

# VERMONT

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Vermont received \$6 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Vermont Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage.*

*Below are some examples.*

- About 90,000 pages of historical newspapers such as the *Working-Man's Gazette* and the *Windham County Reformer* from 1836 to 1922 are being digitized by the University of Vermont with a \$691,000 grant. This work is part of **Chronicling America**, an NEH–Library of Congress collaboration.
- About 25,000 visitors come annually to the **Calvin Coolidge Visitors' Center**, in Plymouth Notch, the rural hamlet where the thirtieth president was born. With support from a \$330,000 challenge grant, which it used to spur private contributions of \$990,000, the center enlarged and modernized its facilities into a full-fledged museum with expanded programming.
- With support from a \$24,000 education grant, the **University of Vermont** has developed a one semester course on the "enduring questions" surrounding individualism and its excesses. Students read authors such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Richard Rorty.
- Revolutions have inspired historical novels from *A Tale of Two Cities* to *Doctor Zhivago*. This literary phenomenon is being examined by **Middlebury College** professor John Probasco McWilliams in an upcoming book for which he has received a \$50,400 research grant.
- The **American Precision Museum** in Windsor received a \$340,000 grant to implement a permanent exhibition exploring how American history was shaped by industrialization and the rise of manufacturing.
- The **Shelburne Museum**, built from the legacy of Electra Havemeyer Webb's lively collection of American folk art, received a challenge grant of \$500,000 for which the museum is raising \$1.5 million, to build a new year-round learning center, which opened in August 2013.
- For 39 years the **Vermont Humanities Council** has hosted a fall weekend conference on humanities subjects. In 2012, around 200 people gathered at Stowe Mountain Resort to discuss religious architecture and how it expresses spiritual beliefs and social values.
- Three medical centers in the state are hosting **Literature and Medicine**, a reading and discussion program led by humanities scholars that seeks to help medical professionals to better understand patients and their own reactions to suffering through exposure to notable books.
- **The northern front of the Civil War** was a major theme in Vermont during the war's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Vermont Humanities Council has been providing educational materials and web resources to help interpret more than one hundred Civil War sites throughout the state.
- For over a decade, "**First Wednesdays**" have brought lecturers on "Civility in a Fractured Society," "Beethoven's Sketchbooks" and other topics to libraries across the state, supported by the Vermont Humanities Council and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



## Talking POINTS.

# NATIONWIDE

*NEH supports programs and projects that contribute directly and dramatically to the cultural life and historical perspective of tens of millions of Americans.*

*Here are some examples.*

### **PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY**

Nothing captures the character of a community or the spirit of an era better than its newspapers. *Chronicling America*, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, is digitizing millions of pages taken from newspapers dating back to the early Republic, making it possible to search the pages online for any word or phrase—at no charge.

### **AMERICAN VOICES**

The papers of prominent Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and NEH funds many projects to assemble and preserve them, including complete sets of collected papers for ten presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Eisenhower as well as public figures such as Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King Jr., George Marshall, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain.

### **SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK**

Over the past forty-five years, scholars supported by Endowment grants have produced more than 7,000 books—including numerous classics such as Dumas Malone’s *Jefferson and His Time*, James McPherson’s *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and Louis Menand’s *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*—that have garnered scores of awards, including eighteen Pulitzer Prizes.

### **PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS**

NEH investments in the digital humanities make it possible for a student to walk the corridors of the Temple of Karnak in ancient Egypt in virtual 3-D, or to visit the 1964–65 World’s Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging has been used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone’s previously unreadable field diary.

### **GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT**

Almost \$2 billion in humanities support has been generated by the Challenge Grants program, which requires recipients to raise \$3 or \$4 in outside funds for every federal dollar they receive.

### **HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN**

NEH-supported films bring history alive. Twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns’s *The War* (2007), and ten million saw *The Abolitionists* (2013). NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as “King Tut” that make the heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reach classrooms across the country.

### **KEEPING TEACHERS UP-TO-DATE**

Seminars, institutes, and workshops give teachers the opportunity to refresh and deepen their knowledge about the humanities through intense study. In the past three years, more than 2,100 college teachers and 7,500 schoolteachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, to the benefit of more than one million students.

### **REACHING ACROSS THE NATION**

Last year, state humanities councils, NEH’s affiliates in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories put on 16,800 reading and discussion programs, 6,500 literacy programs, 4,000 speakers bureau presentations, 5,400 conferences, 1,750 Chautauqua events, 24,000 media programs, and 7,300 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 2,300 exhibitions.