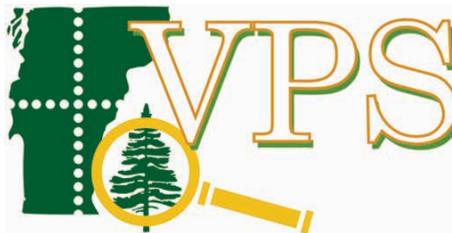


## VERMONT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

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## COVER TO COMMEMORATE ST. ALBANS RAID

The Chittenden County Stamp Club has held a show or bourse every fall since 1981. This year *CHAMPEX* will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on November 8 at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, Vermont, with nine dealers present.

The club has also sponsored a pictorial cancel every year since 1981. The current series of cancels is dedicated to Vermont in the Civil War on the sesquicentennial of the conflict. In 2011, the cancel honored Governor Erastus Fairbanks and his April 23, 1861, response to Abraham Lincoln's call to arms: "Vermont will do its full duty."

In 2012, the emphasis was on the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest day of the war. Vermont soldiers were members of the Old Vermont Brigade and the U.S. Sharpshooters. In 2013, the cancel showcased Major Gen. Abner Doubleday and his quote: "Glory to God, Glory to God, See the Vermonters go it!" at the Battle of Gettysburg.

In 1864, the Civil War came home to the state when Confederate soldiers staged a raid across the Canadian border into the city of St. Albans on October 19. The raid was carried out by twenty-one Confederate cavalymen who hoped to rob the banks in the town for needed funds to continue the war as well as force the Union to move troops to the northern border, thus relieving pressure on the Confederacy.

After stealing \$208,000 from the local banks, killing one villager, and wounding another, the Confederates escaped back into Canada where they were arrested by the Canadian authorities. However, since Canada was neutral, the soldiers were not returned to the US. \$80,000 was eventually returned by the Canadians.

The club's 2014 pictorial postmark and cachet will commemorate this northernmost action of the Civil War. The cachet will be based a series of illustrations drawn for the November 12, 1864 issue of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* published in New York City. ■

