

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AWARDED \$140,000 NEH GRANT

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

**Burlington, Vermont, August 19** – The Vermont Archaeological Society (VAS) has received a National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture grant totaling nearly \$140,000. The award will support two one-week long workshops during Summer 2020 for 72 K-12 educators to learn how to teach with historic sites to meet learning outcomes across the curriculum.

The VAS's winning workshop proposal, entitled "**Freedom and Unity: The Struggle for Independence on the Vermont Frontier**," will feature 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 participants will follow a route, on land and water, 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. While on board the life-sized replica of Benedict Arnold's USS *Philadelphia* gunboat and exploring the nation's best-preserved Revolutionary War archaeological site at Mount Independence, teachers will learn firsthand the potential of place-based education at historic sites: to provide personally resonant experiences that serve as a foundation for understanding contemporary issues of regional, national, or global importance.

NEH grants are highly competitive; the VAS was one of only 16 recipients of this national award and the first in Vermont to receive a Landmarks grant. The project is co-directed by Dr. Angela Labrador, VAS Vice-President and Barre Town resident, and Mr. Jason Barney, Social Studies teacher at Missisquoi Valley Union High School in Swanton. They will be joined by faculty at each of the partnering institutions to deliver this innovative program that showcases Vermont's unique Revolutionary War heritage. Castleton University will accredit the workshop, enabling participants to earn continuing education units or graduate credits.



## **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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