

Minutes
Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission
History and Culture Committee
March 16, 2026
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via: Microsoft Teams Meeting

About the History and Culture Committee:

Committee Purpose: Support history and culture organizations in Vermont to commemorate the 250th

- **Promotion:** Ensure that orgs are sharing events on the events calendar
- **Supporting Funding Opportunities:**
 - o Sharing info about grants and funding resources through our networks
 - o Support Vermont Humanities on future 250th funding opportunities (potential training on evaluating applications or participating in grant panels)
 - o Host future webinars on 250th funding across the state (as they come together)
- **Supporting Organizations:**
 - o Survey organizations to see what they want for support from the 250th Commission
- **Historians and Cultural Leaders:**
 - o Continue to play a role as historians and cultural leaders in supporting Vermont's 250th commission's work
 - o Provide resources for organizations on historical information, content, and collections to support their work

- I. Welcome, approve minutes from December meeting
 - a. In attendance: Barbe Giffin, Paul Deslandes, Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, Susan McClure, Chris Sabick, Steve Pappas, Alexandra Garrett
 - b. Approved minutes by consensus
- II. No public comment
- III. Steve Pappas: Glimpses of Vermont's Past project
 - a. The Times Argus/Rutland Herald doing a 2-year series of columns around Vermont history in partnership with Kevin Graffagnino
 - i. 2026: People, places, objects, ephemera connected to 19th and 20th century
 - ii. 2027: Look back at the state's founding era
 - b. Working with UVM Special Collections and VHS
 - c. Only Vermont media group dedicating this level of commitment to Vermont history in this anniversary time
 - d. Steve speaking at NE Press Association about the project and Alliance for Community Media (trade industry group for public access media)
 - e. Times Argus, Rutland Herald, and the World are dedicating a full page in the weekly magazine to the project- column, info box with more information, promoting Kevin's books, and art work/object image

- f. Content for the columns is all available outside the paywall and is being widely shared
 - g. Also doing events and programs relating to the content – looking for speakers and locations for panels and events.
 - h. Dedicating this much space to the project is a loss on space that they could sell ads- so they are looking to raise \$100,000 to offset the loss of ad sales (that's a reach goal).
 - i. Their news group is forming a nonprofit arm- Vermont Press Bureau Trust- that allows them to accept donations and apply for grants to support special coverage in this manner. This is a long-term project and they hope that in 2027 they will have a nonprofit arm to support this Glimpses project
 - j. Looking for organizations who want to sign on as a partner and have their name/logo as part of the program (on webpages, in person banners, etc.), be part of events, etc.
 - i. Open to having other writers/historians/supervised undergrads or grad students write columns as part of the project or other parts of the paper
 - k. Next steps: interested folks can reach out to Steve Pappas directly; Susan will share more at the next Commission meeting (and share with Laura)
- IV. Updates on 250th Commission funding and grant making:
- a. Vermont Humanities/Vermont Arts Council/250th Commission grants- final round in review now (Commission is using the remainder of its funds for this 250th grant program). Vermont Humanities received 18 250th grants through their Project Grants opportunity, and they plan to have final decisions by the end of May.
 - b. All grant funding opportunities are posted on the 250th website:
<https://anniversary250.vermont.gov/grant-opportunities>
- V. Next meeting June 15- changing to 2pm from 3pm (camp pick up season)