



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Vermont

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Vermont received \$5.3 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 \$391,000 grant. This work is part of the **National Digital Newspaper Program**, 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 and resided. With support from a \$330,000 challenge grant, which it has used to spur private contributions of \$990,000, the Center will be enlarging and modernizing 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 \$50,000 research grant.
- The history of the machine tool was reinterpreted, with the help of a \$40,000 grant, in a long-term exhibition at the **American Precision Museum** in Windsor.
- The nineteenth-century gentleman farmer's way of life is conveyed at the **Billings Farm and Museum** in Woodstock, which boasts a restored 1890 farm office and a creamery. With assistance from a \$40,000 grant, this gateway to rural Vermont culture and the Yankee way of life is expanding its programming to include audio tours and other enhancements.
- With assistance from a \$24,000 research fellowship, Middlebury College professor James Calvin Davis has compiled *On Religious Liberty*, a warmly reviewed selection of the writings of seventeenth-century **Puritan colonist Roger Williams**. Though Williams contributed significantly to the American doctrine of religious freedom, his works have mostly fallen out of print.
- For thirty-seven years the **Vermont Humanities Council** has hosted a fall weekend conference on humanities subjects. In 2009, around two hundred people gathered at the Essex Culinary Resort to discuss food, its rituals, place of origin, the international food trade, and issues of poverty and hunger.
- Eight medical centers throughout 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** is a major theme in Vermont during the war's 150th anniversary. The Vermont Humanities Council is providing educational materials and web resources to help interpret more than one hundred Civil War sites throughout the state.
- For nearly 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.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities 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 a few 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 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 18 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 3D, or to visit the 1964–65 World's Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging is being used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone's previously unreadable field diary.

GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT

More than \$1.66 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, grounded in scholarly research, bring history alive. For example, twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns's seven-part *The War* (2007), and teachers made extensive use of *The Buddha*. NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as “King Tut” that make the wonders and heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reached 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 2,500 college teachers and 7,000 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 17,700 reading and discussion programs, 5,700 literacy programs, 5,800 speakers bureau presentations, 5,800 conferences, 2,300 Chautauqua events, 7,120 media programs, and 7,600 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 4,600 exhibitions.