



STATE OF VERMONT

# NEWS

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## *Department of Libraries*

111 STATE STREET

MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602

FOR RELEASE —

NOVEMBER 3, 1975

Montpelier, Vermont -- 1975 is the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Vermont State Library. It was founded by legislative resolution of November 17, 1825. An open house will be held in honor of the occasion in the Department of Libraries at 111 State Street, Montpelier, from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. on November 17, the anniversary date.

The board and staff of the Vermont Department of Libraries cordially invite everyone to attend the open house and to visit the Law and Documents Library, the Reference Services Unit, the Children's Book Exhibit Center, and the Special Services Unit which provides materials for the blind, handicapped, and institutionalized. A ceremony at which Governor Thomas P. Salmon will speak will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the Law and Documents Library.

The Governor has issued a proclamation which reads in part:

"I, Thomas Paul Salmon, Governor of the State of Vermont, do hereby designate and set apart Monday, November 17, 1975, as a day for the special observance of the ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VERMONT STATE LIBRARY and I call upon all Vermonters to observe this occasion by joining me in saluting the Vermont State Library and its successor, the Vermont Department of Libraries, for providing library and information services which have

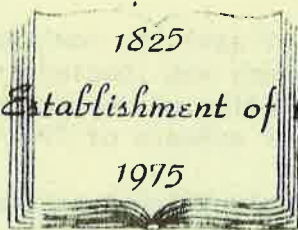
contributed so much to the development of the State and its people."

According to John McCrossan, State Librarian, the resolution passed by the general assembly in 1825 provided that the State's books and public documents be assembled in a room in the State House and that a librarian be appointed "to take charge of, and keep (them) in good order." Until 1918 the State Library was housed in the State House. It was then moved to the Library and Supreme Court Building at 111 State Street.

Throughout its history the State Library served State government officials, the judiciary and the general public, its collections being especially good in law, Federal and State documents, and Vermontiana. In addition to providing library services to walk-in patrons and through interlibrary loan, the State Library also served as the official agency for distribution of State documents to agencies in Vermont and out of state.

In 1970 the State Library merged with the Free Public Library Service to form the Vermont Department of Libraries. The activities described above are now carried out by the Department of Libraries.

150th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Vermont State Library



A CHRONOLOGY OF THE VERMONT STATE LIBRARY  
&  
CURRENT SERVICES OF THE  
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

- 1825: November 17: Robert Pierpoint, a Councillor, who had acquired a love of books as a youngster in poor health, introduced a resolution "...that it shall be the duty of the Governor and Council, annually, to appoint some suitable person whose duty it shall be to take charge of, and keep in good order, all the books and public documents deposited in the State-House in Montpelier; and that a suitable room in the State-House be placed under the control of such person...." Upon concurrence by the General Assembly, Calvin J. Keith, newly admitted lawyer, was appointed State Librarian with no salary. The Library was open only to Council members and the General Assembly when in session, usually from mid-October to mid-November.
- 1835: Three members of the General Assembly examined the Library and reported that the collection lacked Vermont's laws and journals prior to 1810. The State Librarian, Heman Carpenter, was urged to procure this early material.
- 1838: Jackson A. Vail became the first State Librarian to be paid (\$75) for his services. The current state document distribution function originated when the distribution of Vermont Reports (opinions of the Supreme Court) to each organized town in the State was added to the State Librarian's duties. The function of the State Library as a depository for state publications had its origin when 10 additional copies of the reports were added to the collection.
- 1840: The General Assembly Library Committee, sanctioned by law in 1839, requested Vermont's Congressional delegation to supply the Library with Congressional documents and speeches. Thus, it became a selective federal depository, a function now carried out by the Department of Libraries.
- 1841: The General Assembly appropriated the first funds for the purchase of books--specifically seven Bibles and two dictionaries.
- 1849: Vermont undertook an ambitious program of exchange of state documents proposed by M. Vattemare of France. Vattemare's plan was for all nations and states to exchange their publications--a grandiose, systematic flow of information. To facilitate this, Vermont appropriated what was at that time a large sum (\$200). Mr. Houghton, the Vermont agent of international exchange, quickly realized that of primary value to the State of Vermont was the exchange of state documents between the states--an exchange still in effect today. The first printed catalog, produced in 1849, shows that the collection consisted primarily of law books and state documents, as well as Vermont newspapers. The collection was enriched with history, natural history, poetry and sermons.
- 1854: For the first time, the Library received an annual appropriation (\$200) for the purchase of books selected by the State Librarian.
- 1857: January 6: Fire!!! The State House, in which the Library was housed, was destroyed. Harvey Webster, then the State Librarian, in a dramatic account, in

which he played the role of saviour, concluded that most everything of value remained intact. The Library was located in a private home and then the Masonic Temple until completion of the present State House in 1859. The Library was reorganized under a Board of Trustees.

1858-1873: This was a period of significant acquisitions under State Librarian Charles Reed, setting the precedent for the current excellence of the collection.

1886: As a result of a bill supported by Hiram A. Huse, State Librarian, legislator and law partner of former Governor Dillingham, the annex to the present State House was built for the Library. The Library was now of such dimension and importance that the Trustees authorized it to be open all year.

1902: George W. Wing became the first full-time State Librarian.

1918: The present State Library and Supreme Court Building was built. This Library was opened to all the people of Vermont.

1927: November 3: Flood!!! 50,000 Vermont state documents, most for exchange with other states, were lost.

1970: March 31: The Vermont State Library was merged with the Vermont Free Public Library Service to form the Vermont Department of Libraries.

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#### Current Services Of The Vermont Department of Libraries

Insures the availability of information and library materials to Vermonters.

Promotes interlibrary cooperation.

Assists local public librarians and trustees on all aspects of librarianship.

Trains local librarians and trustees.

Provides library services to handicapped people in Vermont.

Provides library services to residents of all the state's correctional and health institutions.

Evaluates library materials.

Serves Vermonters who do not have convenient access to a public library through "Books-By-Mail".

Augments local library collections with Regional Library materials.

Provides professional cataloging and card reproduction to eligible public libraries.

Maintains significant collections in the following areas (a partial list):

Films

Children's books

Law

Library Science

State Government Publications

Federal Documents

Vermontiana

Vermont newspapers

Aerial photographs of Vermont

Vermont foundations

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