WINTER WONDERLAND
I am so very happy to write to you, our dedicated members, that the vision for the Vermont History Center in Barre as a nexus for research and programming on the culture of Vermont is coming much closer to completion. When the Vermont Historical Society took over the old Spaulding High School building in the late 1990s, we envisioned the entire building renovated and occupied with historical and cultural programs. Though the bulk of the building was renovated, approximately 14,000 square feet remained in vacant and unimproved status. Through our close relationship with the State of Vermont we are now ready to finish the building project and welcome the Vermont Department of Libraries onto the campus of the Vermont History Center. By the summer of 2018 patrons to the Center will enjoy access to the Historical Society’s vast library and archives, compelling exhibits, the Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center and the Vermont State Library. We look forward to working with new collaborators to provide an incredible resource to Vermonter and Vermonter-at-heart.

You’ll see as you read this newsletter a great schedule of programs and exhibits, yes I wrote "exhibits!" The popular Freaks, Radicals, and Hippies exhibition closes at the end of December after which we welcome a short-term exhibition on the Art of Granite to the History Center Galleries. The Icons, Oddities, and Wonders exhibit has been completely reinstalled and we are welcoming a steady stream of local societies and museums to exhibit in the Local History Gallery in the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. Also coming this winter will be a new program of exhibits in the Jackie Calder Gallery at the History Museum. These exhibits will be designed to grace that gallery for six months and then move on to local societies, libraries, and town halls around the state.

While on the exhibit topic, I cannot leave out our next major show, Anything for Speed, Automobile Racing in Vermont is scheduled to open in April 2018. Amanda Gustin and I have enjoyed interviewing racers, track owners, mechanics, and super fans for what will be an exciting and popular exhibit. If you would like to contribute stories, photos, or artifacts for this show, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly.

I look forward to a winter of construction, exhibit research, and great programs. Thank you all for your support and interest.

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**IN THE GALLERIES**

**- History Center Exhibits -**

**Freaks, Radicals & Hippies:**
**Counterculture in 1970s Vermont**
Through December 29, 2017

**Icons, Oddities & Wonders**
New Items in September 2017

**The Emergence of the Granite City:**
**Barre 1880 to 1940**
Through March 30, 2018

**The Art of Granite**
Open January 15- March 30, 2018

**Anything for Speed: Automobile Racing in Vermont**
Opens April, 2018

**- History Museum Special Exhibits -**

**Local History Gallery:**
**Family Traits: Art, Humor & Everyday Life**
Closes January 26, 2018

**Calder Corridor Gallery: Everywhere a Sign**
Open through April 2018

**National Life Gallery: Skiing in Vermont**
Opens March 2018

**Local History Gallery:**
**Our Vanishing Landmarks, Chelsea & Beyond**
Open January 30-July 28, 2018
Every year the Vermont Historical Society presents the League of Local Historical Societies & Museums (LLHSM) 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. Seven awards were presented this year in conjunction with LLHSM Annual Meeting on October 28, 2017 in Lyndonville, Vermont.

**Award of Excellence in Historic Preservation & Collections Care**
Reading Historical Society for their Museum Move project with Special Distinction for President Esther Allen

**Award of Excellence in Publications**
Stowe Historical Society for their book *The Stowe I’ve Grown to Know* by Chuck Dudley

**Award of Excellence in Publications**
Bethel Historical Society for their book *Vermont Stones - Italian Bones* by H. William Johansen

**Award of Merit in Publications**
Chittenden County Historical Society for their book *Lillian Baker Carlisle-Vermont Historian, Burlington Treasure- A Scrapbook Memoir* by Joanna Tebbs Young (pictured left).

**Award of Merit in Publications**

**Individual Achievement Award**
Richard P. Stowell of the Milton Historical Society

**Individual Achievement Award**
John M. Quinn of the Montgomery Historical Society

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**HATHAWAY AWARD**

The Hathaway Award is given each year in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the field of Vermont history. It is dedicated to the memory of Richard O. Hathaway, whose lifelong work teaching Vermont history was an inspiration to his colleagues and to the many students he taught and mentored.

*Vermont Stones - Italian Bones* tells the story of the Italian immigrants who came to Bethel, VT at the beginning of the twentieth century to work Bethel’s white granite. Johansen’s book provides a vivid picture of where and how these Italian immigrants lived and the cultural challenges that they faced.

The late Bill Johansen, a summer resident of Tunbridge, did extensive research for the book, which was published by the Bethel Historical Society, who accepted the award on his behalf.

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**THE ART OF GRANITE**

VHS is excited to partner with our neighbors at the Vermont Granite Museum for a new temporary exhibit this spring - *The Art of Granite*. The exhibit will explore the continuing use of Barre granite in sculpture, highlighting a continuity between classical techniques and the innovation and creativity of today’s artists. Featuring collections from both organizations, this tribute to Barre’s working artists highlights meaningful aspects of the artistic process. The exhibit will be on view from January 15-March 20, 2018 at the Vermont History Center.
Two of the earliest known photographs...

...of Vermont were transported from the Vermont History Center to the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) in late September for inclusion in an exhibition entitled *East of the Mississippi: Nineteenth Century American Landscape Photographs*. The two images, one depicting the Connecticut River valley *(above)* and the other showing the Winooski River, are part of a set of eight half-plate daguerreotypes in the collections of the Vermont Historical Society created in 1845 by Vermont photographer Thomas Easterly.

The two images were selected for exhibition in New Orleans by curator Russell Lord because Easterly’s work shows influences by romantic and artistic traditions at a time when photography was in its infancy. Lord points out that Easterly employed picturesque compositional strategies when creating his work Connecticut River Valley, “including large trees as framing side screens and locating the river centrally in the picture plane, leading the eye of a path over varied terrain into the background of the photograph.”

Easterly was born in Guilford in 1809 and as a young man lived in Brattleboro. His first profession was as an itinerant calligrapher and teacher of writing. He learned the
art of photography in Albany or New York City and was making daguerreotypes, the earliest forms of photographs, by 1844. Easterly travelled to New Orleans by steamer soon after learning his new skill but returned to Vermont the following year.

Once back in Vermont, Easterly created images of sites in and around Burlington, Rutland, and Brattleboro. These images, probably taken in early 1845, are the earliest known photographic landscapes of Vermont. However, the attraction of the West for Easterly was strong, and by the fall of 1845 he was working with a partner as an itinerant photographer in Illinois and Iowa. Easterly found his way to St. Louis where he married and settled in the summer of 1850. He became a skilled and successful daguerrean. St. Louis was a prosperous and growing city, offering Easterly many opportunities to exercise his art. Easterly’s early photographs of Vermont, however, remained on display in his studio. Historian Delores Kilgo observes that “these once-familiar signs undoubtedly served as poignant mementos of his distant homeland and his early life in the East.”

We don’t know when the Easterly daguerreotypes came to the Vermont Historical Society, but they were in uncovered in our photograph collections in 1984 by two researchers from Brattleboro who were responding to a request from Professor Kilgo who was writing a book on Easterly. The plates were conserved in 1994 and were displayed in St. Louis, Missouri; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Norfolk, Virginia; as part of an Easterly retrospective that year.

The VHS’s two Easterly daguerreotypes can be seen at NOMA through January 7, 2018. Scans of all eight of Easterly’s images can be viewed on Digital Vermont, the VHS’s new digital archive, digitalvermont.org.

Daguerreotypes were the first publicly available photographic process, invented by Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre in 1839.
Barbara Holt, a member from Franconia, New Hampshire, was the first reader to identify last issue’s mystery photo as being located in Windham, Vermont. Once we had a town to reference, we discovered that we had several photos of this early twentieth-century summer retreat in the Vermont hills. To see more pictures of “Mountain Grove Farm,” including a post card sent to us by member Charlie Marchant of Townshend, go to the e-pub version of this newsletter at vermonthistory.org/historyconnections.

This issue’s mystery photo comes from our Barre History Collection. The photo of a lumber mill is completely void of any indications of location. Presumably it is in Barre, but we can’t identify the location. If you can tell us where this lumber mill was located, please contact VHS Librarian Paul Carnahan at paul.carnahan@vermonthistory.org or 802-479-8508.

VHS has teamed up with the Vermont Humanities Council and VTDigger for a new audio podcast, Before Your Time. For each episode, we search the collections at the Vermont Historical Society to look at an object that tells us something unique about our state. Then, we use that object as a jumping off point to explore big ideas, interesting people, and pivotal moments in Vermont history.

The podcast was launched in November, with the premier episode discussing the 1927 flood. Our first feature object was a rug beater in our collection used to clean muddy rugs after the flood. In December, we explore “Selling Vermont” and the rise of the ski industry and tourism post World War II.

Monthly episodes will be available via streaming services, as well as via vermonthistory.org/podcast, which will also direct you to additional pictures and resources to complement each episode.

VHS is excited to announce a new fellowship that will be awarded annually to two high school juniors or seniors. Geiger Fellows will spend time over the summer working directly with our collections and archives—learning to tell cultural stories through historical artifacts and artwork, proper handling of collections, museum standards and record-keeping, and more. Application details are on our website (accepted until April 1st). The Geiger Fellowship is generously underwritten by Harvey and Pamela Geiger.
My name is Kate Olney and I joined the Vermont Historical Society from Montana where, as a development and marketing leader with over 15 years of experience in non-profit and for-profit organizations, I provided strategic direction in fundraising, communications, public relations, and operational activities.

I am a graduate of University of Montana School of Business where I met my husband and native Vermonter, Kelton. We relocated to Vermont in June with our two children, Quinn and Grace, to be closer to Kelton's family. We now live in Middlesex with our cherished dogs, Dewey and Brady.

As the Director of Finance and Facility Operations I am tasked with helping preserve and maintain the Spaulding School we now call the History Center and watch over the finances of VHS. One of my fondest memories as a child was a soap box derby I raced in, so one can only imagine how excited I am about the *Anything for Speed* exhibit coming up soon at VHS and the first ever Granite City soap box derby.

I moved to Vermont in the early 90s, met the person I most admire and since I knew I could never hold a candle to her, asked her to marry me instead. We purchased land and lived in a Teepee, while building our house. Let me tell you Vermont is not suited for Teepees. Nearly 25 years later, after raising our two boys, I can’t help but look back and wonder “What just happened?”

Even though I have been at VHS for over 38 years, (wow!) as the Registrar, I am not one of our more public figures. Most of my time is spent down in the collections area with all of the objects that have been entrusted to us. Objects are one of my passions and, as a generalist, I know at least a little bit about many, many of the over 25,000 pieces in the collection. I especially enjoy it when descendants of the donors ‘visit’ their familial objects and when scholars come to research; sharing the collection is so rewarding.

My down time is a bit greater now that I’m part time and I’m really enjoying it as I hit the backroads of East Calais either walking or running. Every opportunity we get, my husband Syver and I like to escape to Asheville to visit our daughter Emily and taste a bit of the South.
2017 VHS BOOK LIST

Featured Titles

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! 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. 2014 $34.95 PB

THE VERMONT DIFFERENCE: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE
Edited by J. Kevin Graffagnino, H. Nicholas Muller III, David A. Donath, Kristin Peterson-Ishaq
Nineteen essayists, all of them leaders in major areas of Green Mountain life and work, discuss aspects of the Vermont experience that merit national attention and consideration, with beautiful images and engaging essays. 2014 $39.95 HC

THE PROBLEM OF SLAVERY IN EARLY VERMONT
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? 2014 $19.95 PB

UNCOMMON LAW, ANCIENT ROADS AND OTHER RUMINATIONS OF VERMONT LEGAL HISTORY
By Paul S. Gillies
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. 2013 $34.95 HC • $24.95 PB

SEVEN YEARS OF GRACE
By Sara Rath
Grounded in the extensive collection of Sprague’s papers at the Vermont Historical Society, Seven Years of Grace is a dramatized account of the life of Achsa W. Sprague, 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. 2016 $24.95 PB
2017 VHS BOOK LIST

New Publications

LILIAN BAKER CARLISLE: VERMONT HISTORIAN, BURLINGTON TREASURE
By Joanna Tebbs Young
The story of the late historian Lilian Baker Carlisle told with photos, news clippings and mementos of a long and well-lived life in her beloved state. 2017
$25.00 PB

GREEN MOUNTAIN OPIUM EATERS: A HISTORY OF ADDICTION IN VERMONT
By Gary G. Shattuck
It’s not just a modern problem. This is an exploration of Vermont’s struggle with opium and how it found its way into so many lives in the 19th and early 20th centuries via quack doctors, patent medicines, and complicit druggists. 2017
$21.99 PB

STRONG GROUND: MOUNT INDEPENDENCE AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
By Donald H. Wickman and the Mount Independence Coalition, with illustrations by Gary Zaboly
A well-illustrated history of the least disturbed site of the American Revolution, with observations concerning the site, its buildings, and the key role this fortification played in the years 1776-1777. 2017
$25.00 PB

SHAY’S SETTLEMENT: A STORY OF REVOLT AND ARCHAEOLOGY
By Stephen D. Butz
Discover the forgotten settlement hidden in the Vermont wilderness. Built by Daniel Shay after fleeing the uprising named for him in Massachusetts, this fortified settlement remained undiscovered until 1997. 2017
$21.99 PB

VERMONT STONES, ITALIAN BONES
By H. William Johansen
The story of Italian granite cutters who settled in Bethel, Vermont, working the world’s whitest granite into some of the most famous buildings throughout the country. 2016
$24.00 PB

PERSEVERANCE: THE LIFE AND WORKS OF PAINTER JAMES HOPE
By Donald H. Thompson and Carol L. Thompson
The story of Castleton artist Captain James Hope from his beginnings in Scotland through his service in the Civil War and his distinguished career as a painter of many famous Civil War battle scenes, as well as his beloved Vermont landscape. 2016
$15.00 PB

THUNDERSTRUCK FIDDLE
By Leslie Askwith
The remarkable true story of Charles Morris Cobb and Rum Street, the impoverished hill community he lived in just outside Woodstock, VT in the 1850’s. 2017
$17.95 PB

THE STOWE I’VE GROWN TO KNOW
By Chuck Dudley
Packed with fascinating photographs and stories, this is a book for any fan of Stowe. 2017
$29.95 PB

WOODSTOCK
By Frank J. Barrett, Jr.
A photographic history of one of Vermont’s most beautiful towns. 2017
$21.99 PB

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2017 VHS BOOK LIST

Featured Books For Young Readers

ALEC’S PRIMER
By Mildred Pitts Walter, Illustrations By Larry Johnson
As a young boy born into slavery in Virginia, Alec Turner was forbidden to learn to read. Naturally he was frightened when Zephie, his owner's granddaughter, first offered to teach him, but she told him that if he learned to read, he could become a free man.
$15.95 PB

A LITTLE GIRL’S DIARY: LIFE ON A FARM IN RURAL VERMONT
By Alice Bushnell ed. Marcia Cowles Bushnell
This text is a copy and transcription of the diary kept by 7-year-old Alice Bushnell in 1911.
$12.00 PB

DAISY AND THE DOLL
By Michael Medearis and Angela Shelf Medearis, ill. By Larry Johnson
Told in Daisy’s voice, the book’s themes of identity and self-affirmation offer a powerful lesson to today’s youngsters who face similar situations of prejudice and stereotyping in twenty-first century classrooms.
$7.95 PB

Gift Ideas

SUSPENDED WORLDS: HISTORIC THEATER SCENERY IN NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
By Christine Hadsel
A look at the ambitious murals that served as the backdrops for decades of plays, concerts, and theatricals in New England. Winner of the 2016 Historic New England Book Prize. 2015
$40.00 HC

VERMONT MOMENTS: A CELEBRATION OF PLACE, PEOPLE, AND EVERYDAY MIRACLES
By M. Dickey Drysdale
Sixty essays that distill the essence of why living in Vermont is so very special. A must-have book for those who want to know, or be reminded of, the real Vermont. With a forward by Tom Slayton. 2015
$16.00 PB

SOMETHING ABIDES: DISCOVERING THE CIVIL WAR IN TODAY’S VERMONT
By Howard Coffin
The back-story of the people, places, and events during the Civil War, during which Vermont made such huge contributions and sacrifices. A town-by-town guide to people, places, and things relating to the war, with accurate directions for finding them. 2013
$35.00 HC • $24.95 PB

DO THE IMPOSSIBLE: MY CRASH COURSE ON PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS INSIDE THE HOWARD DEAN CAMPAIGN
By Kate O'Connor
A book for anyone who followed Dean for America during the presidential campaign of 2003-4, or just wants to know what really happens inside a presidential campaign. 2011
$25.00 PB

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
$15.95 HC

ALMOST UTOPIA
By Rebecca Lepkoff
An intimate photographic portrayal of a rural Vermont town at a moment in time just before paved roads and postwar development would alter its character forever. 2008
$32.00 PB
NEW ENGLAND TO GOLD RUSH CALIFORNIA: THE JOURNAL OF ALFRED AND CHASTINA W. RIX 1849-1854
By Lynn A. Bonfield
A fascinating shared journal by a young couple who left Peacham to try their luck, as did so many other Vermonters, in California’s Gold Rush. 2011
$45.00 HC

VERMONT: AN OUTSIDER’S INSIDE VIEW
Photographs By Edward L. Rubin
A large-format, lovingly photographed ode to Vermont’s land and people. 2015
$45.00 PB

THE UNKNOWN ROCKWELL: A PORTRAIT OF TWO AMERICAN FAMILIES
By James A. "Buddy" Edgerton and Nan O’ Brien
A Portrait Of Two American Families’ is the personal memoirs of James “Buddy” Edgerton, Norman Rockwell’s neighbor in West Arlington, Vermont, for 14 years, and a frequent Rockwell model, as well as best friend with the Rockwell sons. 2009
$29.95 HC

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Calendar Of Events

Coffee with the Curator: Toys
December 7, 2-3pm • Vermont History Center, Barre

70s Exhibit Special Hours
December 9, 9am-4pm, Vermont History Center, Barre

Third Thursday: Lilian Baker Carlisle
December 21, 12-1pm, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington

Exhibit Opening: “The Art of Granite”
January 15, 12-4pm, Vermont History Center, Barre
Craft activities and first look at the new exhibition

MLK Day Program: "Still They Persisted: Immigrant & Community Solidarity in the 1912 Bread & Roses Strike"
January 15, 2pm, Vermont History Center, Barre

Third Thursday: Family Traits
January 18, 12pm, Vermont History Museum, Montpelier

Art of Granite Special Hours & Program in partnership with the Vermont Granite Museum
February 10, 9am-4pm, Vermont History Center, Barre

Third Thursday: Auto Racing Memories
February 15, 12pm, Vermont History Museum, Montpelier

Farmers Night Concert: Vermont Headstones
February 21, 7:30pm, Vermont State House, Montpelier

Third Thursday: Pavilion Hotel
March 15, 12pm, Vermont History Museum, Montpelier

VHS will be Closed: 12/25, 1/1, 1/15, 2/19 • Library will be Closed: January 22-February 2
Full details and more events on our website: vermonthistory.org/calendar
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