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The Counterculture in Vermont in the 1970s

As Jackie Calder, former curator of the Vermont Historical Society museum, explains in her article in this issue of Vermont History, VHS staff and volunteers worked for two years (2015-2016) collecting oral histories, documents, objects, and photographs related to the activities of people involved in what has come to be known as the “counterculture” in Vermont during the 1970s. Calder samples a few of the collections of photographs and documents donated to the VHS during the research and collection phase of the two-year project. The photo on the front cover of this issue of Vermont History—members of the Frog Run Farm commune in East Charleston—is one of many images donated to the VHS or copied for archival purposes and now available for study. Some of the other results of that effort, funded with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, are included in the exhibit, “Freaks, Radicals & Hippies: Counterculture in 1970s Vermont,” on display through December 2017 in the Vermont Heritage Gallery at the History Center in Barre. I hope that Calder’s article will encourage readers of this journal who have not yet visited the museum in Barre to spend some time wandering through the galleries, listening to the voices of many participants in the movement, examining the art and artifacts that they produced, and thinking about their contributions to our state.

Yvonne Daley’s article in this issue examines the careers and legacies of several women who challenged stereotypes, came to Vermont in the late 1960s and 1970s to explore new ways to live and work, and helped establish important institutions in Vermont and in other parts of the world. One of the people Daley writes about, Sas Carey, currently works in Mongolia but discovered her path in Vermont in the 1970s, where we see her in the photo on the back cover.

Michael Sherman, Editor

Front cover: Members of the Frog Run Farm Commune in the early 1970s. Photo by Lucy Horton. Mary Mathias Collection.
Back cover: A young Sas Carey outside her pottery shop (Courtesy Sas Carey).

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