The Vermont Historical Society welcomes Tom Peters as the keynote speaker at the 170th Annual Meeting at the Pavilion Building in Montpelier. A celebrated “quality guru” of business management, Peters has lived in Vermont for the last 25 years. Tom’s presentations are marked not only by his stunning breadth of interests and skill at tailoring his message to suit the needs of widely diverse audiences, but especially by the contagious passion and energy he brings to his topic.

Tom Peters led the way in preparing management for the current era of staggering change, starting in the mid-1970s. The likes of Fortune, the Economist, the New Yorker and the Los Angeles Times have said Tom is the “uber-guru” of management, and that “in no small part, what American corporations have become is what Peters has encouraged them to be.”

In particular, in 1982, with the publication of In Search of Excellence, Tom and co-author Bob Waterman helped American firms deal with a crushing competitive challenge to their primacy by getting them away from strategies based on just the numbers, and re-focused on the basic drivers of all successful businesses throughout time: people, customers and values, the “culture,” action-execution, and a perpetual self-renewing entrepreneurial spirit.

Perhaps the Bloomsbury Press book, Movers and Shakers: The 100 Most Influential Figures in Modern Business, summed Tom’s work up best. Reviewing the historical contributions of the giants of management thinking and practice, they said: “Tom Peters has probably done more than anyone else to shift the debate on management from the confines of boardrooms, academia, and consultancies to a broader, worldwide audience, where it has become the staple diet of the media and managers alike. Peter Drucker has written more and his ideas have withstood a longer test of time, but it is Peters – as consultant, writer, columnist, seminar lecturer, and stage performer – whose energy, style, influence, and ideas have shaped the way new management thinks.”

Tom Peters is guest speaker at the 170th VHS Annual Meeting

The Vermont Historical Society is the recipient of the prestigious 2007 IMLS award. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent federal agency that grows and sustains a “Nation of Learners,” because lifelong learning is critical to success.

In Search of Excellence: The Vermont Way

Tom Peters is guest speaker at the 170th VHS Annual Meeting

The Vermont Historical Society

170th Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 13, 2008

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Pavilion Building, Montpelier

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. – Registration & Used Book Sale
9:30 a.m. – Welcome Remarks
9:40 a.m. – Announcement of 2008 Cate Fellow, Announcement of Richard Hathaway Award
10:00 a.m. – Business Meeting / Election of Trustees**
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Tom Peters

“In Search of Excellence: The Vermont Way”

Keynote speech is free and open to the public.

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Buffet Lunch* & Used Book Sale

* Registration is required for lunch.

** Members who cannot attend but would like absentee ballots can call 479-8500.

For Vermonters and Vermonters at Heart Since 1838
Farewell to Two Wonderful Friends

A
s anyone who runs a cultural heritage organization can attest, one of the sad duties individuals in jobs like mine have to face with regularity is saying goodbye to members, friends and supporters who pass away. I read once that the average age of a state historical society member is 64, and that means that many VHRSers are a good deal older. That being the case, it’s a rare month in which my colleagues and I don’t learn of the death of someone whose interaction with the Society left a lasting impression on everyone here.

In recent weeks VHS lost two remarkable members of our family. Graham S. Newell, who served as President of the Society from 1965 to 1969, died in St. Johnsbury on June 20, and Betty Bandel, a prolific student of Vermont history and a 1991 recipient of an honorary VHS life membership, died in South Burlington on July 2. The contributions that Graham and Betty made to Vermont would fill the pages of this newsletter, and the Vermonters who had the privilege of learning from them and working with them will carry those memories forever.

Born in St. Johnsbury in 1916, Graham Stiles Newell was headed for an academic career outside Vermont when his father suffered a stroke and Graham had to return home before finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. He taught history and Latin at St. Johnsbury Academy from 1938 to 1947, spent 35 years teaching history at Lyndon State College, and then after “retiring” from LSC returned to the Academy to teach Latin for the last 26 years of his life. Along the way Graham also served nearly three decades in the Vermont legislature, where he earned the respect and affection of countless members of both chambers and both parties. Graham was an extraordinary individual to the end – when VHS Director of Development Jane Campbell and I visited him for the last time in December 2007, he presented us with a sheet of Christmas carols his students had translated into Latin and challenged us to identify the songs. That I got a couple right 32 years after my last Latin class at UVM was a pleasant surprise, and the praise Graham bestowed on me for that modest accomplishment made my day.

Generations of undergraduates learned Shakespeare from Betty Bandel at UVM, where she taught from 1947 to 1975. Few of them knew that Betty was the first woman to attain the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Women’s Army Corps during World War II, but none doubted her toughness as an instructor. I took Shakespeare from Betty during her last year of teaching, and I recall vividly the day she left the classroom precisely at the time appointed for the end of our mid-term exam, trailed by several anxious students crying, “Doctor Bandel! Doctor Bandel!” and waving their exam books at her. Betty never looked back or broke stride, and the campus rumor mill said that if she’d made it back to her office before the tardy scholars caught up with her they’d have received zeros on the test. When the final exam rolled around a few weeks later, everyone finished ahead of time. Betty had a remarkably broad interest in the life of the mind, so in addition to her beloved Shakespeare she researched and wrote on Vermont psalmody, Chittenden County history, Justin Morgan, sundials, genealogy, and a dazzling array of literary and historical topics.

Both Graham and Betty received numerous awards, including honorary degrees from UVM, for their accomplishments. Few Vermonters of their generation did more for our state, and none loved Vermont more dearly. May we all live so long and so well.

Ave atque vale, mei amici, sed non aeternum vale.

– J. Kevin Graffagnino
Executive Director
The Vermont Historical Society has unveiled an online collection of photographic portraits of Vermont Civil War officers. The images, scanned from three notebooks of cartes-de-visite in the Society’s collections, can be viewed at www.vermonthistory.org/cwofficers.

The images, arranged alphabetically by surname in 14 groups, capture the likenesses of 859 Vermont officers, sixty-three percent of the 1363 men who served as officers during the conflict. Users can search for particular individuals or just browse through a group to see the faces of the men who served the Union in that bloody conflict.

These images were collected by the Vermont Officers Reunion Society beginning in 1869. In that year, Samuel E. Pingree, president of the group, began the process of soliciting photographs from Vermont officers. The work was continued by Mrs. James S. Peck of Montpelier, widow of a former Adjutant General. Work on the collection continued through at least 1894, almost 30 years after the war had ended.

The photographs were placed into frames that hung in the main corridor of the Vermont State House for many years. Many of the men are represented by photographs taken during the war, but some are pictured as older men in business suits.

The photographs were eventually placed in notebooks. When it was realized that the public handling of the images was going to lead to their demise, the notebooks were transferred to the VHS. Now the images are available to the public in electronic notebooks and the original images are safely stored in the Society’s climate-controlled vault in Barre.

The collection was scanned over a period of almost four years by high school students and other volunteers. The project represents a considerable investment of time but not financial resources. “This was done without grants or other outside funding sources,” Carnahan states. “We are especially grateful to the students of Spaulding High School who put in so much work on this.” After the images were scanned, Carnahan reports, “It was a slow process because the labels in the notebooks were incomplete and contained many errors. There are still a few photographs we are still trying to identify.”

VHS Librarian Paul Carnahan says the new online collection represents a significant advancement for the Society. According to Carnahan, “The Civil War is one of our most popular areas of study. As long as I have been here patrons have come to the library and marveled at this collection of images. Collectors would come and pore over the albums, comparing images in a search to identify an unlabeled image. Now they can view these images on their home computers, bringing the faces of some of Vermont’s Civil War heroes into their homes.”

In addition to the 859 photos of officers that are now online, the VHS owns about 360 photographic images of other Civil War soldiers, many of them privates, which were not part of the Reunion Society’s collecting efforts. These photographs, along with letters, diaries, and documents from the Civil War are available for use by the public at the Vermont Historical Society’s Leahy Library in Barre. The Vermont Historical Society also has Civil War artifacts on display as part of the “Freedom & Unity” exhibit in the Pavilion Building, on State Street, in Montpelier.

New Hours:
The Leahy Library of the Vermont Historical Society is pleased to announce that it is expanding its hours of operations during the non-summer months. Beginning on September 3 and continuing through Memorial Day, the library will be open on Wednesdays until 8:00 pm. The library’s other hours will remain unaltered. The library will now be open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Memorial Day – Labor Day), 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (Labor Day through Memorial Day), and the second Saturday of each month 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
1963 March on Washington

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orty-five years ago this summer the country was embroiled in the Civil Rights movement. Concerned citizens from around the country converged in the nation's capital on August 28, 1963, for the Emancipation March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. As 200,000-300,000 people gathered at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial, spreading out toward the Washington Monument, Martin Luther King delivered his inspirational "I have a Dream" speech.

Little research has been done to document how many Vermonters made the trip to Washington, but the memories of those who went are as clear today as they were 45 years ago. The VHS recently received a button worn at the march along with this story of the Vermonter who wore it at the historic event.

My daughter and I learned that the Episcopal Bishop of Vermont had rented two busses to take interested people to the March on Washington and we decided to go. It was an unforgettable experience to hear Dr. King deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech. A huge crowd of blacks and whites met by the reflecting pool in central Washington, D.C. The mood was electric and we all held hands and sang, swaying to the music of Spirituals and "We Will Overcome." I, sadly, thought all our problems with race would be over and both races could then live with peace and love. How foolish I was.

The day Martin Luther King was murdered, it felt like my heart stopped. Our country had lost a father, a brother, an irreplaceable human being. The following Sunday I went to church … as usual. Neither the minister nor the congregation mentioned Dr. King’s death. I stood up with tears streaming down my face, verbally blasted them all and permanently left the church building and the organization.

The VHS library and museum seeks additional information, photographs, memoirs, and artifacts to document the role of Vermonters in the March on Washington. If anyone has documented information on the march, please contact VHS library Paul Carnahan at paul.carnahan@state.vt.us or 802-479-8508 or curator Jackie Calder at jackie.calder@state.vt.us or 802-479-8514.

Meet the Vermont Connecting to Collections Interns

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during this past summer, many of you met Laura Brill and Emily Voss, the Vermont Connecting to Collections Project interns funded by IMLS. They coordinated the distribution of the survey of Vermont's museums' needs, arranged logistics and speakers for the regional workshops, designed and wrote press release and informational materials, entered survey responses into the database, visited your sites, and have cheerfully answered your many questions.

Laura, a 2008 graduate of NYU’s M.A. program in Art History with an Advance Certificate in Conservation, will stay in Vermont and work on a special project at the Shelburne Museum. Emily will return for her second and final year at the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies. We’ll miss their energetic presence in the museum offices, and we greatly appreciate their vital part in the project and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

SAVE THIS DATE!

October 3 – 5

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rmonthistorical society will be at the Weston Antiques Show, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Weston Playhouse, Route 100, Weston, Vermont. Fifty years ago, the Vermont Historical Society received final notice of the settlement of the estate of Harold Goddard Rugg, who left his vast Vermont collections to the Vermont Historical Society. The donation included books and pamphlets, maps, broadsides, photographs, and 2,000 "antiques," some of which VHS will exhibit at the Weston Antiques Show. Harold Rugg’s gift to the library and museum is the most significant and important collection ever acquired by the society.
Community History Partnership

Since its beginning in 2001, Community History Partnership, an outreach program developed by the Vermont Historical Society, has guided 34 Vermont communities through diverse discovery projects bringing teachers, students and local historians together to foster awareness and learn skills for exploring that which is important and unique about their towns, each in a two-year cycle. CHP celebrated its final round on May 19th with a spirited program and display of finished products from eleven communities on the State House lawn and in the Pavilion.

In her address to participants and guests, Program Coordinator Sarah Adelman pointed out the necessity for programs like CHP. “As you walk around today, you will see a variety of ways to research and share local history. These teams ... have preserved stories that may have otherwise been lost forever.” Guided by this program, students and adults together conducted oral histories, local research, and archaeological digs in to create projects such as websites, documentaries and murals.

Community History Partnership will continue at VHS, not as a single, stand-alone project, but as an important, informative element of our educational and outreach programming:

- We are developing a “do it yourself” resource guide based on the CHP model for our website as a resource for communities that want to start a project for their town. Hard copies of the guide will be available.
- The VHS Education Department is embarking on a new project to offer resources for Vermont teachers by developing a Vermont history curriculum that can be applied from grades K-12.

To read more about the participants and their programs, please go to www.vermonthistory.org/CHP.

CHP Sponsors 2007 and 2008: The work was made possible by the generous contributions of the A.D. Henderson Foundation, IBM, Robert and Virginia Mitchell Charitable Remainder Trust, the Schultz Foundation, Richard E. & Deborah L. Tarrant Foundation, the Verizon Foundation, the Windham Foundation, and the Woodstock Foundation.

Exploring Apprenticeships for Children at the Pavilion

Expanding on last year’s popular “Children at Work” series of Family Fun Workshops, Geraldine Brown is creating more “work/fun” for the fall. We expect the Vermont Historical Society will be teeming with young apprentices again on Saturdays this fall and winter! Family Fun Workshops offer families with children ages 6-15 a hands-on experience with the past. Each workshop features a demonstration or story, often related to a corresponding area in our Freedom & Unity exhibit, an activity, and a snack to fit the theme. Activities will include wig-making, rope-making, bookbinding, mortise + tenon making, and more!

Info: www.vermonthistory.org or call Geraldine Brown at (802)828-2180.

National History Day Participants Take Vermont to Washington

Congratulations to the Vermont students who participated in the National History Day competition in College Park, Maryland. The 35 young adults qualified for Nationals by winning their categories at Vermont History Day. After months of research and preparation, the students presented their outstanding history projects to judges from around the U.S. We also had a great time exploring Washington, D.C., visiting Senator Leahy, watching a Baltimore Orioles game and parading with our Cabot cows!
“There's so much to see, and it's a lot of fun.”

“I like Clara's Games the best.”

“The music and performances were great! The W'Abenaki Dancers were my favorite.”

“I come every year whether my town's historical society has a booth or not!”

“Every year we do a ton of research and spend weeks getting our booth ready.”

Photos by VHS Staff and Jack Rowell. Quotes were overheard at the History Expo and from emails we’ve received.
“It would be difficult to convey the ingenuity, character, and way of life of this state’s people over time in a more compelling way than the Vermont History Expo.”

“The level of excitement and enthusiasm throughout the grounds was amazing, particularly considering the weather.”

“BOOM!”
Postings from Vermont’s Local Historical Societies

Bennington Historical Society
Ted Bird, President
75 West Main Street
Bennington, VT 05201
(802) 375-2696
www.benningtonmuseum.org.

August 21: A living history presentation, in which two Hessian soldiers talk about the Battle of Bennington from the point of view of the British side.

September 18: Bennington Historical Society President Ted Bird will present a special slide quiz, in which the audience will be asked to identify Bennington buildings from pictures of architectural details.

October 16: Joe Hall will speak on the photographs of Bennington photographer Frederick Burt.

November 20: Vermont archaeologist Vic Rolando will speak on the history of lime and charcoal kilns in the Southshire.

All meetings held at 7:00 p.m., Bennington Museum, 75 Main St. Free, open to the public.

Cavendish Historical Society
Margo Caulfield, Coordinator
PO Box 472
Cavendish, VT 05142
(802) 226-7807
www.cavendishhistory.org

New website: The Cavendish Historical Society is pleased to announce their new website, www.cavendishhistory.org. Learn more about Cavendish history, research your family genealogy, download back copies of the Society’s newsletter, The Scribbler II, find out about upcoming events, order publications and download a copy of the Cavendish Business Directory.

CHS Selected for “Building Accomplished Museums” - CHS was one of six organizations selected to participate in the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance’s “Building Accomplished Museums: Collections Stewardship” professional development program (BAM). The program offers workshops on assessing, planning for collections, basic registration techniques, housekeeping and storage, and creating engaging exhibits. In addition, CHS will have a summer intern in 2009. This is a great opportunity for CHS members to get involved by attending some of the workshops and helping to chart a new future for the museum.

Charlotte Historical Society
Frank Thornton, President
4205 Ethan Allen Highway
Charlotte, VT 05445
(802) 425-2410

This year we are continuing the inventory of the contents of the Charlotte Memorial Museum. No inventory has been done since the 1970s, so we have plenty to do. Every item will have a computer file with all the information about it, including its source, if known, and location in the building.

We have also given up having meetings in the 1850 former Town Hall building. We are cooperating with the Senior Center which has better facilities for such gatherings. Our July meeting was the first under this arrangement. Without the need to keep open space for meetings we are also continuing a redo of the space. This has led to painting walls and the floor, dividing the space for better use for exhibits, and places for storage and files. We will have a space for research on records and artifacts. Our collection is limited to things with Charlotte connections. From the Town Clerk’s office we have a run of record books of liens and chattels from the 1820s and 30s, and more recently donated treasurers’ books from the same period. One area will be devoted to the inheritance from the Hill family, including many photos and family records, an 1876 desk, and some other pieces of furniture. Our collection of Obomsawain family Abenaki baskets and other articles made by the family has its space, too. Vertical files are now being organized. The deteriorated concrete front steps have been removed and new ones cast. This work led to much landscaping in front of the building, restoring the lawn and replacing a wood handicap access with paving stones which will last much longer. Our two major publications, Around the Mountains, and The Historic Thompson’s Point Fishing Ground, are still available.

Chester Historical Society
Ron Patch, President
230 Main St.
PO Box 118
Chester, VT 05143
(802) 875-5459
www.chesterhs.avenet.net

September 27: the Chester Historical Society and the 18th Vermont Regiment will co-host the 12th Annual Vermont Civil War Expo in Chester. The event will begin at 10 a.m. with the arrival of President and Mrs. Lincoln at the train depot in Chester. There will be living historians exhibits, artifacts, and speakers. Troops will display artillery firings and infantry drills. A torchlight parade and ceremony at the soldier monument, followed by an Irish band performing in the Baptist Church, will conclude the day. Admission is $10 for adults. Free for children under 15.

Concord Historical Society, Inc.
PO. Box 195
Concord, VT 05824
Kathleen Fisher, President
(802) 695-3330, or 802-695-1104

September 27 and 28: The 30th anniversary of Concord Historical Society’s inception will be celebrated 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Our museum is located in the Town Hall building on Main Street (VT Route 2), in the center of Concord. The main collection on the upper level (access by stairs only) includes a country doctor’s office, dedicated to the late Dr. F. Russell Dickson. Other displays include an old-fashioned farmhouse kitchen, 1950s school corner, and displays honoring the men and women from Concord who served in the armed forces. Many displays and the weekend special attractions are set up on the fully accessible street level.
Dummerston Historical Society

Cynthia Wilcox, President
PO Box 8064
N Brattleboro, VT 05304
(802) 257-0674

October 16: Dummerston Historical Society Quarterly Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Dummerston Center. A short business meeting will be followed by a program on “Genealogical Research for Beginners” presented by Joann Nichols of the Brattleboro Historical Society. Joann has been doing genealogical research for 38 years, first working on her own family’s genealogy, and then assisting others. All are welcome.

Georgia Historical Society

Peter Mallett, Director
PO Box 2072
Georgia, VT 05468
(802) 524-4539

September 17: “Clay with a Vermont Influence,” Deb Shell, local potter at 561 Polly Hubbard Road, at 7:00 p.m.
October 15: “Georgia History and Genealogy, Where it is and How to find it Easily,” Peter and Frances Mallett at the library at 7:00 p.m.

Grafton Historical Society

Eli Prouty, Curator
PO Box 202
Grafton, VT 05146
(802) 843-2584
www.graftonhistory.org

The Grafton Historical Society scheduled their Annual Meeting, August 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Homestead House on Main Street. The topic was: Researching Grafton’s Historic homes for National Register Status. Speaker: Paula Sagerman.

Grafton Historical Society Museum’s theme for 2008 is “A Study in Textiles” with a hands-on weaving display.

Greensboro Historical Society

Jenny Stoner, President
PO Box 151
Greensboro, VT 05841
(802) 586-6913
www.greensborohistoricalociety.org

August 10: The annual celebration of the Orleans County Historical Society. Demonstrations of traditional skills, tours of the Old Stone House Museum, a farmer’s market, craft sales and activities for children. This year’s theme celebrated the Orleans County Quest, a project with area schools to create historical treasure hunts in each town in the county. The Greensboro Village Treasure Quest is available at our GHS building. The Greensboro Historical Society had a display as part of the Old Stone House Day festivities.
August 11: Annual Meeting. Program by Paul Wood, “How did They Do It?”
August 23: Saturday 2:00-4:00 p.m., Ice Cream Social

The GHS summer exhibit focuses on how work was accomplished in Greensboro before the advent of hydroelectric or fuel powered machines. The exhibit will explore work done in the home (traditionally female work) and outside of the home (male-dominated work). The exhibit will end August 30.

Hartford Historical Society

Dorothy Jones, President
1461 Maple Street
Hartford, VT 05047
(802) 296-3132
www.hartfordhistory.org

The restored District #6 One-Room Schoolhouse in Lyndon Center will be open Sundays in September from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Watch for the “OPEN” sign on the lawn of the nearby Lyndon Town House. Serving students in grades one through eight from 1857-1900, the building housed a fire engine and was also used as a cemetery storage garage before its restoration in 2004. It is now furnished with desks and other vintage classroom items donated by local citizens. Group visits may be arranged by contacting Clare Sullivan at 802-626-6030.

The Shores Memorial Museum, located in Lyndon Center, is a Victorian homestead providing a living history experience of the 19th century. Built in Queen Anne style in 1896, the home and its contents were left to the people of Lyndon by Dr. Venila Shores, the only daughter of the builder. Included are period clothing, fine china, a parlor pump organ, and victrola, all depicting an era when life was quieter and recreation was homemade. Group visits may be arranged by contacting Clare Sullivan at 802-626-6030.

Highgate Historical Society

Dennis Nolan, President
PO Box 222
Highgate Center, VT 05459

The Highgate Historical Society is currently working with videographer Phil Fass on a Highgate community video. We are also presently seeking funds for restoration work on the Museum building foundation and exterior.

Lyndon Historical Society

Clare Sullivan, Secretary
Shores Memorial Museum
PO Box 85, Lyndon Center, VT 05850
(802) 626-5344

The public is welcome to visit the Garipay House on the first Tuesday of the month through October, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., and the second Sunday of the month through September from 1:30-4:00 p.m. and see items from our collection. Volunteers are on hand to give tours and answer questions.

Marlboro Historical Society

Donald Sherefkin
PO Box 109, Marlboro, VT 05344
(802) 254-9736
www.marlboro.vt.us/groups/historical_society

August 23: 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., “Robert Frost & Marlboro; Introduction to Fall” program with Marlboro College, VT Humanities Council and the Historical Society at Newton House.
Newbury Historical Society

Eleanor Longfellow, President
PO Box 214
Newbury, VT 05061
(802) 754-2022

August 17: 3:00 p.m. Members Meeting with a short program on Frances Parkinson Keyes after at 4:00 p.m.
We will host an Open House each third Sunday afternoon through September. Be sure to stop by to check out our new handicap entrance as well as the exhibits!

Orleans County Historical Society

Peggy Gibson, Director
Old Stone House Museum
109 Old Stone House Road
Brownington, VT 05860
(802) 866-5979

August 10: “Brownington Old Stone House Day.” The theme was “HORSE POWER.” Attractions included demonstrations of traditional skills, free tours of the Old Stone House Museum, farmers market, craft sales, and children’s activities, and live old-time music.

September 23: “Fall Harvest Day.” Groups of grade 3-6 students from Northeast Kingdom area schools gather at the Old Stone House Museum and other sites in Brownington’s Historical District for old-time fall harvest related demonstrations and hands-on activities.


Richmond Historical Society

Fran Thomas, President
PO Box 453
Richmond, VT 05477
802-434-3654.

The long awaited Historical Society sponsored history of Richmond titled: Richmond, Vermont, a History of More than 200 Years, by Harriet Wheatley Riggs and Others, was published in the September of 2007. We hosted a successful book signing in October resulting in the sale of over 100 copies and have sold approximately 800 copies to date. Copies of the book may be purchased for $25 plus $5 for shipping by contacting Fran Thomas, 1635 Hillview Road, Richmond, VT 05477 or call 802-434-3654.

The Old Round Church opened for visitors in early June and will be open through the first two weeks in October. The church has recently received a new roof and a complete painting inside and out. We are now working on completing the installation of a sprinkler system.

Upcoming programs include our annual potluck dinner in early November and an old-fashioned carol sing in the Old Round Church in December. Firm dates for these two events and other upcoming programs will be posted on our website: www.oldroundchurch.com.

Rupert Historical Society

Eugene Higgins, President
PO Box 84
Rupert, VT 05768
(802) 394-7738


October 18 (tentative): Rupert Historical Society Brattleboro Excursion – Visit Estey Organ Museum, family home and sites of the first organ and the largest organ, led by Kevin Bishop and open to all who are interested. Group travel arrangements to be announced.

November (TBA): Paul Fersen, author of, A Peach Tree in An Apple Orchard, talks of his many impressions of life in Vermont as seen by an immigrant from Georgia.

All times are 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted and at the Library/Historical Society, Main Street, Rupert. All programs are free and open to the public.

Ryegate Historical Society

Dwight White, Secretary/Treasurer
PO Box 366
Ryegate, VT 05042
(802) 584-3520

August 20: Dr. Allen R. Yale, retired Associate Professor of History at Lyndon State College, will speak on “The Fairbanks Family of Saint Johnsbury, and Its Broad Impact.” Everyone in Caledonia County has been a recipient of the inventive genius, statewide leadership and generosity of this talented family. The meeting will be preceded at 6:30 by the Annual Potluck Picnic and Annual Meeting.

October 15: Harry Morse, better known on WDEV and VPR as Burr Morse, will share in his inimitable way, stories about agriculture as he has experienced it on his family farm and vegetable-fruit stand in East Montpelier.

Sheffield Historical Society

Norma Williams, Director
Municipal Building
37 Dane Road
Sheffield, VT 05866
(802) 626-8013

Phase Three of the 1847 Town House Restoration Project was completed June 4 with hours of volunteer help from Sheffield citizens and funding grants received from the State of Vermont Division of Historic Preservation. The 1847 Town House sits on Berry Hill Road next to the 1829 Freewill Baptist Church. Although there is more work to be done, the SHS can now use the building for meetings and to display our collection.

The SHS has completed another project this year, a book of the six oldest cemeteries in Sheffield, documenting over 700 confirmed burials. Many volunteer hours have been spent walking the cemeteries, photographing and cataloging the headstones, and researching records to verify relations and genealogy connections. The book is available for purchase at the Town Clerk’s office.

September 1: Our first Open House at the 1847 Town House will be Labor Day, Sheffield Field Day, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The SHS will have a display of historical items, artifacts and a repeat of our display from the 2008 Vermont History Expo, “The Beehive.”

September 13: The SHS will have an Open House at the 1847 Town House.

“One Beehive” at Expo 2008
The public is invited to attend. After a short presentation of the book *Sheffield Old Cemeteries,* there will be a driving/walking tour of the six cemeteries covered in the book. Participants should come prepared to walk through some rough terrain, as two of the cemeteries are in remote locations. Rain date is Saturday, September 20.

**Shrewsbury Historical Society**

Ruth Winkler, Secretary
5419 VT Route 103
Cuttingsville, VT 05738
(802) 492-2175
www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

The Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum officially opens on Sundays only, the first weekend in July from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., through the month of October. Appointments can be made by calling 492-3324. The museum is accessible to all, and there is no admission charge. Last fall member David Rice gave an interesting program to the Society and friends on the restoration efforts of the six old town cemeteries. He presented a map showing just where they are located and the team effort, along with George Richards, in locating many buried stones. Rice ended the program by reciting interesting and funny epitaphs.

As a fundraiser this summer the Society will present the third annual *Memories Calendar,* for sale at $11 each at the museum on Sundays and at the Town Clerk’s office.

We are very proud of our new website as you can tour the museum and enjoy vintage postcards complete with music. Also shown are excerpts from videos taken of Robert Frost when he visited Shrewsbury in 1957, two family albums that belonged to long time resident, Marjorie Pierce, and the last two issues of the Society’s annual newsletter, *Past Times.* The Society continues to receive many genealogical questions via e-mail, especially since we are on the Web, plus requests for our town’s history book, *Shrewsbury, Vermont – Our Town As It Was,* by Dawn Hance.

**Starksboro Historical Society**

James Lockridge, President
2257 Ireland Road
Starksboro, VT 05487
(802) 865-1140
www.starksborohistoricalsociety.org

The Starksboro Historical Society has hosted several community events and speakers this year, including a talk by local sugar makers about current and historic sugarmaking methods around the village, and collaborative events with the historic Jerusalem Schoolhouse of South Starksboro via their lecture series. We’ve been selected to participate in the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance’s “Building Accomplished Museums: Collections and Stewardship” professional development program, a wonderful opportunity that we’re grateful for.

Upcoming SHS events:

**September 7:** 1:00 p.m. at Lewis Creek Farm in the Starksboro village center with Hank Bissell. We will have a picnic potluck at the farm, tour the property including the site of an old ironworks, and stroll up to the old L.S. Gordon Store site which will be restored to become an archive of Vermont-made music.

**September 26:** “The Impossible Presidency: Reflections on Presidential Greatness and the 2008 Election,” a talk by Professor Frank Bryan presented by the Starksboro Historical Society and Starksboro Public Library, with dessert potluck. 7:00 p.m. at the Starksboro Public Library on Route 116 in the village center. Presidential historians like to play the “ranking the presidents game.” Professor Bryan will review the consensus, “Great Presidents” and then discuss the presidents elected in our lifetimes with a view to answer the question: “Have we had great presidents since the 1950s, and will the current election produce one?”

Frank Bryan, a political scientist at the University of Vermont, is known throughout New England Town Meeting and How It Works; Real Democracy: The New England Town Meeting and How It Works; The Vermont Papers; and The Vermont Owner’s Manual. He has been chosen “one of New England’s leading humorists” by Yankee Magazine; and the Boston Globe credited him with writing “one of the most original political analyses ever written about New England.” Nationally his work has drawn the attention of such publications as the New York Times, Newsweek, and the Los Angeles Times. He has appeared on CBS’s “Sunday Morning,” the “NBC Nightly News” with Tom Brokaw, Fox’s “The O’Reilly Factor,” Bill Moyers’ “The Public Mind,” and was featured in Ted Turner’s “Portrait of America” film series. Bryan is a former Golden Gloves boxer (Vermont and Connecticut) and rodeo bull rider (Montana). His current interests include hunting and fishing, raising oxen, stamp collecting, and poker. For information visit http://www.starksborohistoricalsociety.org or contact Lisa Daudon, starksboropl@comcast.net.

**Strafford Historical Society**

John Freitag, President
PO Box 100
Strafford, VT 05072
(802) 765-4379

The Strafford Historical Society is currently displaying the Tyson/Wilson Family History Exhibit. These families have had a major impact, not only on Strafford, but other parts of Vermont as well as the nation. Isaac Tyson first came to Strafford in 1833 to superintendent the copper mine in Strafford. He conducted innovative smelting practices in Strafford using forced hot air from water powered bellows. This technology was later transferred to his iron works in Tyson, Vermont, a community which still bears his name. The Tyson/Wilson family history exhibit will be on display during regular hours in the Strafford Historical Society Room, Strafford, Wednesdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information call John Freitag at 765-4003.

**Vernon Historians**

Barbara Moseley, Historian
PO Box 282
Vernon, VT 05354
(802) 254-8010

What could be nicer than a day in May plow party! The fresh smell of overturned soil, small groups of friendly people, and the spring shades of green around the fields in Vernon made May 4 a special day. Months of planning made this dream come true for the Dan King family in conjunction with the Alfred Dunklee family. Teams and tractors arrived with a variety of plows to show how spring work used to begin. Seven teams and about eleven tractors dotted the fields of Alfred Dunklee. They came from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Some were hand-held plows, some one or two bottom, and other tools of the trade to get the job of turning over the eye done. One of the teams was a threesome. Seeing Pete Crossman out with his trusty tractor brought back memories of the days when Pete was too young to get a driver’s license, so drove around town
on “business” with his tractor at an age when most young men were restricted to bicycles. Also amusing for some spectators were “old” hobby tractors on display just like the ones still being used at certain farms. Tractors, like family pets, can bring back a variety of memories to those who have spent hours tilling the soil. Many visitors also took advantage of the exhibits in the School House Museum and Annex. The Annex was especially popular because of the outstanding food and drinks for sale by the 4-H club, the Vernon Cowlicks. The only regret was that the weather was a little too cool for some seniors to get out and reminisce. Next year, maybe even the weather will cooperate.

Weston Historical Society

Bob Brandt, President
PO Box 247
Weston, VT 05161
802-824-5486
www.westonvt.com

The Weston Historical Society curates two outstanding museums and is working to restore a third. The Farrar-Mansur House Museum was constructed in 1795 by Captain Oliver Farrar for his wife, Polly, and their 13 children. The original dwelling was added onto by Oliver to include a tavern room, ladies’ parlor and large ballroom. In the early 1800s, the building was a regular stagecoach stop and the center of social life in Weston. The structure stands today just as Oliver built it, and is furnished entirely with period furniture and decorated with appropriate accessories, all from Weston families, much of it from the Farrars.

Oliver Farrar owned the adjacent sawmill, which he had purchased in 1790. That sawmill burned in 1900, and a new mill was immediately erected. This building was also largely destroyed by fire, and was once again replaced, in 1936, by the present structure, known as the Old Mill of Weston. Neither fire totally destroyed the building, and today’s Mill Museum is an amalgam of all three structures that have stood on the foundation of Oliver’s mill. In 2007, the mill was restored to operating condition and grain-grinding demonstrations are regularly given. This summer, work is underway to connect the operable turbine to the millstones. When completed, Weston will have one of very few hydro-powered mills extant, a unique attraction and educational facility.

Also in the mill yard stands a structure built in the late nineteenth century as Weston’s Firehouse. Today it houses the ornate wagon that carried the Weston Cornet Band. A much-needed program of structural repair is scheduled for summer.

December 6: The Society will take part in Weston’s “Old Fashioned Christmas Festival”; the Farrar-Mansur House will be open and refreshments will be served. Exact times TBD. Regular Museum hours are: Saturday, 10-4, first weekend in July through Columbus weekend Sunday, 1:00 -4:00 p.m., first weekend in July through Columbus weekend, Wednesday, 1:00 -4:00 p.m., July and August. Group tours can be arranged anytime through Museum Director Jean Lindman at (802) 824-5294.

Windham County Historical Society

Joan Marr, Curator
PO Box 246
Newfane, VT 05345
(802) 365-4148
www.sover.net/~histwind

August 22: 5:30 p.m. Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Supper, where Greg Annis, local railroad information collector will show his slides and photos, while speaking about his favorite topic: “The West River Railroad.” The meeting will be at the Newfane Fire Department Meeting Room, Newfane.

September 7: 3:00 p.m. in the Windham County Museum, Newfane. Karen Augusta, professional textile and vintage clothing appraiser, who has appeared on “The Antiques Roadshow,” will lecture about the museum’s current exhibition, “The Changing Shape of Women’s Fashion During the 50 years from the Civil War to WWI.”

Woodstock Historical Society

Jack Anderson, Director
26 Elm Street
Woodstock, VT 05091
(802) 457-1822

The Woodstock Historical Society will be holding the following events at the Dana House Museum/John Cotton Dana Library.

September 15: 7:00 p.m. “PT. Barnum and the American Museum: Nuanced Meanings of Humbug” with David Ford, the Curator of the Main Street Museum. A slideshow lecture about PT. Barnum and some of the oddities he collected. Members: Free. Non-members: $5.00.


November 16: 2:00 p.m. “Clara Sipprell” with VPR host Peter Fox Smith, who will discuss the life and work of his friend, famed photographer Clara Sipprell. Members: Free. Non-members: $5.00.

December 12: 5:00-7:00 p.m. Wassail Open House. Come see the 1807 Dana House Museum dressed up for the holidays and enjoy Celtic harp music and seasonal treats. Donations gratefully accepted.

December 14: 2:00 p.m. “Dowsing” with Lea Kachadorian, who will talk about the history of dowsing and demonstrate how it can be used to locate anything from water to misplaced possessions. Members: Free. Non-members: $5.00.

Worcester Historical Society

David Book, President
PO Box 329
Worcester, VT 05682
(802) 223-5625

The Worcester Historical Society has recently published Civil War Warriors from Worcester written by WHS President David Book. Last year Civil War Enterprises published the same author’s material about Cabot during the Civil War. Two other publications have been presented by the Worcester Society: Early History of Worcester and The Sawmills of Worcester. David Book is very interested in helping other societies research and write about their Civil War legacy in view of the approaching sesquicentennial of the war.
Civil War Humor  By Paul Zeller, VHS volunteer

While working as a VHS volunteer developing the scope and content of the Society’s Civil War holdings, I came across a script of a speech that Charles F. Branch gave to an unidentified Grand Army of the Republic post reunion in October 1893. Charles F. Branch served in the 9th Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiment from June 1862 to December 1, 1865. He enlisted in Co. C as a corporal at the age of 16 and by the end of his service he had attained the rank of captain. After the war he attended the University of Vermont, graduating with a medical degree in 1879. He practiced medicine in Vermont and Massachusetts until his death in Amherst, Massachusetts, August 27, 1907. He was buried in Coventry, Vermont.

There were seven other speech scripts in the folder I was going through, and while interesting, they were all reminiscences of the Vermonters’ past glories in the Civil War. This speech, the last in the folder, seemed different from the start. It gave more detail of past battles and caught my attention as I read through it. About halfway through, Branch changed the mood of his speech to humorous anecdotes that made me chuckle as I read along. He had just finished discussing a battle when he interjected the following:

Probably someone will stand up and paint a word picture of the funny sides of the war. What? Oh, yes, there was some laughs in it and often some genuine wit.

I once met Gen. Lee, in Richmond after his surrender, at a dinner party and shall never forget a story he told of himself. During the few days before Grant’s assault upon his lines at Petersburg, he was riding along his picket line, and encountered a North Carolina soldier on duty who had taken his gun apart with the intention of cleaning it. The general halted in front of him and said, “Look my man are you not a sentinel on duty?” “Wal, yaas a sort of a one.” “Don’t you know it is wrong to take your gun apart while on duty?” “Wal, no who the devil are you?” The general saw his chance and with a twinkle of his eye replied, “I’m sort of a general.” “Wal, general you must excuse me, you see that is so many damn fools ridin roun here, a feller can’t tell who’s a general and who aint, if you will just wait till I git Betsy Jane fixed up, I will give you a sort of a salute.”

The Confederate Gen. Walker says Stonewall Jackson ordered one of his colonels to attack a certain earthwork at Malvern Hill. The colonel hesitated, and at length went to Gen. Jackson to expostulate. “General,” said the colonel “to attack that position is madness; my regiment will be exterminated.” “Colonel,” said Stonewall “do your duty. I have made every arrangement to care for the wounded and to bury the dead.”

Two soldiers lay under their blankets, looking up at the stars. Said Bill, “What made you go into the army Tom?” “Well,” says Tom “I had no wife and loved war Bill so I went. What made you go?” “Well,” said Bill “I had a wife and I loved peace, and so I went.”

When Gen. Breckinridge was marching on Baton Rouge, he one day rode up to a solitary vidette from Arkansas, who had just joined the army and was new to the etiquette of army life. “I wish to pass,” said the General. Well, dod damn you pass then, who cares a cuss. I ain’t stopping this here rode are I?” “Perhaps you don’t know who I am,” said the General with a smile. “No, I don’t. That’s a pretty boss you’re on anyhow.” “I am Gen. Breckinridge, the commanding officer,” said the General. “You are?” “Well, I’m Bob Chiggins and I’m got darned glad to see you old fellow.” “How are you?” replied the picket extending a hand as large as a frying pan while the general rode along.

Do you remember boys, how the toes of the recruits were always in your way when you “ordered arms?” How they always “right dressed” into all the mud puddles? How you sent them to the cook for their share of a warm biscuit? Or sent them to the Captain to borrow a ball of butter? Or to the quartermaster for their three days rations of maple sugar?

Do you remember bow, later, when you had reenlisted, while on picket near that old farm house, you went to the house and asked for the loan of a frying pan? Which was given you, and knowing that you had nothing to fry in it, you said, “Could – could – could you lend me a piece of meat to fry in it?” and you got it! How many such funny things happened? So many, that even today, while we sit alone musing of the past, we unconsciously laugh aloud at the thought of some particular incident.

These are the memories that come back to us tonight. Bright, as age creeps upon us and while our ranks are thinning let us keep the touch of the elbow still, for in it is courage, and comfort and strength and these camp fires will become as solemn feasts consecrated to the memory of noble deeds, done while we were all boys.
Upcoming Events

September 13
Vermont Historical Society Annual Meeting
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Pavilion Building Auditorium, 109 State Street, Montpelier. Tom Peters, noted management consultant and author of In Search of Excellence, is our keynote speaker. All are welcome.

October 3 – 5
Vermont Historical Society will be at the Weston Antiques Show
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Weston Playhouse, Route 100, Weston. The Vermont Historical Society will provide an overview of the Rugg story, showing family photographs and heirlooms including an 18th century whole cloth quilt; Vermont-made pewter, glass, textiles, and pottery; a sampling of Vermont prints, Vermont books, maps, broadsides, and ephemera.

October 9
Lecture by Kevin Graffagnino – Consuelo N. Bailey, Vermont Pathfinder
7:00 p.m. Northrup Library, Fairfield, Vermont.
Consuelo Northrup Bailey (1899-1976) was a national pioneer among women in public service. Born and raised in Fairfield, Vermont, she graduated from UVM in 1921. Bailey was one of the first women in America to serve as a state’s attorney, as speaker of a state house of representatives, and as lieutenant-governor. Vice-Chair of the Republican National Committee from 1952 to 1956, she was also the first Vermont woman approved to practice before the United States Supreme Court. VHS Executive Director Kevin Graffagnino’s presentation details the life and career of this extraordinary Vermont role model for women in politics and the law. All are welcome. For more info, contact Kristen Hughes, (802) 879-3945

For information on these events and to keep up-to-date with our events, please email vhs-info@state.vt.us or call 802-879-8500 or visit us on the web at www.vermonthistory.org

PUBLISHED!

Photographs by Rebecca Lepkoff and text by Greg Joly. About the book: After WWII, Jamaica, Vermont, saw an influx of back-to-the-landers gathered around radical homesteaders Scott and Helen Nearing. Lepkoff’s lush duotone photographs capture native Vermonters and the homesteaders at work and at play during the summer of 1950. Rebecca Lepkoff has exhibited extensively and her work is represented in major permanent collections, including the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. Greg Joly is a Nearing scholar who lives in Jamaica, VT. Paperback $32; cloth $42, plus s/h. Member discount 15%. Bookseller discount 1-4 copies, 25%; 5+ copies 40%. Applicable to any combination of VHS titles. To order, go to www.vermonthistory.org and click on “Store” or call 802-828-1417. Almost Utopia is available also through bookstores throughout Vermont.

Shown left: Helen Nearing, as photographed by Rebecca Lepkoff in 1950.

Lisa Evans Joins Education Team

Lisa Evans recently accepted the position of League of Local Historical Societies Manager. The position serves as the liaison between the local historical societies of Vermont and the Vermont Historical Society. A life-long central Vermont resident, Lisa returns to the workforce after several years of raising her family. Previously, she had a 13-year career in banking and management. She resides in Barre with her family; husband William and three children, Katelyn, Mitchell and Troy. In addition to spending time with her family, Lisa enjoys fiddle playing, rug hooking and golfing.

Left to right, Carol DeCoteau, Katelyn Evans, Lisa Evans, at the Vermont History Expo 2008.
Why Do You Support Vermont Historical Society?

Two of the Society’s many generous supporters – Lois McClure and Skip Farrell – gave these answers:

**What inspired you to begin donating to Vermont Historical Society?**

**Lois:** The realization that our society is so mobile and few have the space to preserve/save objects and printed materials – or judge if it should be saved . . . it means so much for people to appreciate all this at the yearly Expo and the exhibit at the Pavilion in Montpelier.

**Skip:** I’ve loved history as long as I can remember. I think that far too many Vermonters don’t have any sense of Vermont’s rich history. When my old friend Kevin Graffagnino joined VHS, it was easy to connect to the organization.

As a VHS supporter, you’re teaching Vermont history to children in all corners of the state. Why do you think it’s important for children to learn about Vermont’s heritage?

**Lois:** We all appreciate the uniqueness of Vermont. Those of us who went to school here did not get the full background of state history (it was mostly geography) when it was taught many years ago!

**Skip:** It has been said that you can’t know where you’re going unless you know where you’ve been. So many of today’s issues, both local and global, are better understood within their historical context.

**Of all the VHS services your donations make possible – library, museum, History Expo, support of local historical societies, programs for children, programs for adults, history online, preserving Vermont stories and artifacts – do you have a personal favorite? If so, what makes that service or program your favorite?**

**Lois:** I guess it has to be the exhibit. I have seen it 5 or 6 times, and each time I feel I have had a learning and entertaining experience.

**Skip:** Help from the local societies has been important to my family’s genealogical research. So, if I have to pick one program, that would be it.

**Why do you think it’s important to save and share Vermont history?**

**Lois:** It is wonderful to have a place to go where there is a library devoted to Vermont – as well as displays that teach and entertain – surely some of this will attract others to continue this valuable work.

**Skip:** Many Vermonters have a feeling of insignificance or inferiority when it comes to our state’s role in history. That is a shame. I’d like to see that attitude changed, so Vermonters embrace history instead of mere notoriety.

Keep Vermont’s heritage alive!

Members help bring Vermont’s rich history to children and adults throughout the state. Members also get discounts on books and events, free admission to the library and museum, and subscriptions to the *History Connections* newsletter and *Vermont History* journal. **Please join or give a gift of membership – we need your support!**

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Please mail to: Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington St., Barre, VT 05641 or join at www.vermonthistory.org.
Expo 2008 was a success!
The exhibits were impressive, the music was fabulous and the presentations were great! Many thanks to our sponsors:

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Last issue’s mystery photograph has us all stumped. We have not been able to figure out what organization these women belonged to or what event they were celebrating.

This issue’s mystery photo might be easier to identify. It is a stone bank building pictured on the front of a postcard. The card was sent from Proctorsville in Windsor County to someone in Proctor in Rutland County in 1910. If you can identify this group, please contact the Society’s librarian, Paul Carnahan, at paul.carnahan@state.vt.us or 802-479-8508.

Winner of the raffle basket donated by Simply Delicious of Barre:
Mimi Wright of South Londonderry, VT

Winner of the raffle basket donated by Simply Delicious of Barre: Mimi Wright of South Londonderry, VT

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