

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

**Contact:** Angela Labrador, VAS President  
**Phone:** (413) 325-5548  
**Email:** [angela@vtarchaeology.org](mailto:angela@vtarchaeology.org)

### **VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEH GRANT ON FOR SUMMER 2021**

*Workshop will train 72 K-12 educators how to teach with historic sites*

**Barre, Vermont, March 31st** – The Vermont Archaeological Society (VAS) will be administering its National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture grant this July after it was delayed in 2020 due to COVID-19. The \$149,829 grant will support two one-week long workshops during which K-12 educators will learn how to teach with historic sites to meet learning outcomes across the curriculum.

The VAS’s workshop, entitled “**Freedom and Unity: The Struggle for Independence on the Vermont Frontier,**” features an integrated program of place-based and participatory learning activities related to the events and personalities of the American Revolution at seven partnering historic sites in Vermont’s Champlain Valley: the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum, Crown Point State Historic Site (NY), Chimney Point State Historic Site, Arnold’s Bay, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Mount Independence, and the Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site.

The workshop has been adapted to be offered online. Participants will engage in an innovative, virtual experience with asynchronous and synchronous workshop activities. Educators will follow a route, from a yeoman Vermonter’s 18th century homestead to war, and back again. Along the way, they will encounter the landscapes, artifacts, sites, and primary sources that allow students to engage with the multiple stories and competing worldviews of frontier Vermont—and to relate them to the persisting tensions between rural and urban communities across contemporary America.

NEH grants are highly competitive; the VAS was one of only 16 recipients of this national award in 2019 and the first in Vermont to receive a Landmarks grant. The project is co-directed by Dr. Angela Labrador, VAS President and Barre Town resident, and Jason Barney, Social Studies teacher at Missisquoi Valley Union High School in Swanton. They will be joined by experts at the partnering institutions to deliver this innovative program that showcases Vermont’s unique Revolutionary War heritage.

The program received 139 applications in 2020 and 115 in 2021. Applicants have been evaluated and are currently being invited.

**See the Project website for further information:** <https://vtarchaeology.org/revsites/>



## **ABOUT THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

The VAS was founded in 1968 as a volunteer-led organization of professional and avocational archaeologists committed to raising awareness about Vermont's past and protecting its historic and cultural resources. Additional information about the VAS is available at:

[www.vtarchaeology.org](http://www.vtarchaeology.org).

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).



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