



Join us in **White River Junction, VT on May 10** for the 70th annual League of Local Historical Societies & Museums (LLHSM) Conference! This meeting is the largest yearly gathering of local history and museum professionals in the state. It is a chance to network and learn with colleagues in a supportive environment.

What has changed in the last 70 years for local historical societies and museums and what has stayed the same? A report from the first conference notes that organizations should have “a real story to tell” and emphasized the importance of “attracting the interest of children and young people” which might sound familiar to many of us today. With this year’s theme of “Now and Then” we’ll explore some of the bedrocks of doing local history and ways to accomplish them today, learn more about how we can utilize the 250th anniversary of the US as a rallying point in our own communities, and learn from the experts in our always popular practical and hands-on sessions.

## REGISTRATION

### **Registration Fees: \$25 VHS Members/\$40 Non-Members**

Registration fees include lunch, light breakfast, all sessions & snacks. Space may be limited, register early to reserve your spot! Contact Director of Service & Outreach Eileen Corcoran at [eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org](mailto:eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org) for invoicing options or other registration questions.

**Updated details, full session descriptions, & registration available online at <https://vermonthistory.org/league-meeting>**

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**8:45 to 9:30 am**

### **Registration & Coffee**

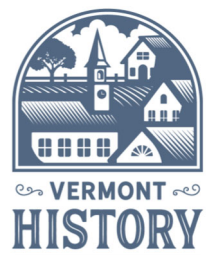
Hotel Coolidge, 39 S Main St, White River Junction, VT

**9:45 to 10:30 am**

### **Welcome & LLHSM Awards**

We’ll kick off the conference with our annual LLHSM Achievement Awards, which recognize the exceptional work being done by individuals and community history organizations throughout the state to collect, preserve, and share Vermont’s rich history.

*Continued next page*



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE *(continued)*



**10:45 to 11:45 am**

## **Concurrent Sessions 1**

### **Understanding Archival Description**

Elizabeth H. Dow, President, Hardwick Historical Society

Describing a book is like filing a report about a stolen car: orderly and efficient, done one car/book at a time. Describing a collection of archival materials is like reading an Agatha Christie novel: messy and confusing with overlooked details, false clues, and no final resolution until the very end. This discussion will cover why the two processes are so different, and how we can make archival description more orderly?

### **Local History in Vermont's Schools: Understanding Opportunities & Challenges**

Meg Mallory, Outreach Educator, VHS

Vermont's education system is highly localized and complex. In this session we'll explore some ways in which local historical societies can create resources and opportunities that fit with the needs of today's educators, including opportunities to participate in larger projects and programs managed by VHS.

### **When the Water Comes In: Flooding Impacts and Mitigation Strategies**

Victoria Sample, Historic Sites Section Chief, VT Division for Historic Preservation

James Duggan, Director of Preservation, VT State Historic Sites

Flooding in the summer of 2023 had a hugely negative impact on cultural and historic resources in a number of areas of Vermont. In this session, staff from the Division for Historic Preservation will talk about ways in which they were impacted, lessons they have learned so far, and strategies for mitigating future emergencies and encouraging climate resiliency at historic locations.

**11:45 am to 1:00 pm**

## **Keynote Discussion & Lunch: Vermont and the 250th**

Laura Trieschmann, State Historic Preservation Officer & Vermont 250th Commission Chair

Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, Executive Director, Vermont Humanities

Susan Evans McClure, Executive Director, Vermont Arts Council

What is a "Semiquincentennial" and why should arts & cultural organizations care? Vermont's cultural leaders will share their thoughts and strategies during this roundtable discussion to help organizations think about ways to explore, commemorate, and thoughtfully discuss the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. in 2026 and Vermont's role in it.

.....  
**Updated details, full session descriptions, & registration available online at**  
**<https://vermonthistory.org/league-meeting>**

**1:15 to 2:15 pm**

## **Concurrent Sessions 2**

### **You and the 250th**

Eileen Corcoran, Director of Service & Outreach, VHS

This follow-up to our Keynote will provide an opportunity to learn about existing and upcoming programs associated with Vermont's 250th—including grants, educational initiatives, and event promotion.

### **Looking For Help in All The Right Places? Budget Friendly Tips for Collections Care**

Michele Pagan, Textile Conservator in private practice, Elsbeth Geldhof, Conservator in private practice, Kathleen Messier, Archivist, Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington Vt , Darlene Bialowski, Contract Museum Registrar, Deborah Howe, Collections Conservator, Dartmouth Libraries

Join us for demonstrations and tips covering a variety of collection care tasks, many of a "Do It Yourself" nature. We will cover textile cleaning, books care & repair, basic dust removal tips of collection objects and spaces and more! Learn how you too can perform collections care procedures for your institution while working with a limited budget and staff. *This is a two-part session.*

### **Promoting History**

Andrew Liptak, PR & Guest Services Coordinator, VHS

We live in a time where social media dominates our attention, and it can be a challenge to be heard through the digital noise. But the internet also provides a wealth of tools for historical societies, museums, and historians to spread the word about their programming, discoveries, publications, and that one cool item you've taken in for preservation. In this session, we'll explore ways to promote, showcase, and teach history to your members,

**2:15 to 2:30 pm**

## **Break**

Snacks & conversation. Don't forget to check out the VHS bookstore table!

**2:30 to 3:30 pm**

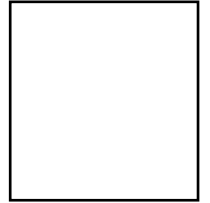
## **Concurrent Sessions 3**

### **Hartford Historical Society Tour**

The Hartford VT Historical Society preserves the history and material culture of Hartford Village, West Hartford, White River Junction, Wilder, and Quechee. Take a visit to the Society's headquarters at the Garipay House, which contains the society's archives and museum. The home was bequeathed to the Society by Loretta Michota Garipay. Loretta and Stanley Garipay were physicians and the mid-twentieth century medical office of Dr. Stanley Garipay has been preserved.

### **Part 2: Looking For Help in All The Right Places? Budget Friendly Tips for Collections Care**

The demonstrations and practical collections care tips continue!



Vermont Historical Society  
60 Washington St, Ste 1  
Barre, VT 05641



The Vermont Historical Society invites you to join colleagues and friends in White River Junction, VT this spring for the annual League of Local Historical Societies & Museums (LLHSM) conference. Don't miss out on a great chance to learn and share with your history peers!

*Support provided by the Walter Cerf Community Fund*