

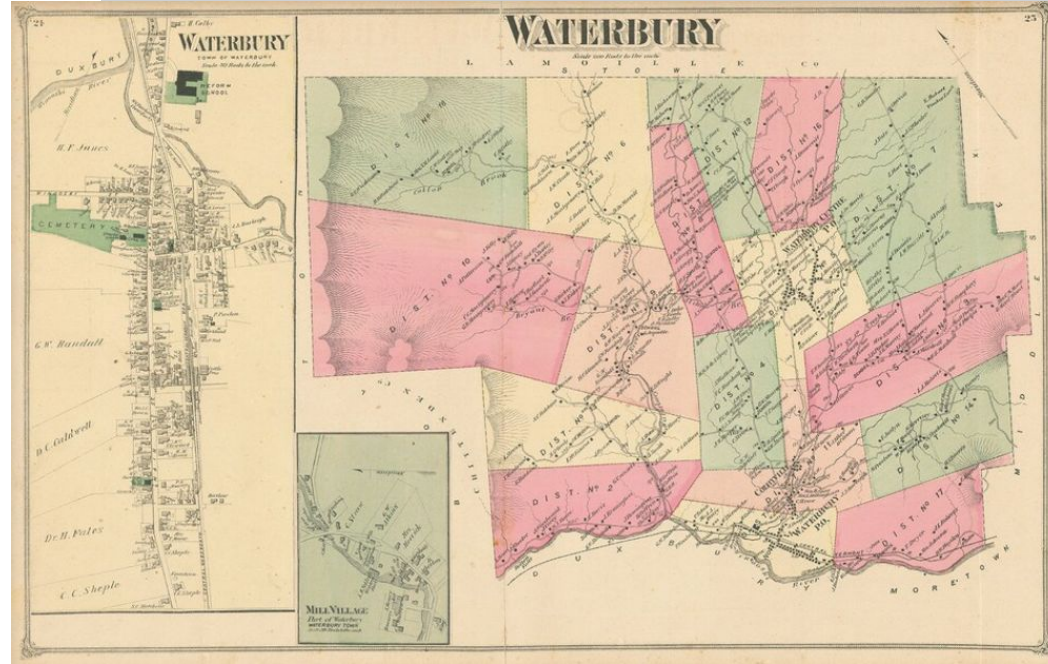


Society Updates

Presentation to the Waterbury Selectboard
July 7, 2026

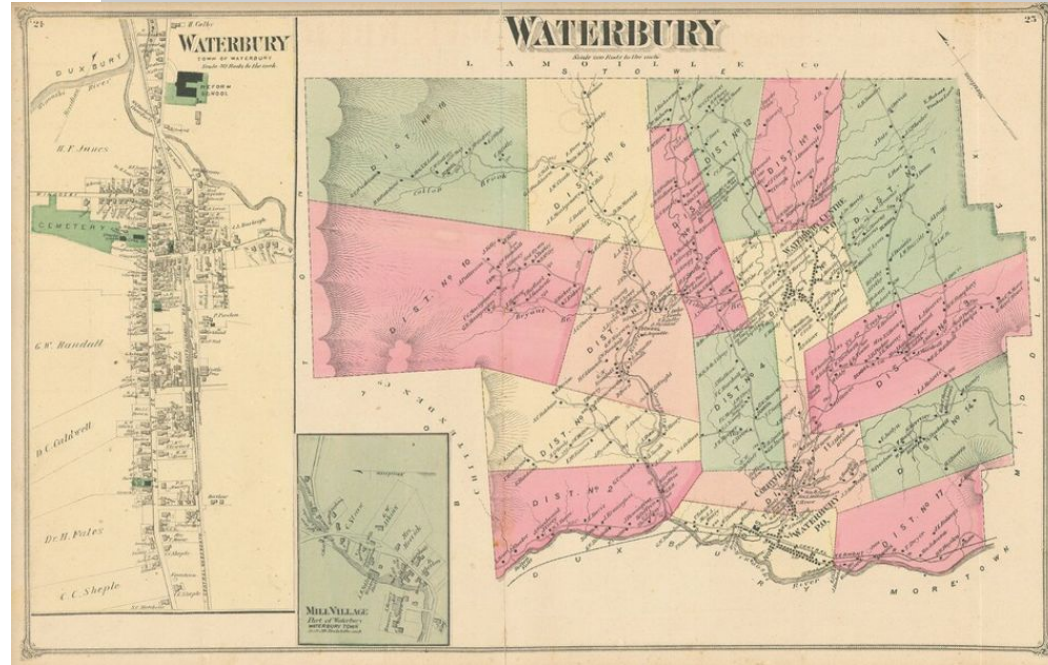
About WHS

Waterbury Historical Society is a **volunteer-run** organization charged with **stewarding the history and collections of the Town of Waterbury**. We make the **power of local history** visible and vibrant in our everyday lives and community identity. Through **educational programming, engaging exhibits, and active collections management**, WHS advocates for Waterbury's thriving future through the lens of our rich and storied past.



About WHS

Our **vision** is to be the **go-to educational resource** with convenient **access** to our archives, programs, and History Center, engaging **community members of all ages, researchers, and tourists** interested in Waterbury's history and its relevance to the broader story of Vermont.



Our Board of Directors



Cheryl Casey
President



Ryan Geary
Vice President



Joe Camaratta
Treasurer



Bryan Farnsworth
Secretary



Vacancy
Member-at-Large



Skip Flanders
Member-at-Large



Laura Parette
Member-at-Large

Our Staff Roles



Stacey Askew *

Collections Manager



Sandy Hough *

Researcher & Cataloguer



Laura Parette

Newsletter Editor



Ryan Geary

Exhibits Manager



Cheryl Casey

Digital Content Manager

*part-time paid positions

Our Standing Committees

PROGRAMMING

Bill Breen
Skip Flanders, Chair
Betty Jones (*emerita*)
Brian Lindner
Betsy Ayers Shapiro

OUTREACH EDUCATION

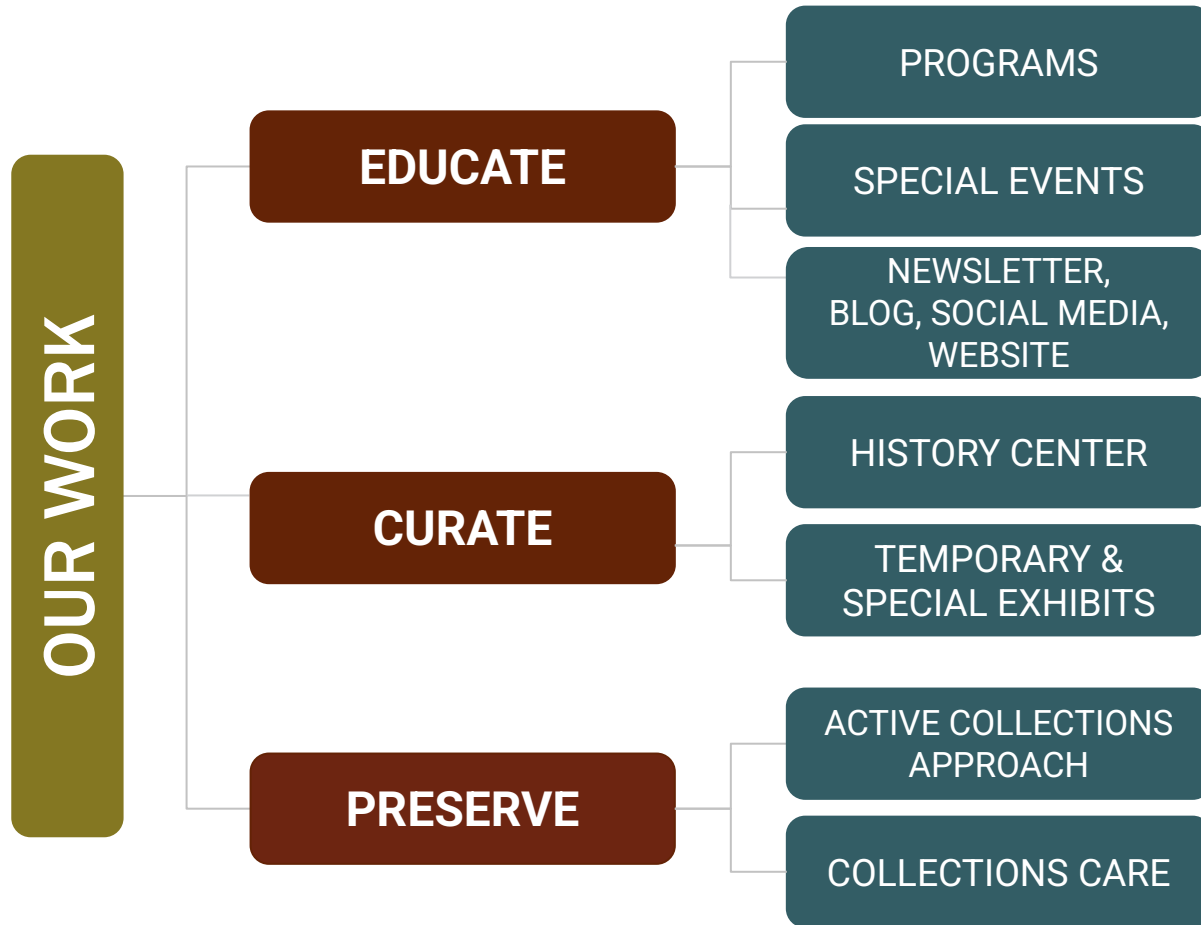
Bill April
Skip Flanders
Josette Metayer
Margo Sayah, Chair

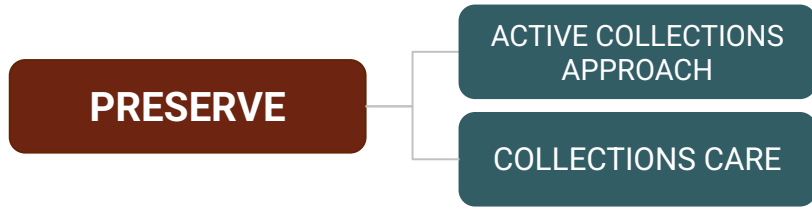
MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Cheryl Casey
Laura Parette, Chair

COLLECTIONS ACQUISITION

Jill Chase
Jan Gendreau





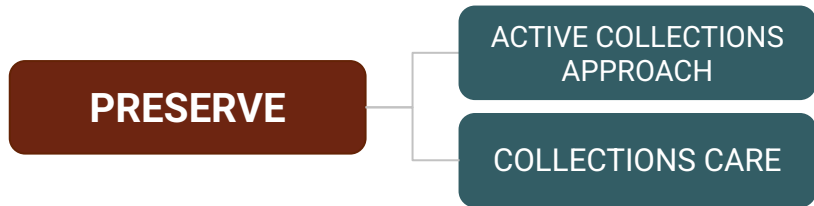
**How big is the
collection, and
where does it
come from?**

IN THE CATALOG

12,808 records*, including:

- 1338 artifacts
- 4262 photographs
- 6949 documents
- 261 books

*Many catalog records contain
more than one item



How big is the collection, and where does it come from?

DONATIONS

MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING, 2017 Between the Town of Waterbury and Waterbury Historical Society

- Designating WHS as the official stewards of the Town's history and collection items
- Defining the collections scope
- Detailing policy and procedures for accessioning and deaccessioning items

PRESERVE

ACTIVE COLLECTIONS
APPROACH

COLLECTIONS CARE

Active Collections



ACTIVATING 21ST CENTURY
LOCAL HISTORY

TRAINING PROGRAM

2025 COHORT



Bixby Memorial Library
Brookfield Historical Society
Sharon Historical Society
Thetford Historical Society
Waterbury Historical Society



- Pilot run of Vermont Historical Society's collections training program
- Learning from and collaborating with VHS staff and cohort members about maintaining collections that
 - advance the society's mission
 - can be *used* to tell meaningful stories
 - can be reasonably stored and cared for

PRESERVE

ACTIVE COLLECTIONS
APPROACH

COLLECTIONS CARE

Active Collections

WCAX featured WHS twice as a member of the cohort and our Dr. Janes exhibit was featured as the cover image for an article about active collections written by VHS staff for *Museum* magazine.

Achieving Active Collections

The Vermont Historical Society is helping volunteer organizations with collections stewardship.



PRESERVE

ACTIVE COLLECTIONS
APPROACH

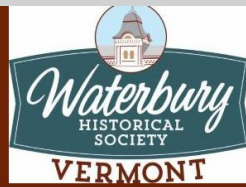
COLLECTIONS CARE

PastPerfect

Searchable online collections
catalog (ongoing project to
increase user-friendliness)

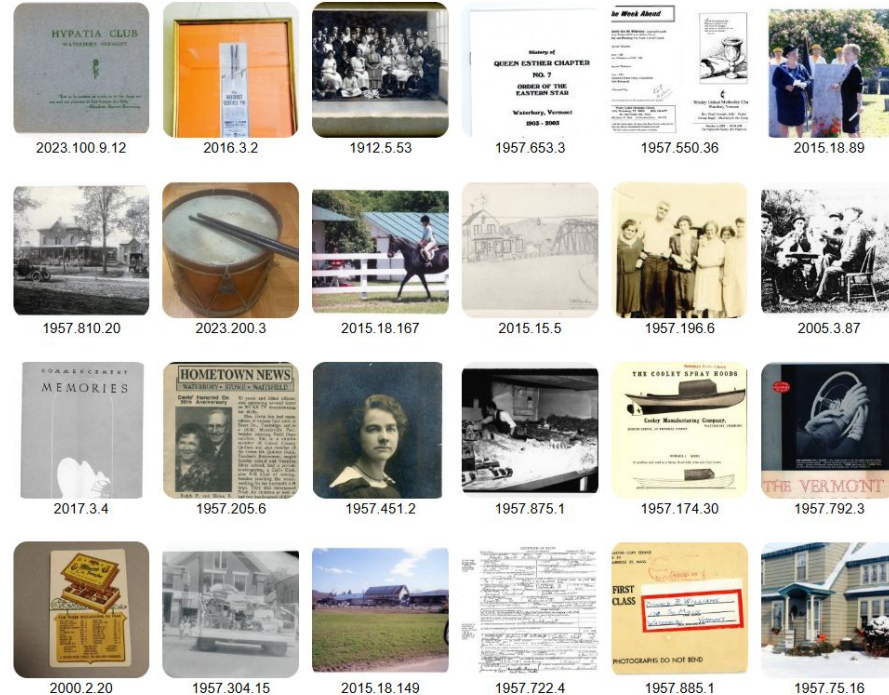
Waterbury Historical Society

28 North Main
Waterbury, Vermont



Home

Welcome to our Online Collections Database!



CURATE

HISTORY CENTER

TEMPORARY &
SPECIAL EXHIBITS

HISTORY CENTER

The Active Collections program helped us inventory our collections and create a new museum experience for visitors on the second floor of the Dr. Janes house.



CURATE

HISTORY CENTER

TEMPORARY & SPECIAL EXHIBITS

STEELE COMMUNITY ROOM

WHS curates one exhibit per year as part of the rotating public art and history exhibits in the Steele Room.

Opening next week: *Worn History: Clothing, Textiles, and Identities Across Generations*

Past exhibits include:

Derby & Ball

Waterbury Women: Stories of Inspiration

George Woodard's "The Roots of My Raising"



CURATE

HISTORY CENTER

TEMPORARY &
SPECIAL EXHIBITS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Prohibition Pig - Prohibition and temperance-themed pieces reproduced from our collection

Discover Waterbury - Train history consultation and artifacts at the train station

The Bidwell - Reproductions of Dr. George Bidwell portraits and street scenes showing his house (in progress)

Bridgeside Books - When the building was a bowling alley (upcoming)

And more conversations in the works!



EDUCATE

PROGRAMS

SPECIAL EVENTS

NEWSLETTER,
BLOG, SOCIAL MEDIA,
WEBSITE

Special Events

Including:

Annual Memorial Day Ceremony & Ghost Walk
Author talks co-sponsored with Bridgeside Books
Vermont's Own 40th Army Band
General Lafayette's return to Waterbury
History Center weekend hours for holidays (SU/FA)
Winterfest presentations
Find Waldo Local

Quarterly Programs

Sample of program topics:

History of the Little River area
Lost ski areas of Waterbury
Mount Mansfield Electric Railroad
Parades and circuses in Waterbury
History of street names
The murder of Alice Meaker
Waterbury musicians
History of the Bryan Farm
Vermont women and the Civil War



EDUCATE

PROGRAMS

SPECIAL EVENTS

NEWSLETTER,
BLOG, SOCIAL MEDIA,
WEBSITE

History Artifact Series

At the Senior Center in partnership with
Waterbury Public Library



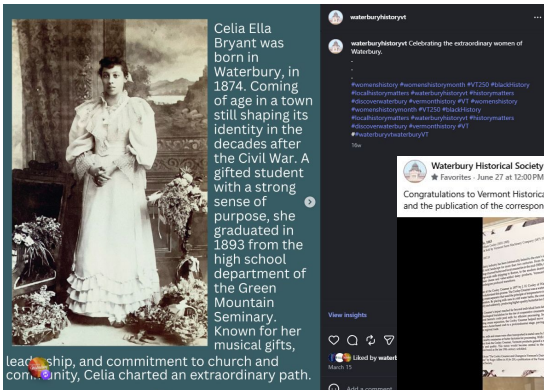
Outreach

EDUCATE

PROGRAMS

SPECIAL EVENTS

NEWSLETTER,
BLOG, SOCIAL MEDIA,
WEBSITE



On Facebook and Instagram
@waterburyhistoryvt

Newsletter

Waterbury Historical Society is with vermonthistory.
Congratulations to Vermont Historical Society on the official opening of their 50 for 250 exhibit and the publication of the corresponding book! Both are beautiful and ... See more



Boost this post to get more reach for Waterbury Historical Society.

Boost now

Laura Parette and 2 others

1 share 515 views



Standing Up for Freedom

Waterbury and the Anti-slavery Movement
by Margaret Montan

Although Vermont is often celebrated for being the first state to outlaw slavery, its constitutional provisions only covered those individuals considered adults. Vermont had almost no commercial intercourse with the South or shipping interests that profited from the slave trade. Waterbury does not stand out as one of the landmarks of the anti-slavery movement in Vermont in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

In the 1730s-1740s, Partridge Thayer, who was taken by the crown to survey Waterbury in the early 1780s, was an ancestor of at least 8 individuals on his

homestead in New Milford, Connecticut. However, Waterbury was part of a broad network of resistance in Vermont that defied the Fugitive Slave Acts of 1793 and 1850. Letters between Joseph Platteau, a prominent abolitionist who owned and edited the Vermont Western newspaper in Montpelier, and Wilbur Lusk, historian and author of the Vermont Anti-Slavery and Underground Railroad Record, reveal that Platteau knew and corresponded often with well-documented agents of the Underground Railroad including Harriet T. Lewis.

Through that correspondence, Platteau knew that in Waterbury Dr. C. C. Arms, Deacon Butler, and Deacon Parker provided a place to stay and transportation to the next stop in Richmond.

Waterbury became an abolitionist stronghold, gaining support from many prominent men of the time. In 1820, Waterbury's town representatives, Judge Das Carpenter, argued for a resolution

of nonresistance against the admission of Missouri into the Union with a constitution "legalizing slavery and the trade and associated traffic in human blood." He called on Vermont's senators and representatives in Congress to exert their influence and use all legal means to prevent Missouri's admission.

The Anti-Slavery Society of Vermont was established as early as 1814 and was the first state auxiliary to the national organization. Historian Theodore Graham Lewis noted that when the Vermont Anti-Slavery Society needed financial support in 1830, local leaders Amasa Pease and Francis Parker each pledged \$100. Waterbury's contribution gave the Vermont State

Parker would afterwards become the chairman of the 1841 Anti-Slavery Convention. In 1841, after the accession of President Tyler, anti-slavery activity grew and Waterbury was chosen as a suitable place for an anti-slavery convention. In anticipation, Ebenezer Parker, chair of the Executive Committee of the Waterbury and Dushbury Anti-Slavery Society, placed a notice in local newspapers that read:

The friends of Abolition, in Waterbury and vicinity, appreciate their friends through the State, their exertment will be provided for those who come from abroad to attend the Anti-Slavery Convention, notified to be held at and Waterbury the 1st and 2nd days of July, 1841. Should any persons come on Wednesday evening to attend said convention, those coming from the North will call on Rev. Mr. Hall at Waterbury Center, who will direct them to places of entertainment; and those coming from other directions will find some friends at the public house at Waterbury Street, who will give them like directions.

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website

waterburyhistoricalsociety.org

History Center

News & Events

Discover

Volunteer

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HERITAGE TRACKS

History Happenings Now

Find the latest announcements, updates, and news here. History is now, and we don't want it to pass you by! [Subscribe now](#) to our mailing list to receive monthly updates in your inbox, or donate to become a member today.

WINTERS' TIME
A Secret Passage, a Secret Road, and the Historic Road Through Vermont's Most Famous Lawyer to Vermont

Jan 11 • 1 min read

A Small-Town Murder and a Famous Lawyer: The Vermont Case That Drew Clarence Darrow

A brutal 1926 murder. A rushed trial. And an unexpected defender—Clarence Darrow. Join us for a fascinating conversation with author and former Vermont Supreme Court Chief Justice Jeffrey Amesbury as he unpacks one of the state's most sensational true-crime cases.

Blog

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About

WELCOME TO THE WATERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE NEW HISTORY CENTER IS NOW OPEN!

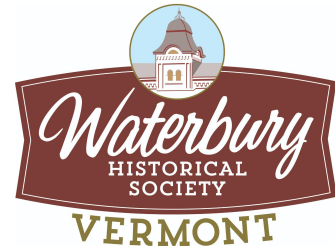
Monday - Wednesday & Friday:
08:30 AM - 04:30 PM
Select holiday weekends, Saturday & Sunday:
11:00 AM - 03:00 PM
Free, self-guided tours.

Our History Keepers

All the volunteers who help out with projects, newsletter mailings, research and writing, photographing and scanning, staffing the History Center, collections inventory, reviewing catalog entries for errors and missing information, responding to research inquiries...and so much more that make us one of the **top local historical societies in the state!**



Thank you!



Questions?