Annual Report 2017
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017
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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.
Last year, as you may recall, we had just engaged in a leadership search. welcomed Steve Perkins as our new Executive Director, had a possible major renovation project on the boards, and were beginning to tackle our significant structural financial deficits. Although prospects on all of those fronts were encouraging, even justifiable optimism isn’t the same as real results. Now, a year later, we have the results and they were worth the wait.

The most visible change for the Society has been the complete reconstruction of the entire entrance area of our Museum in Montpelier, with the installation of the hugely impressive Paul Sample Mural as its new focal point. National Life both donated the Mural and generously underwrote the structural renovations needed to properly display it. This allowed us to also entirely rethink our lobby area and to make it far more welcoming and informative.

Inspired by this fresh welcome to the Museum, the staff also is substantially updating our exhibits, making them far more interactive, engaging and informative for visitors of all ages. We also have created a new space for rotating exhibits from our local societies, giving them new state-wide exposure. And, in recognition of her innumerable contributions to the work of the Society, we dedicated a Museum display gallery permanently honoring retired Curator Jackie Calder.

Your Society has enjoyed a transformational year

At an age when many institutions run the risk of becoming rigid and even stolid, we look fresher than ever and also have achieved the financial stability to ensure our mission into the future.

Since readers of this note also see our newsletters, I won’t even try to recount all of the myriad programs, lectures, receptions, soirées, telecasts, contests and other events your Society provided over the past year. They have touched so many people in so many ways, but their common thread is that each of them touched on Vermont history in a way which we believed would make it captivating and inspire ongoing interest.

Finally, the finances of any nonprofit obviously are key to its ability to fully advance its mission. Last year I mentioned that we had reduced by half our structural deficit – the unfortunate need to rely on unsustainable draws on our endowment and one time gifts to balance our budget. I’m pleased to say that with continued work by the staff and strong focus from the Board, we entirely eliminated that deficit in the just ended fiscal year!

In the end, it is only with the strong support of our loyal members, coupled with the help of the State of Vermont, that both our financial health and all of our resulting work are possible. So, I want to close by recognizing all you have done and continue to do for your Society and by thanking you for it!

Sincerely,

Richard J. Marek, President
...it has been to lead the Vermont Historical Society this past year! With your support we have started to address the two strategies outlined at last year’s meeting – strengthen and reinvigorate our place-based learning in Barre and Montpelier and be a presence in each community of the State; all while maintaining a balanced budget. I am happy to report that for the first time in many years, the Vermont Historical Society has posted a balanced operating budget with no extraordinary draw from endowment or special funds. Thank you to our dedicated members and supporters for making this possible.

Our two physical locations, the Vermont History Center in Barre and the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, had their years punctuated by two incredible installations. In October we opened the highly anticipated exhibition, *Freaks, Radicals, & Hippies: Counterculture in 1970s Vermont*. Hundreds of people attended the opening and a steady stream of visitors have graced the gallery throughout the year. Curator Jackie Calder certainly outdid herself on this final show before her retirement in November. National Life Company donated a fifty-foot long mural by artist Paul Sample depicting the history of Vermont from 1609 to 1960. This monumental work had graced their lobby for over fifty years, and now has a permanent home at the Vermont History Museum. Making way for the mural allowed the Society to rethink the visitor’s approach to the museum and how Vermont’s story intersects with their own. Updates to the *Freedom and Unity* exhibit started with the Abenaki, and Catamount Tavern sections receiving a facelift and new interpretation and activities. The small theater was removed to make way for the Local History Gallery, a place that will host rotating exhibits from historical societies around Vermont.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting around the state and learning about all the stories our landscape has to tell. To date we have recorded 65 stories with our partner Local 22/44 television. These stories air Thursday mornings and Friday evening on both channel 22 and 44, with an average viewership of over 20,000 people per week. The stories are also archived online where about 15,000 people per month stream the content.

Society staff have also presented workshops, lectures, and programs at local societies and museums throughout the state, as well as creating a unique Vermont Trivia program at pubs, breweries, and wineries that has engaged a new and enthusiastic demographic. Of course, all of these new programs are in addition to our regular educational programs for 5,000 school children, monthly lecture series, and programs with long-time partners statewide.

I look forward to another exciting year, as we have new exhibits planned, new programs to present, and many communities yet to visit. Thank you again for your ongoing support of this valuable and vibrant Vermont institution.

Steve Perkins, Executive Director
## Statement of Activities

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Bequests</td>
<td>480,054</td>
<td>855,373</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Appropriation</td>
<td>980,802</td>
<td>997,214</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>-43,075</td>
<td>228,052</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admissions, Fees and Earned Income</td>
<td>78,135</td>
<td>51,551</td>
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<tr>
<td>VT History Bookstore Sales</td>
<td>40,097</td>
<td>32,793</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
<td>68,633</td>
<td>86,726</td>
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<td>Endowment and Fund Transfers</td>
<td>311,367</td>
<td>167,379</td>
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<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>11,975</td>
<td>36,682</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,927,987</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,455,769</strong></td>
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### Expenses

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<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Finance</td>
<td>475,866</td>
<td>366,048</td>
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<td>Development</td>
<td>369,681</td>
<td>439,222</td>
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<td>Museum</td>
<td>344,842</td>
<td>636,439</td>
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<td>Library</td>
<td>365,662</td>
<td>317,300</td>
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<td>Public Programs &amp; Publications</td>
<td>609,286</td>
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<tr>
<td>VT History Bookstore</td>
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<td>99,962</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,272,421</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,379,685</strong></td>
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## Balance Sheet

### Assets

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<tr>
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<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>405,719</td>
<td>229,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>284,868</td>
<td>347,033</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,965,890</td>
<td>2,208,324</td>
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<td>Property Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>7,559,442</td>
<td>7,573,776</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>-2,198,759</td>
<td>-2,372,379</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Property Plant &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>5,360,683</td>
<td>5,201,397</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,017,160</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,986,404</strong></td>
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### Liabilities

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<tr>
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<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>76,520</td>
<td>82,470</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short-term Liabilities</td>
<td>99,701</td>
<td>77,803</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage Payable</td>
<td>795,545</td>
<td>704,653</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>971,766</strong></td>
<td><strong>864,926</strong></td>
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### Net Assets

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Net Assets</td>
<td>7,389,828</td>
<td>7,045,394</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>-344,434</td>
<td>76,084</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ENDING NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,045,394</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,121,478</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FY 2017 DONATION MAP

The donations we receive transform the lives of our young people who will in return make a profound impact on their communities as educated and informed citizens.
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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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
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