Diane Campbell and grandsons Addison and Gavin O’Connor enjoy the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier.

Vermont Historical Society

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Vermont Historical Society

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Change is a natural part of our history

This year marks my last as President of the Vermont Historical Society. The past four years brought many challenges for the Society as we revised the strategic plan, built the VHS endowment, weathered the recession, maintained vibrant publications, research, and programming, and demonstrated positive collaboration with various state and local history stakeholders. It was also a great personal delight to see the varied ways that state and local organizations commemorated the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

Throughout my tenure, I garnered great strength from the energy and enthusiasm of the wonderful board, volunteers, staff, members, donors, and other supporters of Vermont’s history with whom I worked to preserve our heritage. I thank you all for this experience.

Change is a natural part of life; organizations, like people, who do not or cannot change, eventually wither away. I assure you that the person nominated to be your new President, Dick Marek of Newfane (currently First Vice President of the Board of Trustees) has my full support. He, along with the remaining Board of Trustees, has the welfare of the Society at heart for the great work that they all do.

It is with a sad and thankful heart that we say goodbye to our executive director for the last six and a half years, Mark Hudson. Under his leadership, the Society grew in our statewide presence, improved our financial stability, and developed award-winning publications and programming. I commend him for the wonderful job that he has done and wish him well.

A Search Committee, chaired by Second Vice President of the Board, Crocker Bennett, has been hard at work to find a replacement for the position of executive director since Mark’s announcement. By the time you read this annual report, we will have a nationwide search underway, and we also named former four-term governor Jim Douglas as Interim Director. The Board of Trustees, including myself, and the staff, pledge to work diligently to ensure a smooth transition for the executive directorship.

Thank you for your support. I know that I leave the helm in good hands, and will enjoy my term on the Board as Past President, as I continue to work to support the mission of the Society.

Sincerely,

Laura Warren, President

We revealed new ideas about Vermont history in our publications in 2015, including Moses Robinson by Judge Robert Mello (left).

Radical change in the 1970s brought many of Vermont’s features to life: politics, local food movements, and the individualism of its residents. We reenacted the era in several parades.

Our work with students and Vermont History Day promotes respect and understanding for leaders from the past.
Our history touches lives in Vermont.

**Teacher workshops & outreach**
5 workshops, total teachers: 79
5 visits to Vermont schools, total teachers & students: 55

**Homeschool classes**
total participants: 497
total sessions: 19

**History kit usage**
130 classrooms, 61 rentals, total students: 1,924

**VHS website visitors**
164,445

**You LIKE us!**
Facebook Likes: 3,080
Twitter followers: 520
Flickr views per year: 60,000

**Public programs & outreach statewide**
VHS event attendees: 6,659
Vermont in the 1970s survey participants: 648

**VHS Membership**
total active memberships: 2,310

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Is your history organization in touch with us?
We can help with collections care, workshops, technical assistance, achievement awards, and don’t miss the bi-weekly educational enews!

Contact Eileen Corcoran at (802) 479-8522 or eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org

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

Our Drinking about Vermont History program opened VHS museum doors to new audiences—and an old industry with new entrepreneurs within the state. These VHS public programs have inspired new conversations and elevated spirits.

**Visits to the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier**
visitors: 5,889
student field trips: 5,610
Snelling Room users: 357*

**Visits to the Vermont History Center & Leahy Library in Barre**
Heritage Gallery visitors: 800
Leahy Library patrons: 817
Leahy Library inquiries: 1,030
Community Room users: 2,121*

* This figure is in addition to our own program use.

Figures given are for fiscal year 2015.
Marking six years of VHS history

Dear Friends:
I am filled with a tremendous sense of accomplishment as I reflect upon the past year at the VHS. Though fraught with challenges big and small, I will remember this year for two major events.

First was the arrival of the Barre History Collection, which was transferred to the VHS from the Aldrich Public Library. This rich collection of archival materials and museum objects provides unparalleled documentation of the community where the Vermont History Center is located and will provide ample resources for the development of exhibitions in the Barre Heritage Gallery.

As I put away my tie-dye t-shirt, headband and long wig, I know I will remember this as our ‘70s year. Spurred by an IMLS grant, the “Colleges, Communes and Co-ops 1970s Project” has generated more excitement than any VHS endeavor in recent years. Through community forums in the spring, oral history interviews in the summer, and extraordinary media interest throughout the year, this project is off to an amazing start that is certain to ensure its continued success in year two.

The VHS Annual Meeting in September 2015 will mark my final day as executive director of the Vermont Historical Society. As I write this I am flooded with memories of the past six years and am overwhelmed with a feeling of pride over all we have accomplished together. Foremost among these is the successful “Saving Vermont’s Treasures” capital campaign that saved the bell tower at the History Center and created three exhibition galleries there. Seeing the ribbon flutter at the opening reception for the galleries is a moment I will never forget.

The arrival of the Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center to our facility in Barre in 2012 was momentous as well. I was honored to be part of a Native American rite that sanctified the Center and the collections held within it. Just a month later, I joined colleagues in Salt Lake City as the VHS was honored with two Awards of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. Equally gratifying were my experiences as chair of the Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

Along with this overwhelming pride, I am filled with gratitude—to the Board of Trustees for the faith they have placed in my leadership, to the staff for their friendship and loyalty, to the volunteers for their kindness and service, and to you, the members and friends of the VHS for sharing with us your love of Vermont history. As my wife Julie and I embark upon our new adventure in our nation’s capital, we will take with us many fond memories and will always have a special place in our hearts for the Green Mountain State.

Mark S. Hudson, Executive Director
You are preserving Vermont’s history for 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.

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

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Reaching audiences statewide offers opportunities to see and hear Vermonters’ stories and history.
We are deeply grateful to all those who contribute to preserving our heritage.

When students share their knowledge with History Day judges, they retain a deeper understanding of Vermont’s past.

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Stratford Historical Society
Sullivan Museum and History Center
Swanton Historical Society Inc.
T. W. Wood Gallery and Arts Center
Tasha Tudor Museum
Temple University - Paley Library
Texas A & M University
The Vermont Movie
Timnath Historical & Genealogical Society
Topsham Historical Society
Townshend Historical Society
Tulane University Libraries
Turnbridge Historical Society
Underhill Historical Society
Union College
University of BC
Library Central Serials
University of California - San Diego
University of New Hampshire
University of Washington Libraries
University of Chicago Library
University of Delaware
University of Georgia Library
University of Illinois
University of London
University of Maine
University of Maryland
University of Michigan Library
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania Library
University of Pittsburgh
University of South Carolina
University of Toronto Library
UVM Consulting Archaeology Program
UVM Global & Regional Studies
Valley Quest
Vere Harmsworth Library - University of Oxford
Vermont Covered Bridge Society
Vermont Department of Libraries
Vermont Folk Life Center
Vermont Genealogy Library
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Vermont State House
Vermont State Police
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Vermont’s Local Bookshop Magazine
Vernon Historians Inc.
Vermont Historical Society
Veteran’s Affairs Medical Ctr.
VT Antiquarian Booksellers Assoc.
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Environmental Management
Westfield Historical Society
Wardsboro History Group, Ltd.
Wardsboro Public Library
Warren Public Library
Waterbury Historical Society
Waterbury Public Library
Wethersfield Historical Society, Inc.
Wells Historical Society
West Fairlee Historical Society
West Haven Historical Society
West Rutland Historical Society
West Windsor Historical Society
When you donate to the Vermont Historical Society, we can preserve documents to make them accessible for researchers of all ages.

Westford Historical Society
Westminster Historical Society
Weston Historical Society
Weybridge Elementary School
Whitingham Historical Society
Williamstown Historical Society
Williston Historical Society
Wilmington Historical Society
Windham County Historical Society
Windsor Public Library
Winterthur Museum Library
Wisconsin Historical Society
Woodstock Historical Society
Wright State University

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Fred Pond
Jeff Schneiderman Photography
Shaw’s
Denise Sullivan, CPA
Walmart

Your loyalty makes a difference.

Thank you.

Library and museum collections donors on page 16

Note: This list shows donations received between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

* Designates donors or members who are deceased.
Numbers tell the story, too!

Back in 1862, the operations of the Vermont Historical Society were simpler than they are today. The organization was run by prominent men of the day—no professional staff. The president that year was Hiland Hall of Bennington, who had begun his term at the helm of the organization while serving as governor of Vermont.

The treasurer was Charles Dewey of Montpelier, son of Julius Y. Dewey, founder of National Life Insurance Company. At the time of the 1862 report, Dewey—no financial slouch himself—was secretary of Vermont Mutual Fire Insurance Company and a director of National Life.

The treasurer’s report was certified by the Committee on Finance, which was composed of A. D. Hager of Proctorsville and Charles Reed of Montpelier.

Charles Reed was a prominent lawyer in Montpelier, and was partner in the law firm Heaton and Reed. He was known for his “abrupt manner and sharp speech”

Charles Dewey: VHS Treasurer, 1862

Albert Hager: VHS Finance Committee, 1862

**FY2015 Unaudited Statement of Activities**

**June 30, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Bequests</td>
<td>595,761</td>
<td>517,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Appropriation</td>
<td>919,184</td>
<td>909,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>388,072</td>
<td>39,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions, Fees and Earned Income</td>
<td>73,772</td>
<td>55,037</td>
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<tr>
<td>VT History Bookstore Sales</td>
<td>65,776</td>
<td>50,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>28,403</td>
<td>28,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>2,070,968</td>
<td>1,600,885</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Finance</td>
<td>277,539</td>
<td>305,712</td>
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<tr>
<td>VHC Operations</td>
<td>188,515</td>
<td>168,871</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pavilion Rent</td>
<td>214,016</td>
<td>210,972</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>175,021</td>
<td>185,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum</td>
<td>252,039</td>
<td>308,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>247,258</td>
<td>263,099</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Programs &amp; Publications</td>
<td>555,104</td>
<td>468,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>VT History Bookstore</td>
<td>38,915</td>
<td>54,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>1,948,407</td>
<td>1,960,229</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change in Net Assets</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, Beginning</td>
<td>7,630,905</td>
<td>7,753,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets, Ending</td>
<td>7,753,466</td>
<td>7,388,122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Preliminary and subject to change*

**Expense**

- Public Programming 17%
- Publications 5%
- Administration & Finance 19%
- Development 12%
- Membership 8%
- Bookstore 3%
- Library 17%
- Museum 19%
and was a supporter of temperance and women's rights.

According to Hiram Huse, Reed’s successor as state librarian, “His last ailment was occasioned by a cold caught in the state library and added to by exposure in attending the March (VHS) meeting of 1873.”

The expenses in the 1861-62 fiscal year amounted to $72.65 for printing and postage. The income that year, totaling $283.99, came from initiation fees of $2.00 per person and annual assessments of $1.00 per person. Sixty-five people paid fees to the society that year. The Vermont Historical Society finished the fiscal year with $211.34 on hand, $27.58 more than it had at the end of the previous fiscal year!
Donors to the Vermont Historical Society Library and Museum Collections

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Luke Aither
Aldrich Public Library
Joan E. Alexander
Patience and Donald Ambrose
Angelo L. Ambrosini
Mr. and Mrs. Philip A. Angell, Jr.
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Monkton Museum & Historical Society
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Drew Nelson
Northfield Historical Society
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Melinda Nye
Susan A. Ocker
Deborah M. Olsen
Nancy Pearce
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Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
Florence Perrin
Joseph Armand Perron
Rudolph Polli
James Pratt
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Syver Rogstad and Mary Labate
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Annie Williams
Bob Williams
Ingrid Erikson Wilson
Nat Winthrop
Merideth Wright

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William Blanchard
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Ms. Kathleen F. Callum
Katie Cartmell Campbell,
in memory of E. E. Cartmell
Beth Cole, in memory of J. Kinsley and Safford Putnam
Sandra Collins
Ellen Kirtland Cutler, in memory of Lois Chandler Loudon Cutler
Adrian W. Dean, in memory of Theron Skidmore Dean and the Dean Family
Helen Gornall, in memory of Rayburn H. Gornall
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Harriet Stone Patrick
Real Perrin, in memory of Lillian Perrin
Barbara Holt Randall
Judy P. Rosenreich, in honor of Residents of the Vermont State Hospital
Mrs. Ruth Roy, in memory of James Alan Partridge & Isabel MacLeod Partridge
Janice Berry Rushworth
Vivian Russe, in memory of Joe Brainard Studio Place Arts
Vermont Dept. of the Sons of Union Veterans CW
Ruth Wallman
Nancy Wasserman
Leon and Joyce Winchester
Reidun D. Nuquist
J. Brooks Buxton
Sarah L. Dopp, in memory of
Leroy and Katherine Dopp
Olive R. Franzi
Merlin L. Acomb
Clarice and Robbins Best
Claire Ford
Brian Lindner
Joseph Armand Perron
Polly S. Quinn
Merideth Wright

Your donations help preserve Vermont’s past so we can learn how our ancestors lived and worked in our state.

Thank you.

Our library contains books, letters, diaries, ledgers, scrapbooks, photographs and broadsides—a tremendous resource used by Vermont media and individual researchers.

16 Vermont Historical Society Annual Report 2015
We couldn’t do it without 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. *We couldn’t do it without you!*

Ann Allbee
Peter Anthony
William J. Barry, Jr.
Judy Barwood
Jane Belcher
Daisy Benson
Ethan W. Bisbee
Marilyn Blackwell
Douglas Blanchard
Marianne Book
David Braun
Olivia Bravakis
Mary Pat Brigham
Geraldine & Bill Brown
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Mark Bushnell
Hollis Callot
Sandy Campbell
John & Mary Carnahan
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Sandra Collins
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Grace W. Sweet
Victor Swenson
Deborah & Colin Tait
Roberta Tracy
Marilyn M. Wallace
Nicholas Ward
Linda P. West
Paul & Sally Zeller

Mary VHS volunteers enjoy the annual trip to a historic location.
Vermont Historical Society

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.