincerely,

Richard J. Marek, President
Leahy Library staffers in the Vermont History Center spend many hours assisting researchers such as family historians, professional genealogists, reporters (television, radio and newsprint), students and teachers alike. VHS resources include fascinating images and information, dates, and historical facts.

VHS WEBSITE VISITORS
164,445

VHS MEMBERSHIP
Total Active Memberships: 2,310

YOU LIKE US!
Facebook Likes: 4,364
Twitter Followers: 520
Flickr views per year: 60,000

VISITS TO THE VERMONT HISTORY
MUSEUM IN MONTPELIER
Visitors: 11,499
Student field trips: 4,679

HOMESCHOOL CLASSES
18 classes
415 students total

Our history touches lives inside and outside of Vermont
Dear Friends:

What’s that old trope about change being constant? Vermont Historical Society spent the past year admirably managing leadership and staffing change. Executive Director Mark Hudson departed and was replace on an interim basis by former Governor Jim Douglas. Upon taking the reins in December I helped manage staff retirements that resulted in a restructured and more-robust staffing model. In the midst of all these changes, the society still served thousands of schoolchildren, published the Society’s Journal, provided hours of public programming, mounted a successful Vermont History Expo, and reduced the persistent operating deficit by half!

I have greatly enjoyed getting to know Vermont Historical Societies programs, collections, and people. As a life-long Vermonter my love of this state – it’s landscape, culture, heritage – runs very deep. For over 175 years this organization has held in public trust our state’s story. Whether that be physical artifacts, written documents, images, or folklore passed by word-of-mouth, we share and preserve this rich and varied heritage. This content and how we share, celebrate, and build conversation around it has been and will continue to be one of the greatest strengths of this organization.

Institutional change is always hard, but member support, State investment, and a dedicated staff carried the mission of the Society forward without any pauses or glitches. To all, I am deeply appreciative.

Steve Perkins, Executive Director
You preserve Vermont’s story for future generations to come

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 membership dues and generous donations are used to host public programs about history, teach students, present exhibits, and share Vermont’s treasures.

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Paul Frank + Collins P.C.

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## Statement of Activities

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Bequests</td>
<td>529,040</td>
<td>483,081</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Appropriation</td>
<td>909,996</td>
<td>980,802</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>29,656</td>
<td>-43,075</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admissions, Fees and Earned Income</td>
<td>55,037</td>
<td>78,134</td>
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<tr>
<td>VT History Bookstore Sales</td>
<td>49,287</td>
<td>40,831</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>17,039</td>
<td>68,633</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>1,234</td>
<td>637</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>1,591,289</td>
<td>1,609,043</td>
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### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Finance</td>
<td>323,070</td>
<td>168,997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>241,852</td>
<td>371,600</td>
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<td>Museum</td>
<td>451,924</td>
<td>331,532</td>
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<td>Library</td>
<td>374,764</td>
<td>364,110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Programs &amp; Publications</td>
<td>482,604</td>
<td>588,635</td>
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<tr>
<td>VT History Bookstore</td>
<td>80,713</td>
<td>128,604</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>1,954,927</td>
<td>1,953,478</td>
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## Balance Sheet

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>226,362</td>
<td>334,170</td>
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<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>209,354</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
<td>2,200,895</td>
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<td>Other assets</td>
<td>246,146</td>
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<td>Property Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>7,562,975</td>
<td>7,559,442</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>-2,044,217</td>
<td>-2,198,759</td>
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<td><strong>Total Property Plant &amp; Equipment</strong></td>
<td>5,518,758</td>
<td>5,360,683</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>8,401,515</td>
<td>8,017,160</td>
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### Liabilities

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<tr>
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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Short-term Liabilities</td>
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<td>Mortgage Payable</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<td>971,767</td>
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### Net Assets

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<td>7,389,828</td>
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<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>-363,638</td>
<td>-344,435</td>
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<td>7,389,828</td>
<td>7,045,393</td>
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FY 2016 Audited

VHS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
THANK YOU, JACKIE!

After 26 years at VHS, we're sad to say that Curator Jackie Calder is retiring. Jackie was instrumental in so many facets of making VHS what it is today, including curating numerous exhibits; developing modern and professional collections policies and plans; assisting with the planning, design, and construction of the Vermont History Center; diversifying and growing the permanent museum collection of Vermont Historical Society; and much more. To acknowledge and thank her for her service, the VHS Trustees have voted to name the hallway gallery at the Vermont History Museum in her honor.
Thank you to the many individuals, businesses and foundations for their generosity...
We are deeply grateful to all those who contribute to preserving our heritage.
Francis and Frederica Paine
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Henry G. Pallmerine Jr.
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Lyssa Papazian
Borton A. Paquin Sr.
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Rogstad
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Alden M. Rollins
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Allen County Public Library
American Antiquarian Soc.
American Precision Museum
Arizona State University
Bailey/Howe Library
Bakersfield Historical Society
Barnard Historical Society
Barnet Historical Society
Barre Historical Society
Bellows Falls Historical Society
Bennington Free Library
Bennington Museum
Ben’s Mill Trust, LTD
Berkshire Athenaeum
Berkshire Historical Society
Berlin Historical Society
Bethel Historical Society
Billings Farm & Museum
Birds of Vermont Museum
Boston Athenaeum Library
Boston College
Boston Public Library
Bradford Historical Society
Brandeis University Library
Brandon Museum
Braintree Historical Society
Bread and Puppet Museum & Archives
Bridgewater Historical Society
Bridport Historical Society
Brigham Young University
British Library
Brookfield Historical Society
Brooks Memorial Library
Brownell Library
Cabot Historical Society
Calvin Coolidge Presidential Fdn.
Cambridge Historical Society
Canaan Historical Society
Castleton Historical Society
Castleton University
Cavendish Historical Society
Champlain College Library
Charlotte Historical Society
Chelsea Historical Society
Chester Historical Society
Chittenden Country Historical Society
Chittenden Historical Society
Cincinnati Museum Center
Colchester Historical Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2016  •  VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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<td>Saxtons River Historical Society</td>
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<td>Salisbury Historical Society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Elin Irene Bennett
George Burnham
Sally C. & Richard W. Cary
Carolyn Coons
Katherine E. Dopp
Tuffy Doyle
Nina M. Eckley
George D. Ewins Sr
John Gilligan
Sam Hand
Wes & Mimi Herwig
Susan Dearborn Jackson
George A. McLeod
Dr. Robert Paddock
Abelina G. Reid
Fred Willard Robbins
Elizabeth (Libby) Turner
Myron Chapin Warner
John & Jean Watson
Hildreth Wriston
Lauretta M. Verrill

The following people have had gifts made to the Vermont Historical Society in their honor:

Ann Arms
Diane & Sandy Campbell
Jane Campbell
Nancy Hill
Mark Hudson
Bernie Sanders

*Deceased during the fiscal year*

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.

Kristin J. Dodge
Director of Development
(802) 479-8525

Thank you!
Thank you! As volunteers, you give amazing amounts of time, talent and energy on behalf of the Vermont Historical Society. Your dedication means more than lending a helping hand to the VHS staff, projects and programs. It means that, because of you, we have the impact and outreach of a much larger organization.
The Vermont Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre, and the Howard and Alba Leahy Library in Barre; 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 outstanding collections and statewide outreach. The Vermont Historical Society believes that an understanding of the past changes lives and builds better communities.