Vermont Historical Society staff has used the warm weather and long days of summer to get outside our walls and visit the state. Glorious summer evenings spent at Vermont’s award-winning breweries, cideries, and wineries talking Vermont history was truly enjoyable. Hot summer afternoons saw us attending fairs, concerts, and celebrations with our ever-so-popular Wheel of Knowledge and cool Vermont History prizes. Outreach and development staff assisted local societies with technical skills, organization planning, and fundraising guidance. I personally enjoyed my pot-luck supper with the East Montpelier and Calais Historical Societies and a lovely catered meal with the Northeast Kingdom Civil War Roundtable in the city of my birth, Newport!

We are forging partnerships with both State and private entities to see that the Vermont History Center lives up to its name and has all square footage dedicated to the study of Vermont Culture. This has included new brick work, roofing, replacing fluorescent bulbs with LEDS, and creating a more efficient climate control system. Much is happening and I continue to be grateful for your ongoing support of this both venerable and active organization.

On October 28 we’ll be hosting our 64th Annual League of Local Historical Societies & Museums (LLHSM) Conference. It’s amazing to think what has changed, and stayed the same, for Vermont history organizations in the last six decades. There are more local historical societies- almost 200. There are certainly different ways of communicating, but still the same desire to preserve and share stories on a local level. In a report from the first meeting in 1953 it was noted “The general feeling of all those who attended was that many of their individual problems had been met and that the conference had offered them helpful hints and fresh courage for the continuance of their projects.” We hope attendees feel the same after this year’s conference.

VHS has reaffirmed its strategic commitment to work both as a partner and a resource for local societies. In addition to the conference, programs and services for local societies and museums now include the new Local History Gallery, regional discussion programs, staff talks & presentations, site visits & mentoring, and a VHS membership discount for your members.

We hope to see you in Lyndonville in October, but feel free to contact us anytime with questions, requests or ideas. Together we can tell the full breadth of Vermont’s story from every corner of the state and in between.

**64th ANNUAL LLHSM MEETING**

**DIRECTOR’S NOTE**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

With your VHS Membership at the Associate Level or higher, you receive reciprocal admission to over 900 museums through the NARM (North American Reciprocal Museum) Program. Visit Places like:

- Abbe Museum – Bar Harbor, Maine
- The McCord Museum of Canadian History
  - Montreal, Quebec, CANADA
- The Mark Twain House and Museum
  - Hartford, Connecticut
- Peabody Essex Museum – Salem, Massachusetts
- Enfield Shaker Museum
  - Enfield, New Hampshire
- The Preservation Society of Newport County
  - Newport, Rhode Island

Join or upgrade your membership today by calling Tori Hart (802) 479-8516 or online at www.vermonthistory.org/give/join-or-renew.
IN THE GALLERIES

In Barre, it’s the last few months to catch our Freaks, Radicals & Hippies exhibit before it closes on December 22. We’ll reopen the gallery in late January with a new exhibition in partnership with the Vermont Granite Museum. The Art of Granite will feature the extraordinary sculpture of multiple generations of Vermont artists. In September, you can find new wonders from the collections in a refreshed Icons, Oddities, & Wonders gallery, many of which have never been on exhibition before, including a cat squeaky toy.

At the History Museum in Montpelier, we’ll officially open a new exhibition in the Local History Gallery, curated by the T.W. Wood Gallery, in early September. Studies in Perfection: The Portrait Painting of Thomas Waterman Wood will explore some of the portrait work by renowned Montpelier painter T.W. Wood in an examination of his changing technique and talent and serve as a basis for our Annual Meeting on September 9.

November will see another new exhibition in the Local History Gallery, on loan from the Vermont Folklife Center, called Family Traits: Art, Humor, and Everyday Life featuring the stories and artwork of Stanley Lyndes. Also in November, The Calder Corridor Gallery points the way with the Everywhere a Sign exhibit, exploring the importance, changing styles, and manufacturing of everything from business signs to political signs.

In 2018, we’ll also be bringing you new exhibitions on automobile racing in Vermont, Aleksander Solzhenitsyn’s life and work, and more! You can find details on current and upcoming exhibits on our website.

- History Center Exhibits -

Freaks, Radicals & Hippies: Counterculture in 1970s Vermont
Through December 22, 2017

Icons, Oddities & Wonders
New Items in September 2017

The Emergence of the Granite City: Barre 1880 to 1940
Through March 2018

The Art of Granite
Opens Late January 2018

- History Museum Special Exhibits -

Local History Gallery: Thomas Waterman Wood
August 29-November 10, 2017

Calder Corridor Gallery: Everywhere a Sign
November 2017-April 2018

National Life Gallery: The Life & Work of Paul Sample
Through February 2018

Local History Gallery: Family Traits: Art, Humor & Everyday Life
November 14, 2017-January 26, 2018

Calendar Of Events

Archaeology Month Program: Recent Archaeological Investigations at the Galick Site, West Haven, VT with Matt and Ellie Moriarty
Sept. 13, 6:30pm · Vermont History Center, Barre

LLHSM Regional Discussion
October 10, 10am · Greensboro Historical Society, Greensboro

Sam Hand Lecture with Mark Stoler
October 12, 7pm · University of Vermont, Burlington

Archives Month Program: 1964: A Watershed Year in Vermont Political and Cultural History with Deborah Lee Luskin
October 18, 6:30pm · Vermont History Center, Barre

Full details and more events on our website: vermonthistory.org/calendar
FACES OF THE VHS

LISA ANGELL

I am the newest addition to the Vermont Historical Society team, serving as the Guest Services Coordinator for the History Museum in Montpelier. My job involves welcoming visitors to the museum, managing the Museum Store and its online presence, and just generally sharing my love of Vermont and its incredibly rich history with whoever happens along! I meet and greet groups of energetic students, authors, researchers, visitors to Vermont and those who live here and are just finding their way to us. I like being part of their experience and hearing about what has had an impact on them as they moved through our exhibits.

I grew up in northern California, in a family whose idea of a great vacation was to explore abandoned gold mines and ghost towns, hiking through the woods looking for signs of hotels or farms that we knew used to be there and speculating about how life was “back then,” following old roads just to see where they went, and visiting Civil War battlefields all over the country to get a feel for what had happened there (I have twin ancestors who both died at Antietam on the same day, fighting for opposite sides). History – understanding what lies behind our present day lives- has always been important to me.

I am a 30 year resident of Montpelier and raised my two children here. I am happy to say that both of my boys, who left as soon as they could to seek their fortunes elsewhere, have decided that they really want to settle back here after all. There’s no place like Vermont, they both say – and I agree!

I am a painter in my off hours and can often be found in various spots along the Winooski or up in the hills, painting the changing weather and recording the passage of the seasons “en plein air.” I also frame my own work, formerly at my art supply store, Boutilier’s, in Burlington, and now in my home studio.
FACES OF THE VHS
DIANE CAMPBELL

My name is Diane Campbell and my title is Development Assistant. I have had the pleasure of working at the Vermont Historical Society for over 22 years. I was originally hired as Membership Secretary and Account Clerk when our offices were all located at the Pavilion in Montpelier.

Since that time my duties have evolved and expanded to also include working with our outstanding volunteers, and our Board of Trustees. If you have occasion to call the Vermont Historical Society, I will likely be the person who answers the phone to direct your call.

Even though I am not a native Vermonter, I married into a true Vermont family 24 years ago and have learned much about this state through my husband Sandy’s family as well as by working at VHS. I discovered that my mother-in-law was a first cousin of Governor F. Ray Keyser Jr. and her Grandfather was Edwin Larkin of the Ed Larkin Contra Dancers. The Campbell family, including my father in law and all of his siblings, attended high school here in the old Spaulding High School, now the Vermont History Center.

As a mother of three as well as a grandmother of three, I enjoy living in Barre Town with my husband and we keep very busy with our daily lives.

FACES OF THE VHS
VICTORIA HUGHES

My name is Victoria Hughes and I’m the Museum & Education Manager at VHS. In the almost ten years I’ve worked here, my job has evolved quite a bit. The unifying thread has been working with students and teachers to facilitate learning and teaching about Vermont history. Now I do that primarily through school trips to the “Freedom and Unity” exhibit, the History for Homeschoolers classes, and the Vermont History Day program.

Some of the recent upgrades at the museum have helped to make the exhibit even more engaging to the 5,000 students, teachers and chaperones who visit annually. I also work closely with Lisa Angell, the new Guest Service Coordinator, to serve all visitors at the museum. In the fall, we see many tourists who are interested in Vermont’s rich history.

I came to Vermont in 1990 to study history and Russian at Middlebury College. I stayed after graduation and taught high school social studies for a couple of years before taking a summer job at the Shelburne Museum. After working at Mount Independence and for the Division for Historic Preservation, I left Vermont to earn a degree in Museum Education at The George Washington University and work at a historic site in the mid-Hudson Valley. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to return to Vermont and join the stellar staff at VHS. I’ve lived in Barre City ever since. I enjoy travelling and exploring the history of other places, but I love coming back home to beautiful, uncrowded Vermont.
This issue’s mystery photo is postcard identified on its face as “Mountain Grove Farm.” It was postmarked in Townshend in 1919, so the “farm,” which really seems to be a summer camp, is probably located somewhere in the West River Valley. If anyone can confirm what town this restful place was actually located in please contact VHS Librarian Paul Carnahan at paul.carnahan@vermonthistory.org or 802-479-8508.

Last issue’s mystery photo was identified by members Tom Jamison of Putney and Karen Bowles of Killington. They both recognized Bigelow’s Lodge, or Old Fireside Lodge, at the base of Killington Mountain. Tom even gave us a large postcard from the lodge, ca. 1959, showing it in its heyday. Karen reports that the building is now in disrepair.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!
PUB TRIVIA

In partnership with restaurants, bars, and breweries around the state, Vermont Historical Society staff have been road-testing a brand new program: Vermont-themed pub trivia! VHS Staff have been quizzing patrons on their knowledge of Vermont’s history, traditions, culture, symbols, and more. Prizes include pint glasses and mason jars with history-themed designs as well as memorabilia from the locations themselves.

Crowds have been enthusiastic and competitive, working in teams of two to eight, and there’s a round for everyone – from sports to politics to fun facts about catamounts. Some contests have come right down to the wire with teams separated by only one point until the final round.

Our goal has been to get out to various corners of the state and show that history is interesting and fun, and that you don’t have to be an academic scholar to learn new things about Vermont.

One attendee wrote to us afterwards to say that “We had a delightful time and hope to follow you more often ...there is much to learn about VT and it is FUN!”

So far, we’ve been at Harpoon Brewery in Windsor; Woodchuck Cidery in Middlebury; Shelburne Vineyards in Shelburne; and Switchback Brewery in Burlington. We hope to continue to add more venues as we go on, so stay tuned – we may be in your neck of the woods soon!

HISTORY IS ENRICHING

By Victoria Hughes

On a warm Wednesday afternoon in July, the Life Enrichment room at The Manor in Morrisville was filled with interesting conversations about Vermont history. I was invited to join residents for the weekly meeting of the Vermont History Club. The group is using the history lending kits from VHS to enhance their exploration of Vermont history topics like village life and the Civil War.

The boxes, which are full of reproduction artifacts and educational materials, are more than bundles of information. As Marketing Director Mary Collins explains, using a kit “allows the residents to tell their own stories, to make a connection to places like one-room schoolhouses or farms. They are not just learning, but also teaching. They are providing a service by sharing their knowledge, expertise and wisdom. “

The kits are often used in schools, but The Manor is the only nursing center that has borrowed the kits. Adults, as well as students, find the hands-on artifacts captivating. John Demars (pictured right), a co-founder of the club, mentioned being intrigued by the cast of a prehistoric mastodon tooth that is part of the Abenaki in Vermont history kit.

Elena Robertson, Life Enrichment Associate, helps coordinate the two-year-old club. As she asked the group what they liked about the lending kits, the conversation turned from the schooling kit to memories held by residents. Billie Ross recalled getting stuck in the snow on her way to school in Peacham. Anita Cote remembered when the local teacher got paid $18.00 a week. John shared stories about his father travelling from Grand Isle over the frozen lake. Other attendees listened to the discussion of experiences from around the state.

Dr. David Bisbee also dropped by the meeting to update the club on his plan to hike part of the Crown Point Road during the upcoming weekend. The club provides the staff and residents time to get to know each other better.

By shipping the kits and attending the meeting, I enjoyed being a part of one of the many opportunities The Manor provides for life enrichment. In August, residents will make the trip to Montpelier to visit the Vermont History Museum. At VHS, we are proud to be a resource for their Vermont History Club. Every week, the residents and staff demonstrate how Vermont history can help enrich lives by bringing together people of different ages, from different locations and circumstances, to learn and share experiences, memories and conversations.
Test your luck and support the Vermont Historical Society at our first ever Casino Night!

We'll have blackjack, roulette, and more spread throughout the Vermont History Center. Collect your chips and swap them out for raffle tickets to win great prizes.

The evening will feature a 1950s theme in food and décor, so pull out your most glamorous retro looks and join us. Cash bar also available.

Tickets are $25, and include $100 in chips for members and $50 in chips for non-members. Additional tickets will be available for purchase that evening.

Tickets are now on sale at vermonthistory.org/casinonight

FRIDAY, NOV. 17 · 7PM - 10PM
VERMONT HISTORY CENTER, BARRE