This fall, the Vermont History Museum partnered with the Central Vermont Refugee Action Network (CVRAN), a group of central Vermont citizens who have come together to help welcome refugees to Vermont. Along with tours of the museum, the groups visited the State House, spoke with elected officials and community representatives, and enjoyed lunch at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier.

Many of the visitors immigrated to Vermont in the past decade as refugees from Bhutan. With the assistance of the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, many of the Bhutanese community people have settled in Burlington, Winooski and surrounding communities. For some of the visitors, the trip to the museum and State House was their first visit to Montpelier.

Wendy Dale, a volunteer tour guide and member of CVRAN, and Victoria Hughes, VHS Museum and Education Manager, led the tours of the museum. It was wonderful to share the exhibit with, and learn from, these incredible people. The visitors made connections between farming implements in the exhibit and farming tools used in Bhutan. Others shared how the structure of the wigwam in the museum was similar to housing used in the refugee camps, although the construction materials were very different. We look forward to working with CVRAN to welcome additional groups to the museum and to share Vermont’s story with all Vermonters.
As I Write This Note...

I watch the snowflakes fly outside the windows of the Vermont History Center here in Barre. With the snow comes a focus on indoor activities – local societies ramp up evening and weekend events, our Third Thursday programs return, and we embark on a transformation of the Vermont History Museum lobby and orientation experience.

To stay abreast of these programs and activities, I encourage you to subscribe to our e-news and the local society e-news – these dynamic newsletters will help keep you up-to-date on history happenings. While on the topic of digital platforms, I suggest following VHS on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Facebook: /vermonthistoricalsociety  
Twitter: @vermonthistory  
Instagram: vermonthistory

Speaking of which, we will start broadcasting our Third Thursday programs via Facebook Live, allowing people throughout the world to enjoy these programs and interact with the audience in the room from the comfort of their couch.

As you have heard, the monumental Paul Sample mural, Salute to Vermont, has been gifted to the Vermont Historical Society by the National Life Group. National Life has generously provided for the conservation and installation of the mural in the lobby of the Vermont History Museum. We are using this opportunity to update and upgrade our flagship exhibit, Freedom & Unity. For this work to be completed in a timely manner, we will close the museum in Montpelier for the month of January. More information, photos, and exhibit highlights will be found in our next newsletter and as it happens on social media and through e-newsletters. This is an exciting winter and I look forward to sharing new programs and exhibits soon!

“We are using this opportunity to update and upgrade our flagship exhibit, Freedom & Unity.”

Steve Perkins, Executive Director
We were excited to announce a partnership this fall with the National Life Group to preserve and protect a significant painting that for 55 years greeted visitors to the company’s Montpelier headquarters. The mural, Salute to Vermont (called Tribute to Vermont by National Life) by prominent artist and Dartmouth College instructor Paul Sample, was installed in 1961 in the lobby of National Life’s then-new headquarters building in Montpelier.

The massive painting, which measures 50 feet across and eight feet high, depicts three-and-a-half centuries of Vermont history. Over its lifetime, the painting began to show signs of stress due to its installation in a busy office building lobby. To ensure its preservation and broader public access to this important work, it has been donated to the Vermont Historical Society, where it will be reinstalled as the centerpiece in a redesigned orientation hall at the museum.

The mural was removed from the National Life Building in September 2016. It will be reinstalled in its new, custom-designed space at the museum in early 2017.

For project photos and updates, please visit vermonthistory.org/samplemural

The massive painting, which measures 50 feet across and eight feet high, depicts three-and-a-half centuries of Vermont history.
Give the Gift of History

Plan on a big reaction from a small package when you give the gift of discovery. A gift membership to the Vermont Historical Society is the perfect present for any occasion and for everyone you know. Genealogy buff? Travel enthusiast? Future explorer or adventurer? With membership benefits including a year of free access to the Leahy Library, Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, and Vermont History Center in Barre, you can’t go wrong with a Vermont Historical Society gift membership.

Five reasons to give the gift of history:

1. The perfect size is always in stock. From individual memberships to entire households, the Vermont Historical Society offers a broad range of options to ensure the best fit for your friend, family member, or colleague.

2. It’s a great clutter buster. A Vermont Historical Society membership is a great way to give them the world without cluttering their space.

3. The more they use it, the better it gets. A gift membership to the Vermont Historical Society becomes more valuable with each new discovery.

4. It makes every member an instant VIP. Membership includes free admission, exclusive events, discounts on merchandise and special engagements.

5. Every tradition starts somewhere! Each time you renew a gift membership, you’re building a tradition.

To gift a Vermont Historical Society membership, simply go online and select the membership level of your choice. Or contact Tori Hart at (802) 479-8516 or tori.hart@vermonthistory.org.

The 70’s Live On

Every exhibition is the tip of an iceberg. We often do five or ten times as much work and research as you see on the wall or in a case when the final installation is unveiled. So what to do with all of the extra information? In the case of the oral histories from our 1970s project, we’re hosting them all online as part of a new digital initiative.

Check out www.digitalvermont.org/vt70s for hours of fascinating listening. Over the coming months, we’ll be adding even more 1970s counterculture material.
Every year the Vermont Historical Society presents the League of Local Historical Societies & Museums Achievement Awards to recognize the exceptional work being done by individuals and community heritage organizations throughout the state to collect, preserve and share Vermont’s rich history. Four awards were presented this year in conjunction with the League of Local Historical Societies and Museums Annual Meeting on October 15, 2016, in Castleton, Vermont.
Holiday Book List

A small selection of the fine publications & gifts available from the Vermont Historical Society Store

SEVEN YEARS OF GRACE
by Sara Rath

A dramatized account of the life of Achsa W. Sprague (1827-1862), who in the decade preceding the American Civil War lectured to audiences of thousands on Spiritualism, the abolition of slavery, women’s rights, and prison reform. Grounded in the extensive collection of Sprague’s papers at the Vermont Historical Society, this fascinating tale includes trances, the brush of angel wings, and the love Achsa felt for a married man. 2016

$24.95

“Ms. Rath does a great job of creating a very human Achsa from centuries-old letters... Fans of antebellum America and the spiritualism craze shouldn’t miss this one.”

—Historical Novels Review

MOSES ROBINSON AND THE FOUNDING OF VERMONT
by Robert A. Mello

Moses Robinson may be the most important founding father you’ve never heard of! In this full-length biography—deeply researched in official state papers, legislative proceedings, court record, and other government documents—Superior Court judge Robert Mello restores Moses Robinson to his rightful place as one of the most significant figures in the founding of Vermont and the development of its state institutions. Illustrated, bibliography and index. 2014

$34.95

THE PROBLEM OF SLAVERY IN EARLY VERMONT, 1770-1810
by Harvey Amani Whitfield

Vermonters have always been proud that their state was the first to outlaw slavery in its constitution—but is that what really happened? The Problem of Slavery explodes this myth and forces us to squarely consider the deepest questions about what freedom actually meant for African Americans in Vermont well into the nineteenth century. 2014

$19.95

UNCOMMON LAW, ANCIENT ROADS, AND OTHER RUMINATIONS ON VERMONT LEGAL HISTORY
by Paul S. Gilles

The 25 essays collected in this book examine the foundations of legal thought in Vermont, historical issues ranging from log drives to keeping of sheep and blue laws, the state’s legal luminaries, and contemporary issues including ancient roads and Act 250. Illustrated, bibliography and index. 2013

$24.95

Ordering Is Easy!

Order Online at vermonthistory.org/shop or Order by Phone at (802) 828-1414

More details on page 9
CABOT CREAMERY COOKBOOK
Featuring 150 original recipes and stories from real dairy farmers. 2015
$22.95

MOUNTAIN BREW: A HIGH-SPIRITED GUIDE TO COUNTRY-STYLE BEER MAKING
by Tim Matson & Lee Anne Dorr
The new 40th anniversary edition of the 1970s classic that sparked the homebrewing revolution in Vermont. 2015
$10.95

VERMONT PROHIBITION: TEETOTALERS, BOOTLEGGERS & CORRUPTION
by Adam Krakowski
The tumultuous side of Vermont’s temperance movement as some locals refused to comply with prohibition, and inept law enforcement led to ineffective consequences. 2016
$21.99

ADA OF ENOSBURG: LIFE IN THE NORTHWEST KINGDOM OF VERMONT
by Cynthia Massey
Far more than a memoir, imaginary vignettes of “a day in the life of” create fascinating epochs for all readers. 2015
$26.00

ambiTion & grit: the life of trumAn naramore
by Richard Allen
Biography of a Civil War veteran who survived imprisonment at Andersonville to return to Vermont to become a successful farmer, businessman, and inventor. 2015
$23.00

BURLINGTON: A HISTORY OF VERMONT’S QUEEN CITY
by Vincent Feeney
The first comprehensive history of the Green Mountain State’s largest city. 2015
$19.95

DELUGE: TROPICAL STORM IRENE, VERMONT’S FLASH FLOODS, AND HOW ONE SMALL STATE SAVED ITSELF
by Peggy Shinn
The complete story of the floods as seen through the eyes of the people who lived through them. 2013
$27.95

ORVILLE’S REVENGE: THE ANATOMY OF A SUICIDE
by Stephen B. Martin
A real life murder mystery, it outlines the facts and controversies surrounding the disappearance and death of Orville A. Gibson in 1958. 2015
$15.95

pirates of dingley dell
by Bret Corbin
Visit a most extraordinary children’s summer camp in Vermont operating during the 1920s and 1930s. 2015
$15.95

VOICES FROM THE ATTIC: THE WILLIAMSTOWN BOYS IN THE CIVIL WAR
by Carleton Young
The story of two Vermont brothers who preserved the history of their experiences in the Civil War through surprisingly detailed and insightful letters. 2015
$19.95

SCENIC DRIVING VERMONT
by Stewart M. Green
Explore scenic byways and back roads with a fresh perspective. 2016
$9.95

WE ARE AS GODS
by Kate Daloz
Kate Daloz follows the dreams and ideals of a small group of back-to-the-landers in the 1970s. 2016
$26.99

FOOD & DRINK
Books & More Continued

A small selection of the fine publications & gifts available from the Vermont Historical Society Store

POETRY & LITERATURE

UP THE CREEK WITHOUT A SADDLE: THE BAREBACK POETRY OF JERRY JOHNSON
by Jerry Johnson
The book contains 99 poems and artwork, along with a CD of 16 poems which are transformed into beautiful contemporary folk music, sung and played by Jon Gailmor and Pete Sutherland. 2014
$16.95

VERMONT MOMENTS: A CELEBRATION OF PLACE, PEOPLE, AND EVERYDAY MIRACLES
by M. Dickey Drysdale
Drysdale, editor and publisher of The Herald of Randolph from 1971 to 2015, offers a selection of stories from his writing for that paper and others across the decades. 2015
$16.00

BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

A FARMER’S ALPHABET
by Mary Azarian - $15.95

COUNTING COWS
by Woody Jackson - $5.95

VERMONT: THE STATE WITH THE STORYBOOK PAST
by Cora Cheney - $22.95

BREAD & ROSES, TOO
by Katherine Paterson - $6.99

INVASION ON THE MOUNTAIN
by Judith Edwards - $12.50

SNOWFLAKE BENTLEY
by Jacqueline Briggs Martin - $9.95
ALMOST UTOPIA
by Rebecca Lepkoff
These intimate images are the work of an artist at the peak of her craft and they portray a rural Vermont town at a moment in time just before paved roads and postwar development would alter its character forever. 2008
$32.00

CHAMplain VALLEY:
THROUGH OUR EYES
by Free Press Media
A pictorial history of Vermont which includes a fine collection of historic photos from the 1800s through 1959. 2012
$39.95

SUSPENDED WORLDs:
HISTORIC THEATER SCENERY
IN NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
by Christine Hadsel
A unique look at an overlooked element of the American fabric—the ambitious murals that have served as the backdrops for decades of Yankee entertainment. Winner of the 2016 Historic New England Book Prize. 2015
$40.00

A VERMONT ROMANCE
The 1916 film, the first feature to be made and shot in the state, has been digitally remastered and features a special new music score by Bob Merrill. 2016
$15 DVD/$18 Blu-Ray

RANSOM: AN ORIGINAL PLAY
WITH MUSIC
Ransom tells the story of Vermont Civil War veteran Ransom Towle from research utilizing his diaries and letters. A White River Valley Players production. 2010
$20 DVD

THE SLEEPING SENTINEL:
BANJO DAN’S SONGS OF
VERMONT, VOLUME IV
The newest album from Vermont musician, “Banjo” Dan Lindner featuring Civil War songs along with other originals from Vermont’s history and lore. 2016
$15.95 CD

CROSSINGS: A HISTORY
OF VERMONT BRIDGES
by Robert McCullough
$10 Hardcover, $5 Paperback

POLITICAL LEGACY OF GEORGE D. AIKEN:
WISE OLD OWL OF THE U.S. SENATE
by Michael Sherman
$5.00

Support VHS When You Shop!

Order Online at vermonthistory.org/shop or Order by Phone at (802) 828-1414

Stop by our Museum Store in Montpelier or the Book Nook in Barre for these selections, more great books, and gifts as well!

VHS Members get a 15% Discount! Contact Diane Campbell at diane.campbell@vermonthistory.org or (802) 479-8503 for the promo code for online ordering.

Questions or need assistance: store@vermonthistory.org
Jackie Calder Celebrated

Staff and friends gathered at the Vermont History Center on October 28 to wish Jackie Calder well on her retirement after 26 years as VHS Curator. 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 the 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 Jackie for all you have done for Vermont history!

Last Issue’s Mystery Photo

Many of our readers recognized last issue’s mystery photo. It was taken in Barre on Beckley Street, between 2nd and 3rd Streets, across from the Mutuo Soccorso. Former Aldrich Public Library librarian Ernie Drown sent us this picture of the scene today.

This Issue’s Mystery Photo

This issue's mystery photo, taken by a Rutland photographer, came into the collection last month. It shows an impressive floral memorial display featuring a locomotive and coal car with the letters CVRR + RUT. DIS. and the initials NLD, along with a portrait of the departed. We are wondering who this person so lovingly memorialized might be.

If you can identify this man, please contact VHS Librarian Paul Carnahan at (802) 479-8508 or paul.carnahan@vermonthistory.org.
Calendar Of Events

Screening & Community Conversation: Vermont Speaks for Itself, social justice in the 1970s and its legacy today
January 14, 2:00 pm • Vermont History Center
Vermont Speaks For Itself is a 1973 social justice multi-media documentary project produced and distributed by the Vermont Media Collective in the mid-1970s. Join the Vermont Historical Society for a special screening of this recently digitized film, followed by a community conversation building on the film’s themes of social justice, economic reform, progressive activism, and support for all Vermonters. Light refreshments provided.

“Freaks, Radicals, and Hippies” Special Exhibit Hours
Vermont History Center, Barre
Saturdays, 9:00am-4:00 pm
Dec 10, Jan 14, Feb 11, March 11, April 8, May 13
Wednesday Evenings, 6:00-8:00 pm
Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 22, March 22, April 19, May 17

Farmers’ Night with the Barre City Rock Chorus
February 15, 7:30-8:30 pm • Vermont State House, Montpelier
Join us for an evening celebrating the music of the 1970s! Reception following the concert in the Cedar Creek Room-- meet the staff of the Vermont Historical Society and learn more about our work.

Third Thursday: Joseph Battell
February 16, 12:00-1:00 pm • Vermont History Museum, Montpelier
David Howard Bain will talk about the renowned publisher, philanthropist, and horse enthusiast. Co-sponsored by the National Museum of the Morgan Horse.

Women of the Counterculture
March 15, 7:00-9:30pm • Goddard College Haybarn Theater, Plainfield
A roundtable discussion for Women’s History Month, with Afterparty at Positive Pie

Third Thursday: Remembering the 1992 Montpelier Flood
March 16, 12:00-1:00 pm • Vermont History Museum, Montpelier
On March 11, 1992, the Winooski River flooded its banks in downtown Montpelier, leading to one of the worst floods in the Capital City’s history. Join Vermont Historical Society staff to share memories and lasting impacts.

“Horse Drawn Yogurt: Stories from Total Loss Farm” with Peter Gould
April 8, 2:00 pm • Vermont History Center, Barre
“Horse Drawn Yogurt” is a book of stories about Peter Gould’s decade on Total Loss Farm in Vermont. Join us for a reading and signing with Peter as part of our ongoing programming exploring counterculture in the 1970s.

Questions? Please call (802) 828-2180 except where noted.

Full details and more events on our website: vermonthistory.org/calendar
The Vermont History Center, Leahy Library and the Vermont History Museum will be closed on these dates:

- The afternoon of 12/23
- 12/24
- 12/26
- 1/2
- 1/16
- 2/20

The Vermont History Museum will be closed for the entire month of January for renovations.

Leahy Library will be closed January 23 through February 3, resuming normal hours on Tuesday, February 7.