The Society

The Vermont Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, 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.
Thank you 2012 Volunteers

Thank you! We give profuse thanks to our volunteers who donate their time, talents and energy on behalf of the Vermont Historical Society. Your dedication means more than lending a helping hand to the staff, our projects and our programs. It means that because of you, we have the impact and outreach of a much larger organization. We couldn't do it without you!

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Please join me in taking pride…

It’s been another whirlwind year for the Vermont Historical Society!

In my first year as the Society’s President, I’ve enjoyed meeting many of you at various events. I would like to thank you again for your unstinting faith and support of our mission to explore our rich heritage and engage Vermonters and Vermonters at heart in understanding and appreciating that heritage.

I’d like to send a special thank you to VHS Past President Sarah Dopp for her guidance and support during the transition. She continues to bring her vibrant energy and valuable perspective to the deliberations of the Board.

Under the superb leadership of our Executive Director, Mark Hudson, the VHS staff presented a full plate of programs throughout the year, culminating in our bi-annual premiere event, the History Expo at Tunbridge Fairgrounds in June 2012.

The Gala Opening of our two new gallery spaces at the History Center in Barre during the Barre Heritage Festival in July 2012 represents the fulfillment of a dream for many of us who first envisioned the possibilities of the old Spaulding High School building over 10 years ago. The beautiful gallery space, made possible by many of you who contributed to the successful completion of the Saving Vermont’s Treasures Capital Campaign, will serve our History Center well for years to come. The large crowd who attended the gallery opening reacted enthusiastically and exuberantly—so if you haven’t already taken the time to visit the new space, please do so soon.

I think that you will enjoy seeing artifacts related to Barre’s rich history, as well as other “Oddities and Wonders” from our diverse collection. The History Center’s new “Book Nook” is a cozy browsing space to visit while you are in the building, too!

As promised during my remarks at Annual Meeting last year, we’ve launched two major initiatives that support the long-term wellness of VHS:

• **Initial launch of our “Vermont Forever” Endowment Campaign.** A stronger endowment will allow us to better support the ongoing operating costs of our buildings and programs in the coming years, no matter what economic cycle we are in.

• **Revision of our strategic plan.** Beginning this past spring, we’ve solicited feedback from all stakeholders with an interest in Vermont history through three regional focus groups, a written survey, joint staff/Board topical meetings, and a Board Retreat held in July 2012. Over the next few months, the staff will be drafting changes to the plan so that the Board can finalize and approve the new plan at our January 2013 meeting. Initiatives arising from that plan will carry VHS into the 21st century with renewed purpose and direction.

Lastly, we take great pride in and congratulate Mark and the staff on the recent announcement that VHS will be the recipient this fall of not one, but TWO Awards of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for the publication of *A Very Fine Appearance: The Vermont Civil War Photographs of George Houghton* and for the Vermont History Explorer website: http://www.vermonthistory.org/explorer.

Join me in taking pride in the accomplishments of VHS over the past year, as we look forward with excitement and a positive outlook to the coming year.

Sincerely,

Laura Warren
*President, Vermont Historical Society*
Development Report

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.

Thank you!

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(continued on page 5)
Dear VHS Members and Friends,

Innovative and engaging events filled the VHS calendar with excitement during the past year. After cultivating a wonderful audience for last year’s agriculturally-themed Annual Meeting in September, we provided a regal experience in October by exploring the life and legacy of Royall Tyler at the UVM theatre bearing his name. Many capital ideas were shared at the League of Local Historical Societies & Museums Annual Meeting at the Vermont State House in November. We discovered *Black Vermont* with author Elise Guyette at Martin Luther King Day events in January, shared an evening with Justin Morrill at Farmers’ Night in February, and examined evidence about the legal rights of women at a Vermont Women’s History Project event in March.

Vermonters united in a monumental effort to present Vermont History Expo 2012 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds in June. With the theme “Vermont in the Civil War,” thousands mustered at the event to experience exhibits by local historical societies and museums, living history portrayals, presentations by authors and historians and many other activities commemorating the role of the Green Mountain State in that bloody conflict fought 150 years ago. We are looking forward to returning to Tunbridge on June 21st and 22nd in 2014 and can only hope to have weather as beautiful then as we enjoyed this year.

Through an innovative partnership with the State of Vermont, we welcomed the Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center. Housed on the second floor of the Vermont History Center in Barre, these archaeological resources joined the growing volume of historical materials available for research in the adjacent Leahy Library. Nearly 3,000 items were added to the Library’s online catalog last year, along with a growing number of online resources accessible directly from the VHS website. We are looking forward to working with our partners at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation to share these unique collections with researchers.

Throughout Vermont, the past year will be remembered sadly for the destructive and often tragic effects of Tropical Storm Irene. In the weeks following the disaster, the Vermont Historical Society played an important role in assessing the storm’s impact upon local historical societies and museums, as well as other cultural heritage organizations in the state. Our efforts in recent years to promote emergency preparedness at cultural organizations through the Vermont Alliance for Response proved timely and effective in mitigating potential damage to collections. Formed under the leadership of the VHS, the Vermont Cultural Heritage and Art Recovery Team (VCHART) stood ready to respond when needed.

This indeed has been another memorable year for the Vermont Historical Society. Extraordinary accomplishments, like the completion of the *Saving Vermont’s Treasures* Capital Campaign and the receipt of national recognition for our publications and programs were contrasted by our recognition of the significant challenges we continue to face as an organization.

We look forward to the coming year with tremendous optimism and a redoubled commitment to the important mission of the VHS through our strategic planning efforts. Our deep appreciation is extended to all of our members and friends who have supported our work in the past, and to those whose support will carry us into the future.

Mark S. Hudson, Executive Director
Visits to the museum have increased!
Total museum visitation: 10,973
Students on field trips: 4,911

Figures given are for fiscal year 2012.

History kit usage
104 classrooms,
61 schools, total students:
1,961

Teacher workshops
7 workshops,
total teachers: 93

VHS Membership
Total active memberships:
2,370

Visits to VHS website
Includes new History Explorer site:
166,448

The Leahy Library is used by researchers of all ages
Online Public Access Catalog additions: 2,959
Research inquiries: 2,159

Programs & outreach statewide year-round
Attendees at VHS events:
9,433

For over 58 years the Vermont Historical Society has provided services for the League of Local Historical Societies & Museums

Some of the services offered:
Weekly e-news: Local History News
Inclusion on VHS website
Annual meeting and daylong conference for networking and education
Achievement awards program
Workshops and informational fairs
Collections care library
Collections care mentoring
Technical assistance on creating bylaws, hosting public events, applying for 501(c)(3) status, and more

To find out how you can join, call Lisa Evans at (802) 479-8522 or email lisa.evans@state.vt.us
Thank you to our donors and members

Thank you!

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Your generous support makes it possible to preserve Vermont’s rich history.

Interaction between students and judges is an important part of Vermont History Day. This year there were 220 students and 70 judges at the annual event.

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Annual Report 2012 Vermont Historical Society
Your generous support makes it possible to preserve Vermont’s rich history.

Author Elise Guyette gave educational talks about her book Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburgh 1790–1890 in remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr.
Thank you to our donors and members.

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The History Expo at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds was a time to learn and reflect on what life must have been like.

Annual Report 2012
Vermont Historical Society
Thank you to the many individuals, businesses, foundations for their generosity.
We are deeply grateful to all those who contribute to preserving our heritage.

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We are grateful to our Legacy Circle Members, who have included the Vermont Historical Society in their estate plans to give the gift of history to future generations.

We are deeply grateful to all those who contribute to preserving our heritage.
In memory of Allen (Noonie) Riddel
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Barre Historical Society
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Berkshire Historical Society
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Boston Public Library
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Thank you to the many individuals, businesses, foundations for their generosity.

All ages admired the new gallery exhibits at the History Center in Barre.

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DAR John Strong Mansion Museum
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Vermont Historical Society Annual Report 2012

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Library and museum collections
donors on page 16

Even at Expo, there is always that last farewell until we meet again.

Note: These are donations received between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.
* Designates donors or members who are deceased.
FY2012
Unaudited
Statement of Activities
June 30, 2012

Revenue
Contributions and Bequests 675,495
State Appropriation 807,694
Investment Income 22,021
Admissions, Fees and Earned Income 94,701
VT History Bookstore Sales 54,650
Other Revenue 7,497
Total Revenue 1,662,058

Expense
Administration & Finance 297,308
Facilities Operations 185,213
Pavilion Rent 210,340
Interest on Debt 24,056
Development & Community Relations 273,123
Museum 205,914
Library 170,063
Education & Publications 420,501
VT History Bookstore 43,853
Total Expenses 1,830,371

Change in Net Assets
(168,313)

Interfund Transfers
0

Net Assets, June 30, 2011 7,771,191

Prior Year Net Asset Adjustment 0

Net Assets, June 30, 2012 7,602,877

July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012
FY2012
Unaudited
Balance Sheet
June 30, 2012

July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

Expense

 Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>616,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,812,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>413,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td>2,841,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>7,364,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>(1,368,454)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Property &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>5,996,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>8,838,236</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>88,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Liabilities</td>
<td>113,605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
<td>202,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Payable</td>
<td>968,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Long-term Liabilities</td>
<td>64,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Long-term Liabilities</td>
<td>1,033,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>1,255,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>7,602,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
<td>8,838,236</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Thank you for your generosity (continued from page 13).

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We give profuse thanks to our volunteers who donate their time, talents and energy on behalf of the Vermont Historical Society. Your dedication means more than lending a helping hand to the staff, our projects and our programs. It means that because of you, we have the impact and outreach of a much larger organization. We couldn’t do it without you!

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The Society

The Vermont Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, 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.