

## Senior Honors Research Proposal

Name

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. David Coles

Discipline: History

Date

My tentative argument is that Vermont's remote location, frequently-challenged state boundaries, and 14 years spent operating as an independent republic allowed the state to develop independently of the initial 13 states. After Vermont entered the United States in 1791, Vermont consistently defied American historic trends, especially with the state's early abolition and women's suffrage movements, lack of population growth, and limited industrial development. With support of historic sources, I will argue that a combination of factors, including the development of capitalism in Vermont, Vermonters' relationship with nature, and the complex social relations on the French-Canadian border, caused Vermont's atypical development.

Studying Vermont's history is critical because it assists in understanding broader historical trends throughout New England. Paul Searls's "America and the State that "Stayed Behind": An Argument for the National Relevance of Vermont History," make an initial argument for Vermont's consistent departure from the American historic national pattern, citing examples throughout the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. Though studying different centuries, Joseph S. Wood and Dona Brown's books both highlight capitalism as shaped the agricultural, industrial, and tourism economy in Vermont. Jacqueline B. Carr's "Local History and the Vermont Borderlands, 1790-1820" suggests that the complex relations with other states and Canada limited urban development in the Chittenden County.

For my research methods, I will complete my research by collecting primary and secondary sources and analyzing the source material. I will use that information to develop and support a historical argument.

My resources for the research process will consist of primary and secondary sources. For a tentative list of secondary sources I plan to use, please reference the attached bibliography. Specific primary sources are not yet identified, but will be drawn from digitized historic

newspapers from the Library of Congress. Potential newspapers to include are *State Journal* (published in Montpelier, 1831-1836), *Burlington Free Press* (published in Burlington, 1827-1865), and *Bradford Opinion* (published in Bradford, 1874-1881). Historic land surveyors' records, accessible through the University of Vermont, will also be referenced as needed.

Below is a tentative timeline for my progress on the SHR project:

By April 18, 2018: Submit project proposal to SHR committee chair.

May 3-9, 2018: Presentation of proposal to SHR committee.

August 1-11, 2018: Will be in Vermont, and will visit the Vermont Department of Libraries and the Special Collections at the University of Vermont to access primary sources.

August 20-24, 2018: If requested, submit any changes to SHR committee. If approved by the SHR committee, will enroll in HIST 498.

September 2018: Will collect all secondary sources needed for the project. Arguments used in sources will be analyzed.

October 2018: Collect more primary sources. Analyze information in all primary sources.

November 2018: Using the analysis of primary and secondary sources, craft a tentative thesis and argument for paper.

December 2018: By the end of the semester, submit an extended outline (including a thesis statement and main arguments) and source list to faculty sponsor.

January 15-23, 2019: If receiving no lower than an A- in HIST 498, will continue with SHR program and enroll in HIST 499.

January 2019: Write the first draft of the paper.

February 2019: Write the second draft of the paper. This draft must have complete citations.

March 2019: Finish writing, editing, and revising the final paper. Submit paper to faculty sponsor and prepare defense.

By April 1-5, 2019: Schedule oral defense of SHR project with faculty sponsor, examination committee, and SHR committee liaison. Submit final paper prior to defense to the examination committee.

By April 30, 2019: Make any corrections or additions to the SHR paper if required by the committee. Submit two copies of the paper to the Archives and Records Manager of the Library.

My examination committee will consist of Drs. Larissa Fergeson, David Geraghty, and Melissa Kravetz. All committee members are Longwood faculty in the Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy. Drs. Fergeson and Geraghty are specialists in American history, and Dr. Kravetz will assess the project from a general history perspective.

Dr. David Coles, the chair of the Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy, has approved of this project and sent an email to Senior Honors Research committee chair on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Bibliography

- Bellesiles, Michael. *Revolutionary outlaws: Ethan Allen and the struggle for independence on the early American frontier*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1993.
- Brown, Dona. *Inventing New England: Regional Tourism in the Nineteenth Century*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1995.
- Carr, Jacqueline B. "Local History and the Vermont Borderlands, 1790-1820." *Vermont History* 84, 70-92.
- Clifford, Deborah Pickman. *The Passion of Abby Hemenway: Memory, Spirit, and the Making of History*. Montpelier: Vermont Historical Society, 2001.
- Muller III, Nicholas H. "Vermont's "Gods of the Hills": Buying Tradition from a Sole Source." *Vermont History* 75, 125-133.
- Onuf, Peter S. "State-Making in Revolutionary America: Independent Vermont as a Case Study." *The Journal of American History* 67, 797-815.
- Searls, Paul. "America and the State that "Stayed Behind": An Argument for the National Relevance of Vermont History." *Vermont History* 71, 75-87.
- Searls, Paul. *Two Vermonts: Geography and Identity, 1865-1910*. Durham, NH: University of New Hampshire Press, 2006.
- Sievens, Mary Beth. "'The Wicked Agency of Others': Community, Law, and Marital Conflict in Vermont, 1790-1830." *Journal of the Early Republic* 21, 19-39.
- Wood, Joseph S. *The New England Village*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002.