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Language Arts & Disciplines, . .

Vermont Public Documents, Vermont, 1903, History, ...

The Vermont Encyclopediaâ€<sup>™</sup>s thousand-plus entries, the work of 140 contributors, present a completely up-to-date and comprehensive collection of information on the Green Mountain State. Drawn from the most recent research available, its subjects range from prehistoric settlement to events in todayâ€<sup>™</sup>s headlines. Entries include famous and infamous Vermonters, features of the physical landscape; political, economic, and social history; organizations like the 251 Club; and tidbits on nudism, the Wasp (the only car ever made in Vermont), the fabled fur-bearing trout, and the invention of the jogbra.

If you notice a hole in the upper left-hand corner of your Farmers' Almanac, don't return it to the store! That hole isn't a defect; it's a part of history. Starting with the first edition of the Farmers' Almanac in 1818, readers used to nail holes into the corners to hang it up in their homes, barns, and outhouses (to provide both reading material and toilet paper). In 1910, the Almanac's publishers began pre-drilling holes in the corners to make it even easier for readers to keep all of that invaluable information (and paper) handy.

The Vermont region was explored and claimed for France by Samuel de Champlain in 1609, and the first French settlement was established at Fort Ste. Anne in 1666. The first English settlers moved into the area in 1724 and built Fort Dummer on the site of present-day Brattleboro. England gained control of the area in 1763 after the French and Indian Wars.

First organized to drive settlers from New York out of Vermont, the Green Mountain Boys, led by Ethan Allen, won fame by capturing Fort Ticonderoga from the British on May 10, 1775, in the early days of the Revolutionary War. In 1777 Vermont adopted its first constitution, abolishing slavery and providing for universal male suffrage without property qualifications.

Tourism is a major industry in Vermont. Vermont's many famous ski areas include Stowe, Killington, Mt. Snow, Okemo, Jay Peak, and Sugarbush. Hunting and fishing also attract many visitors to Vermont each year. Among the many points of interest are the Green Mountain National Forest, Bennington Battle Monument, the Calvin Coolidge Homestead at Plymouth, and the Marble Exhibit in Proctor.

Vermont has become a trailblazer for gay rights. In April 2009, Vermont became the fourth state to legalize gay marriage. It was the first state to legalize gay marriage by a legislature's vote. The House and Senate voted to override Governor Jim Douglas' veto. Prior to this vote, Vermont was the first state to legalize same-sex civil unions.

The University of Pennsylvania Libraries and the School of Design (PennDesign) have announced the acquisition of the Vermont Marble Company Archives. Comprising business records and a stone sample collection, the archives document the firm's activities from its beginning in 1869 as the Sutherland Falls Marble Company to its final years in the 1970s.

The purchase has been made possible by the generosity of the B. H. Breslauer Foundation, Lisa Sardegna, and the G. Holmes Perkins Fund. Dr. Bernard H. Breslauer, one of the great antiquarian booksellers of the 20th century, established the Foundation, which provides timely support for the purchase of important primary sources by rare book and manuscript repositories. Ms. Sardegna, GFA'05, serves on the Board of PennDesign. The Perkins Fund was created by G. Holmes Perkins, former dean of the School, and founder of the School's Architectural Archives.

The University of Pennsylvania is collaborating with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, which has acquired the Vermont Marble Museum, in Proctor, Vermont, the original home of the Vermont Marble Company. Collaborative projects may range from updated exhibitions and student workshops to educational courses and publications. In addition, a merit-based scholarship will be

established for a student from the State of Vermont who wishes to study at PennDesign. Funded in part by Marsha and Martin Hemm, the scholarship may be awarded to students of historic preservation, architecture or landscape architecture, with preference being given to students of historic preservation.

The Vermont Marble Company was one of a handful of businesses that characterized America's rapid growth in the country's commercial transition to global prominence at the end of the 19th century. Vermont Marble produced the stuff of monumental America from everyday memorials to commercial and domestic palaces to national monuments. As supplier, designer, fabricator and seller, the company encompassed the very nature of American ingenuity and resourcefulness and quickly became a global competitor in the European-dominated world of building and ornamental stonework. If a country's national heritage is a true reflection of its ethos, then the history of Vermont Marble is part of the history of America.

The business records begin with Redfield Proctor's consolidation of many of the existing smaller stone yards near Rutland, Vermont. Included are correspondence, purchase orders, payrolls, job books, individual project files, drawings (linens, blueprints, pencil sketches and original watercolor designs), photographs, printed trade catalogs with illustrations and salesmen's kits. The photographic record is particularly complete with thousands of negatives documenting the company's many quarries, stone yards, trimming rooms, construction sites and finished projects, including the Lincoln Memorial, the National Gallery of Art, the United Nations and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Using the collection, researchers will be able to make critical assessments about many iconic building statements of the later 20th century, e.g., Yale's Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library (Gordon Bunshaft of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; 1961-63) and the Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza, Albany (Wallace Harrison; 1959-76).

All of these records are further extended and complemented by perhaps the most unusual aspect of the archives— a carefully assembled and cataloged collection of over 1,000 stone reference samples from quarries throughout the world. Few American enterprises have lasted so long and intact, continuing in the tradition of their founders. The result is a distinctive research collection that not only documents the rise of this important company, but also American industry in general and specifically how the business of building in America radically changed from the Victorian era to Beaux Arts to post-war Modernism. The records will enable scholars and researchers to build interpretation of the development of the urban environment with a perspective previously unavailable on this scale. In addition, there is potential to shed light on architect-client decisions pertaining to particular buildings. Other topics could include 20th-century business practice, the architecture of the Public Works Administration, the place of stone in the history of the City Beautiful movement and public history and state sponsorship of architecture.

Some parcel data collected for the Conservation Almanac cannot be attributed as a fee simple purchase or conservation easement and are labeled 'unknown' for the field purchase type. Those parcels are not tabulated in the charts to the right, but can be seen in the map portal reports on this site. Parcels labeled 'other' for transfers or exchanges are not represented on the site.