

# About this Issue

## Revisiting Local History

This issue of *Vermont History* brings together five articles that focus on the practice and pedagogical uses of what is often called (sometimes dismissively) “local history.” Four of the articles are based on presentations at sessions of the April 2014 conference of the New England Historical Association. The articles by Susan Ouellette, Denise Scavitto, and Daniel O’Neil examine the significance of place in the teaching and learning of history, both in the classroom and—most important for what the authors have to say—out in the communities where people, events, buildings, institutions, and ideas have left their mark and continue to affect the lives of residents. The articles by Jacqueline Carr and Charles Fish are examples of how the close study of a community’s history both re-enforce and elaborate on familiar patterns of community development and reveal the unique web of individuals, conditions, and circumstances that influenced the growth and development of a particular community.

“Revisiting” local history through this collection of articles is thus an invitation to consider the importance of physically being in or returning to places where we can encounter, re-create, and re-imagine lives and events from the past. The articles and the theme that unites them also constitute an invitation to rethink where and how researchers find and use the evidence of past times, people, and events in order to understand more deeply how they continue to influence our own lives and communities.

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