In 2003 we embarked on a radical transformation of the History Museum in Montpelier and installed our award-winning Freedom & Unity exhibit. Since then, over 130,000 visitors have come through the doors. Now, a gift from the National Life Group has sparked a project to give the museum a “face lift” for the next generation.

It all starts at the front of the building, where glass door panels offer a peek of the wonders beyond, as well as provide a lighter, brighter entrance to the Museum and just a glimpse of the newly-installed Paul Sample mural. Our famous catamount now greets visitors at the beginning of the exhibit, while we have installed an old-fashioned “cabinet of curiosities” in its former alcove to show the evolution of the collections and presentation of Vermont history from the VHS’ beginnings to today.

Once in the exhibit, visitors will see updated and refreshed content that integrates new scholarship, as well as including important history from the last thirty years. In the center of the exhibit is the new Local History Spotlight Gallery, which will showcase rotating exhibits created by some of our over 190 local historical societies and museums. You’ll also find technology upgrades and a new, interactive “comment wall” that encourages visitors to connect themselves to Vermont’s story.

You’ll be able to see some of these changes as the project progresses through the spring, but we hope you’ll join us in late April for our Grand Reopening to experience the new face of VHS yourself.
My knees are just starting to recover from painting the new floor of our wigwam in the Vermont History Museum. After a January full of activity, the impressive Paul Sample mural, *A Salute to Vermont*, is installed and architectural changes to the lobby are complete!

As part of the renovations, we opted to remove the exhibition theater and replace it with a beautiful gallery ready to be programmed by historical societies from around the state. Working with VHS staff, local societies now have the opportunity to tell their stories in the Vermont History Museum on a regular basis.

With exhibition and gallery updates continuing into April, we hope to bring you a robust schedule of changing exhibitions and programs that not only grace our physical spaces in Barre and Montpelier, but also travel to all corners of the state. Your organization is the Vermont Historical Society and we strive to support you in telling Vermont’s story in creative ways and diverse venues.
Hello!

My name is Amanda Gustin, and I’m the Public Program Manager at the Vermont Historical Society.

At the Vermont Historical Society, I get to participate almost daily with what I think is a nearly sacred moment: that lightbulb click when a person connects with history. That jolt of inspiration, of joy, of reaching out toward a bigger universe of people that happens when you really get history is what drives me. I’ve worked in museums my entire career, with my first job as a tour guide the summer I turned 17, and I have never, ever gotten tired of that moment.

When I’m not at work, I’m busy being the world’s most hopeless nerd (we won’t discuss the number of science fiction conventions I’ve attended; it’s very high), riding my horse (a formerly-wild mustang that I trained myself), walking my dog (the world’s looniest Boxer/Hound mutt), and reading anything and everything I can get my hands on, including the ingredients list on cereal boxes while waiting for the tea kettle to boil.
Hi! I am the Guest Services Coordinator for the Vermont Historical Society. It is part of my job to manage the Museum Store and I often can be found at the Admissions Desk, where I enjoy welcoming visitors to our exhibit.

When I am not working at the History Museum, I enjoy painting and illustrating, listening to music, as well as reading and enjoying the occasional scary movie. I love animals and nature; when the weather is nice I like to go out and explore parts of the state that are still new to me. The rugged mountains and winding streams make Vermont a very beautiful landscape, and naturally draw people outdoors. I just obtained my first fishing license and I can’t wait to see if I can catch something!

Hello! I am the Development Manager for the Vermont Historical Society. Every day I assist our Director of Development on all aspects of fundraising. My background is in History Museum Studies, so I am thrilled to finally be utilizing my Master’s Degree from the Cooperstown Graduate Program and working where I feel most at home, a history museum.

Although I spend a good deal of time working out of the Vermont History Center in Barre, this role takes me to many different places around Vermont. The majority of my visits are to gain new members, donors or corporate supporters however, the thing I love most about my job is meeting new people and learning their Vermont story. After living and growing up in New York, and then moving to Vermont, my husband, infant daughter and I are creating our very own Vermont story.

I believe everyone has a unique and interesting story to share, and would love to hear yours! Please feel free to contact me with your story, or any questions regarding your membership.
My name is Marjorie Strong and my roots in Barre run deep. My great-grandfather, Dr. William Driscoll Reid, moved to Montpelier in 1880 and then shortly thereafter moved to Barre where he became the doctor for the Scottish mutual aid organization, Clan Gordon No. 12. As a practicing physician, he worked across the street from where I now work as the Assistant Librarian; my relatives went to Spaulding High School, occupying the same rooms that house the VHS library collections.

In addition to being the resident expert on Barre and cataloging practices, I am also an avid horse-woman, I ride my horse Stella (a Morgan thoroughbred cross) as frequently as I can. On most Sunday mornings I can be found behind the organ at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Barre. For more than 20 years I have been the permanent organist at the church my great-grandfather helped found.

A new-found interest is singing in the Rock City Chorus, a rock and soul choir, a group that sang at the VHS’s Farmer’s Night program at the State House in February.
LAST ISSUE’S MYSTERY PHOTO

Last issue’s mystery photograph was identified as the graveside display of Governor John B. Page of Rutland. Page had been president of Howe Scale Company and of the Rutland Railroad, 1868-1883. Dave Lepitre, a VHS member from Stanstead, Quebec, identified this image.

THIS ISSUE’S MYSTERY PHOTO

The current mystery photograph has been in our collection for many years without proper identification. The photographer was from Bellows Falls, so this mill may be located in the Rockingham area, or perhaps in New Hampshire. If you recognize this scene, please contact VHS librarian Paul Carnahan at 802-479-8508 or at paul.carnahan@vermonthistory.org.
THANK YOU!

Our thanks to Evangeline Howe Parent and husband Gene S. Parent who donated this remarkable log cabin quilt to our collections. The quilt, pieced by Malona Howe Blanchard of Northfield circa 1890-1900 and backed and tied in 1937, is unique for its white “chimneys” which catch the light and almost give the quilt the appearance of being lit from behind.

Calendar Of Events

1970s Movies & Exhibit
March 11, 9am - 4pm • Vermont History Center, Barre

Women and the Counterculture
March 15, 7pm
Haybarn Theatre, Goddard College, Plainfield

3rd Thursday: Remembering the 1992 Montpelier Flood
March 16, 12pm - 1:00 pm • Vermont History Museum, Montpelier

Vermont History Day
April 8 • Montpelier High School, Montpelier

Horse Drawn Yogurt: Stories from Total Loss Farm with Peter Gould
April 8, 2pm • Vermont History Center, Barre

Screening & Panel- The State of Marriage
April 18, 6pm - 8:30pm • Fleming Theater, UVM, Burlington

Family Movie Night
April 19, 6pm - 8pm • Pete’s Dragon
Vermont History Center, Barre

3rd Thursday: Paul Sample’s Salute to Vermont
April 20, 12pm - 1pm • Vermont History Museum, Montpelier

Vermont History Museum Grand Reopening
VHS Member Preview: April 28, 4pm - 8pm
Public Opening: April 29, 9am - 4pm
Vermont History Museum, Montpelier

Roaring Twenties Party
May 12, 6pm - 8pm • Vermont History Museum, Montpelier

1970s Movies & Exhibit
May 13, 9am - 4pm • Vermont History Center, Barre

1970s Cook-Off
May 17, 6pm - 8pm • Vermont History Center, Barre

3rd Thursday: American Faces: A Cultural History of Portraiture & Identity
May 18, 12pm - 1pm • Vermont History Museum, Montpelier

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

Full details and more events on our website: vermonthistory.org/calendar
The ROARING TWENTIES PARTY

Get dolled up and step back in time to a world of flappers, speakeasys, and illegal hooch. Discover hidden gin joints and a cast of colorful characters while racing other party-goers to solve a mystery that will crack a rum smuggler’s safe.

VHS MEMBERS GET ADVANCE TICKETS!

Visit vermonthistory.org/roaring20s for more details and to buy your tickets.

Exclusive members-only tasting available from 5-6pm

May 12th
6pm - 8pm
Vermont History Museum, Montpelier