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PRESS RELEASE

Secretary of State Jim Condos:

It's in the Records – Vermont Celebrates Archives Month

Montpelier, VT – Secretary of State Jim Condos and State Archivist Tanya Marshall are pleased to announce October is Vermont Archives Month. In collaboration with the Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board, several Archives Month events and programs are happening throughout the state, including the following three events focused on the value of records for providing clues to some of Vermont's oldest cold cases.

Beginning Saturday, October 8 at 2:00 pm at the Vermont History Center in Barre, Vermont Historical Society Assistant Librarian Marjorie Strong takes the audience back to 1838 when a witness described seeing the killing of a peddler on Berlin Pond and what modern research tell us about this "murder."

Later, on October 18 at 6:00 pm at the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA) in Middlesex, Vermont State Police historian Brian Lindner walks attendees through the State Police's investigation of Pauline Moloney's deeply suspicious death in 1950 Waterbury and the still unanswered question: Was it murder?

At the end of Archives Month, on Thursday, October 27 beginning at 6:00 pm and also at VSARA, Middlebury Detective Kris Bowdish and State Archivist Tanya Marshall reveal how archival records recently shed light on some of the mysteries surrounding the 1935 discovery of the skeletal remains of a mother and her two children in Middlebury. After more than 80 years, can archival records help identify the three victims? Both the October 18 and October 27 events at VSARA, a division within the Office of the Secretary of State, include open houses from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, when members of the public can get behind-the-scenes tours of the State Archives.

Another "don't miss" Archives Month event is this year's *Sam Hand Lecture*. On Thursday, October 20 beginning at 7:00 pm at the University of Vermont, Professor Phil Baruth will present "The Children's Crusade: How Patrick Leahy's 1974 Election Changed Modern Campaigns in Vermont," which is based on several years of research using Vermont records at various repositories.

Last, three additional Vermont Archives Month events highlight how Vermont records, repositories and unique collections, including digital records, can be used to help identify ancestors and research local history: "Researching in Vermont" (Thursday, October 6); "Using Digital Resources to Enrich Local History" (Saturday, October 15); and "On the Road to Your Family History" (Saturday, October 29).

"Vermont Archives Month is a time to discover and appreciate more than 225 years of Vermont history through the rich records of our citizens and government, both past and present" said Secretary of State Jim Condos. "I highly recommend marking your calendars!" For event locations, times and additional information, please see <http://bit.ly/2016VTArchivesMonth> or contact VSARA at archives@sec.state.vt.us or 802-828-2308.

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