

Agenda
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
Research and Historical Committee
June 10, 2024
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Only via:
Microsoft Teams Meeting

- I. Welcome, approve minutes from previous meeting
 - a. In attendance/introductions
 - b. Approve minutes by consensus

- II. Public comment

- III. Webinar on 250th
 - a. Committee would like to host the presentation and a time for Q&A targeted at: historical organizations, town committees, local historical societies (“history industry” types)
 - b. Format: Angie delivers presentation, commission member answers questions about the commission
 - c. Susan to share updates from Laura T. on scheduling this and moving ahead
 - d. Discussion: picking date, promotion plan

- IV. Next steps on potential funding requests
 - a. Proposed requests:
 - i. **250th Anniversary Research and Commemoration Grants-\$250,000:** Vermont’s 250th Anniversary Commission, in partnership with Vermont Humanities, will fund new research and programs to commemorate America’s 250th anniversary year – 2026.
 1. **Research projects** will highlight new voices and stories related to the history and legacy of the American Revolution in Vermont that result in public history programs and products that fit within the 4 themes laid out by the 250th Commission (Forming Identities, Conflict and Struggle, Diversity of Experience, and Legacies). Examples of programs or products may include films, exhibits, public education programs, curricula, publications, etc.
 2. **Arts and cultural commemorative and celebratory events** and programs may include art exhibitions, concerts, gallery shows, parades, summer camps, theater productions, and other opportunities to commemorate the American story. Projects may cover any period of American history, not just the Revolutionary War period.

\$230,000 will be available for direct grants in all 14 counties, with \$20,000 supporting program administration.

ii. **Vermont Humanities Fall Festival 2026: “Vermont Now and Next”-**

The 2026 Vermont Humanities Fall Festival will gather Vermonters around the theme of “Vermont Now and Next” in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War era in Vermont. Produced in collaboration with Vermont’s 250th Anniversary Commission, events around the state will bring together Vermont’s higher education institutions, public history sites, students, and the public focused on legacies of the Revolutionary Era in Vermont and its impact on our world today. (\$150,000 total request, \$125,000 for Festival program expenses, \$25,000 for administration)

iii. Administrative expenses include the costs of hiring a half-time 250th Coordinator for one-year and overhead expenses for managing additional grant programs and a larger annual festival than is typical.

a. Updates from the Commission on next steps

II. Roadside Markers

a. Discuss proposed list of historic markers, pick a few that the Committee wants to work on justifications for

b. List Committee created in April:

- i. Fanny Allen Sr. (either grave in Burlington or site of her house in Westminister)
- ii. Fanny Allen Jr. (hospital location)
- iii. Ethan Allen Homestead house (site Ethan Allen died) – a version exists
- iv. Ethan Allen Homestead site (sign for the land, including Indigenous, French, loyalist, Allen family, tenant farming stories)
- v. Arnold’s Bay
- vi. Old Fire Station/Rutland Historical Society now
- vii. Bardwell Hotel (now Bardwell House)
- viii. Immaculate Heart of Mary (Rutland)
- ix. Putney Inn
- x. Newport (Black man mentioned in Ethan Allen Homestead archives, more research is needed on him and his story),
- xi. Crean Brush (Loyalist lived in Westminister, Fanny Allen Sr’s stepfather, set the Bounty for Seth Warner, Remember Baker, Ethan Allen- location would be site of his house Westminister, working with Westminister Historical Society)
- xii. John Peters (appointed to Continental Congress, didn’t go, became loyalist, also could include story of his wife)
- xiii. Death of Sgt Archelaus Tupper 1781 (Orwell, but more research is needed)

- xiv. Col. Thomas Johnson, Newbury (maybe at his house in Newbury or site at which he was abducted by the British)
- xv. Dinah Mattis (enslaved woman and her daughter whom Ebenzer Allen presented emancipation certificate in 1777)
- xvi. Vermont Assembly Meeting site, 1781 (Charleston, NH!)

III. [As time allows] Projects/Updates: Committee members share short updates on their work

IV. Confirm next meeting date: July 15