

## VERMONT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

[www.vermontps.org](http://www.vermontps.org)  
Meets annually

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## INTRODUCING THE VERMONT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The VPS was begun in 1956 by Donald Johnstone, a professor at the University of Vermont. Dr. Johnstone is member No. 1 and still belongs to the VPS. One of the older state philatelic societies in the US, the VPS has about 130 members who mostly live in Vermont, but also has membership from other states and countries. From the beginning, the emphasis has been on Vermont postal history from the late 18th century through to the current century.

The VPS publishes a quarterly 28 page journal, *The Vermont Philatelist*. In addition to regular columns, the journal also includes a 50-lot auction of Vermont material in every issue and information about Vermont's stamp clubs. The VPS also has a website: [www.vermontps.org](http://www.vermontps.org). Information about the Society can be found on the website or from Bill Lizotte, Executive Director, VPS, 250 Junction Hill Road, Jeffersonville, VT 05464-9676.

Each year one of the local Vermont stamp clubs hosts the VPS and its rotating Vermont State Stamp Show. The next VSSS will be in Essex Junction on June 8, 2013, and hosted by the Chittenden County Stamp Club.

### AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN — 1976

One of the major events of the USA bicentennial commemoration held from 1970 through 1981 was the American Freedom Train tour of the continental United States.

According to the [www.freedomtrain.org](http://www.freedomtrain.org) website "the display cars of the AFT were outfitted with the 500+ artifacts of Americana that they carried around the nation. Among them were the Bill of Rights, the Louisiana Purchase, Judy Garland's dress from *The Wizard of Oz*, Joe Frazier's boxing trunks, Abe Lincoln's stovepipe hat, and even a rock from the moon."

The tour began in Wilmington, Delaware, April 1, 1975 and ended December 31, 1976 in Miami, Florida. More than seven million visitors viewed the exhibits. Burlington, Vermont, was the third stop on April 11–12, 1975. At each stop a special commemorative postmark was used. It appears this was mostly overlooked by Vermont philatelicists as there has been no mention of the cancel in contemporary issues of *The Vermont Philatelist*. Even when Paul Abajian published his initial listing of *The Special Cancellations of Vermont* in 1997, this cancel was missing.

In the 15 years since, only four covers bearing the cancel have been reported. All examples seen are dated April 11. It's not known if there are any April 12 examples. ■

