

**Vermont-New Hampshire Labor History Society Survey
Papers, 1979-1980
MSA 438-439**

Introduction

This collection consists of materials from the Vermont Labor History Society's 1979 bibliographical survey of all labor-related resources housed in Vermont repositories. Included in the collection are completed survey forms and survey-related notes, background information, printed materials, correspondence, and index cards. The collection was obtained from the Vermont College office of Professor Richard O. Hathaway (1934-2005) and donated by DeWolfe and Wood Antiquarians of Alfred, Maine, in 2006 (ms. acc. no. 2006.12). It is housed in two archival flip-top boxes which occupy approximately one linear foot of shelf space.

Organizational Sketch

The Vermont-New Hampshire Labor History Society was founded in the 1970s by Bill Kemsley, Ben Collins, and others. In 1982 Vermont and New Hampshire split from each other, resulting in the Vermont Labor History Society. The society's objectives were to reveal how working people contributed to life in a democratic society, to direct labor-related materials to the proper repositories for preservation, and to make these materials available to educators and students. The Society exists as of this writing, but in a less active form since the 2005 death of Richard Hathaway of Montpelier, one of its most ardent supporters.

In 1979 the V-NHLHS undertook an ambitious project to survey every repository in Vermont to identify all labor-related materials and publish a bibliography of its findings. The Society obtained funding under CETA (the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973), through Vermont CETA and the Champlain Valley Work and Training Program, to pay four researchers for seven months to conduct this survey. Additional funding would be needed to complete the project's latter phases, including a survey of Vermont newspapers, the publication of the bibliography, and the collection of labor-related oral histories. The project's director was Gregory Bolosky, then secretary/ treasurer of the V-NHLHS. An advisory board consisted of prominent Vermont librarians and educators. It is doubtful that the survey project was ever brought to completion, because additional funding for it was still being sought in 1982, and no bibliography was ever published.

Scope and Content

The Vermont-New Hampshire Labor History Society survey project sought to create a comprehensive listing of all Vermont's labor-related materials – books, periodicals, manuscripts, newspapers, oral histories, scrap books, maps, broadsides, court documents, union and state records, photographs and films, artifacts and equipment, and more - in all Vermont repositories including public libraries, college libraries, historical societies,

town clerks' offices, museums, churches, private collections, and others. The state was carved into four research areas for this purpose: (1) The Bailey Library and Guy Bailey Labor History Collection at the University of Vermont, and (2) the Northwest portion of the state, both covered by researchers Fran Langworthy and Diane Cohen; (3) the Northeast region of the state, assigned to Tom Mulholland; and (4) the Southern portion, researched by John Kochalka.

This collection consists of a portion of the materials gathered in two of these four regions, the Bailey Library and the Northwest regions, during the information-gathering phase of the project. It is not known exactly what percentage of the total survey material is contained in this collection. Of the part represented here, roughly two-thirds consists of the raw data gathered by the researchers on survey intake forms. The balance of the collection is made up of preparatory research, background information, research notes, printed materials, news clippings and correspondence.

The survey sheets record the particulars of the holdings found in each repository, giving title, author, dates, location, publisher, description of material found, repository, etc. The collection's folders are organized here, as found, by repository. Also included is a set of index cards which cross-reference the survey sheets by topic. The Bailey Library holdings are arranged into several sub-groups. The collection also contains survey sheets for repositories in thirty-five Vermont towns in the northwestern tier of the state (in Franklin, Orleans, Lamoille, Chittenden, Washington and Addison counties). These are arranged alphabetically by town, Isle LaMotte through Woodbury.

The collection includes the research phase from the initial training period, begun in or before March 1979, through February 1980. By the summer of 1979, the four original researchers had reportedly covered 50% of the targeted repositories, and recorded 500 references to local labor history. The folder entitled "Leads to Follow Up" suggests the research phase was never fully completed. The collection contains two primary source documents: excerpts from the Naomi Douglas (et al.) Diaries (1865-1906) from Shoreham, Vermont (Doc 439, Folder 2), and notes on an interview with 88-year-old John O'Brien who, as a child, worked in the Winooski Woolen Mills (Doc 439, Folder 33).

The collection is arranged in two series: Series I contains background information, and Series II contains survey forms and researchers' notes. The original folder names are re-used here for ease of reference.

Related Collections and Materials

The folder "Vermont Labor History Society" folder in the uncataloged continuations files contains a selection of newsletters and other materials that provide context for this collection. The originals of two V-NHLHS newsletters, a form letter describing the survey project, and a form letter stating the purpose of the society were removed from the collection (Folder 438:1) to this location.

Inventory

I. Background information

- MSA 438:1 "VT-NH Labor History Society", 1979 and undated.
:2 "1st Training Session", undated (ca. 1979).
:3 "Oral History", undated (ca. 1979).
:4 "Industrial Archeology", 1979 and undated.
:5 "Background Technical / Library", 1979 and undated.
:6 "Misc.General Interest", 1979-1980 and undated, includes news articles, brochures, and other background information.
:7 "Leads to Follow Up", 1979 and undated.
:8 "Correspondence", Oct. – Dec., 1979.
:9 "Notes on Completed Review", undated.
:10 Miscellaneous, undated, contains Diane Cohen's project notebook.

II. Survey sheets and research notes.

- :11 Bailey / UVM libraries, Mar. – Dec., 1979.
:12 _____, "Audio-visual", May – Aug., 1979.
:13 _____, "The People", Mar., 1979 - Feb. 1980.
:14 _____, "Economics/Politics/Legalities/ Health and Welfare", Mar., 1979 – Sept., 1979.
:15 _____, "General Data: Bibliographies, indexes, almanacs, gazetteers, maps, city directories", Mar., 1979 – Oct., 1979.
:16 _____, "Non-Vermont broad background", May, 1979 - Jan., 1980.
- MSA 439:1 Isle LaMotte, 1979.
:2 Jericho, undated.
:3 Johnson, 1979.
:4 Lincoln, 1979.
:5 Lowell, 1979 and undated.
:6 Middlebury, 1979.
:7 _____, Sheldon Museum, 1979.
:8 Milton, 1979.
:9 Montgomery, 1979.
:10 Morristown, 1979.
:11 New Haven, 1979.
:12 North Hero, 1979.
:13 Orleans, 1979-1980.
:14 Orwell, 1979.
:15 Richford, 1979.
:16 Richmond, 1979.
:17 Ripton, 1979.
:18 Roxbury, 1979.
:19 St. Albans, 1979-1980, undated.
:20 Salisbury, 1979.
:21 Shelburne, 1979.
:22 Shoreham, 1979, contains extracts of the Naomi Douglas (et al.)

- Diaries (1865-1906), Shoreham, Vermont.
- :23 South Hero, 1979.
 - :24 Starksboro, 1980.
 - :25 Stowe, 1980.
 - :26 Swanton, 1979-1980, includes some printed material from the Abenaki Self-Help Association.
 - :27 Troy, 1979-1980.
 - :28 Underhill, 1979-1980.
 - :29 Waterville, 1979.
 - :30 Westfield, 1979-1980.
 - :31 Westford, 1980.
 - :32 Williston, 1979.
 - :33 Winooski, 1980, includes notes of an interview with John O'Brien, former child worker in the Winooski Woolen Mills.
 - :34 Wolcott, 1979.
 - :35 Woodbury, 1979.
 - :36 Unknown repository, undated.
 - :37 "Located in Vt. Libraries outside my search area", 1979-1980.
 - :38 Computer report, 1982, listing bibliographic information found in towns A(ndover)-N(orwich).
 - :39 Index cards, A-F, ca. 1979, researchers' notes arranged alphabetically by keyword, with introduction (blue cards) on organizing a bibliography.
 - :40 _____, G-P, ca. 1979.
 - :41 _____, M-Z, ca. 1979.
 - :42 _____, cross-reference key to the survey sheets, ca. 1979-1980.
 - :43 _____, "Titles of books, articles in periodicals, theses, etc. referred to in bibliographies + not researched or not found", ca. 1979.

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