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Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Issue

The Journal of the Vermont Historical Society

VERMONT HISTORY



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DEDICATED TO THE TERCENTENARY
— THE OFFICIAL CHORUS —
CHAMPLAIN
1609—1909

WORDS WRITTEN
BY
JOHN W. KELLEY
MUSIC COMPOSED
BY
GEORGE L. HUSSELTINE

EUPHONIC MUSIC COMPANY
RUTLAND-VERMONT

About This Issue

As our front cover announces, much of this issue of *Vermont History* is devoted to marking the four hundredth anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's expedition onto the lake to which he gave his name and by which it has been known to subsequent generations of residents and map makers. As the year of the "Champlain Quad"—as it has come to be known—draws to a close, we take this opportunity to look back at earlier celebrations of what is truly a watershed event in the history of our region.

It may seem odd to readers that two of the articles here focus on the 1909 Lake Champlain Tercentenary; but keeping in mind that historians are usually wary of commenting on events "just over their shoulder," as the late historian Arthur M. Schlesinger put it, we are on surer and perhaps more fruitful ground when we look back at how our predecessors marked the events and implications of Champlain's arrival, encounter with the native people, mapping, and description of what we now call the Lake Champlain basin. For those who attended events marking the quadricentennial, analyses of the celebrations a hundred years ago may provide interesting and important points for contrast and comparison. And as Kevin Dann points out at the conclusion of his article, how we celebrated this year in contrast to how our predecessors celebrated one hundred and even fifty years ago, will surely provide material for reflection and analysis fifty or a hundred years from now.

In addition to the three articles on the post-1609 history of the lake, we include, in our occasional series, "Archives and Manuscripts," notes from four repositories holding materials on Lake Champlain history. And to round out the offerings for the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial, we begin our book review section with reviews of four works published to coincide with the anniversary of Champlain's expedition. These artifacts, archives, and books acknowledge what is otherwise only implied in our offerings: That the natural and human history of what the native people called "the lake between" and what has been called since 1609 "Lake Champlain" is much longer than four hundred years, much more ethnically and culturally complex than the French, British, and white American stories, and far richer than the military and geopolitical concerns that brought Champlain and his immediate successors to this part of the world.

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Finally, this issue marks another milestone—in this case a terminus—in the history of our journal. For many decades, we have published annual, more recently biennial, analytical indexes to the articles and reviews that appear in *Vermont History*. Beginning with this issue we will no longer include two-year cumulative indexes.

We are discontinuing the index because information in our journal is increasingly available online. All articles and reviews since volume 68 (2000) are available at www.vermonthistory.org/journal. These articles, stored in PDF format, are searchable on the site and can also be retrieved through standard web search engines such as Google. Second, we have recently concluded an arrangement with EBSCO, the producer of an online subscription database of scholarly journals. In the near future, articles from *Vermont History* will also appear in the online database *America: History and Life w/ Full Text* maintained by EBSCO and available through subscribing libraries.

With the increasing use of computers and increasing sophistication of online information search technology, we are confident that readers and users of *Vermont History* will continue to have easy and high-quality access to the information in our journal. Members and subscribers to *Vermont History* will still have a six-month head start and the convenience of the journal in its published format. We welcome your comments or questions about how to access materials that we publish. We look forward to using pages formerly devoted to the index to publish more articles and reviews.

MICHAEL SHERMAN, *Editor*

Front cover photograph: President William Howard Taft in Burlington for the Champlain Tercentenary Celebration, July 8, 1909.

Back cover: Cover page of sheet music, “Champlain 1609–1909.” Lyrics by John W. Kellette; music by George L. Hasseltine. Cover art signed, “Allen” in lower right corner of historic scene. Published by the Euphonic Music Company, Rutland, Vermont, 1909.