



State of Vermont

Office of the Secretary of State

128 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1101

[phone] 802-828-2363

[fax] 802-828-2496

www.sec.state.vt.us

James C. Condos, Secretary of State

Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary

For immediate release

Contact: Eric Covey, 802-828-2148

September 26, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Between the Lines: Vermont Celebrates Archives Month

Montpelier, VT – Secretary of State Jim Condos and State Archivist Tanya Marshall are pleased to announce “October is Vermont Archives Month” and in collaboration with the Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board, several Archives Month events and programs will be going on throughout the state. This year’s theme, “Between the Lines,” examines how documentary evidence found in archives is used by authors to trace, investigate, discover, and, through their writings, narrate the past.

Beginning Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:00 pm at the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA) in Middlesex, Vermont, retired state archivist Gregory Sanford presents “The Archival Mirror: Reflections on Race and Ethnicity in Vermont.” A follow-up to his recent article on refugees in VT, Sanford explores how VT and Vermonters have wrestled with issues around racial/ethnic identity in one of the least diverse states in America.

Later, on Wednesday, October 11th at 6:00 pm and also at VSARA, historian and author Gary Shattuck provides historical context around opium use and abuse in Vermont in the 19th century in “Lawyers, Opium and Rails: Exploring Vermont’s Early Courts, Drug Abuse and Railroad.” Both the October 3rd and October 11th events at VSARA, a division within the Office of the Secretary of State, include open houses from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, when members of the public can get behind-the-scenes tours of the State Archives.

At the Vermont History Center in Barre, on Wednesday, October 18th beginning at 6:30 pm, novelist Deborah Luskin presents “1964: A Watershed Year in Vermont Political and Cultural History.” Luskin, whose extensive research into the politics of mid-century Vermont was undertaken in the writing of ‘Into the Wilderness,’ a love story that takes place against the two major political events of that year, shows how the shift is more complex and more nuanced than mere politics. This event is co-sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council.

Closing out Vermont Archives Month 2017 is “The Cultural Transformation of Vermont in the 1930s: A Complex Web of Archival Sources,” presented by Dona Brown. The event is on Wednesday, October 25th at 5:30 pm at the University of Vermont’s Special Collections in the Bailey/Howe Library in Burlington. Brown, a professor in the Department of History at the University of Vermont who teaches courses in United States cultural history, New England history, and Vermont history, has published books and articles on the history of tourism, regionalism and American back-to-the-land movements, including “Back to the Land: The Enduring Dream of Self-Sufficiency in Modern America” (University of Wisconsin Press, 2011).

“Vermont historical records frequently motivate and inspire researchers to look deeper and broader to understand the truth and the circumstances of particular issues.” said Secretary of State Jim Condos. “Many of those researchers are authors who, by putting pen to paper, allow the value of Vermont’s archives to become even more evident. Whether fact or fiction, I have a great appreciation for how they incorporate their research and findings into their published works.” For event locations, times and additional information, please see <http://bit.ly/VermontArchivesMonth> or contact VSARA at archives@sec.state.vt.us or 802-828-2308.

Jim Condos is Vermont’s Secretary of State.

###