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**James C. Condos, Secretary of State  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Secretary of State Jim Condos Celebrates Vermont Archives Month**

Montpelier, VT – Secretary of State Jim Condos and State Archivist Tanya Marshall are pleased to host historian and author Gary Shattuck at the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA) in Middlesex as their guest speaker for Vermont Archives Month.

At 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 23, Shattuck will discuss and sign copies of his new book, *Insurrection, Corruption & Murder in Early Vermont*, which explores the infamous “Black Snake Affair,” when Federal authorities seized the Black Snake, a boat used to smuggle goods into Canada following the 1808 Embargo Act banned American exports to France and Great Britain. The raid left three Vermont men dead and a fourth man later died in Vermont’s first execution by hanging.

Shattuck, who relied heavily on archival records in the Vermont State Archives as well as other institutions, will also share the story behind his book including his research and use of early Vermont court records. Court records have been the focus of a three-year archives project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

“This is a tribute and contribution to the broader knowledge of and appreciation for Vermont historical records and their continuing value,” said Condos, “Vermont Archives Month is not only for celebrating our archives and history but also the efforts of our staff and researchers.”

VSARA is also sponsoring an open house on October 23<sup>rd</sup> between 4:00pm and 6:00 pm. This event offers behind-the-scene tours and an exhibition of highlights from the State Archives, including many of the records used and researched by Gary Shattuck.

“Archival records are created every day and do not need to be in paper form or hundreds of years old to be important and valuable” said Marshall, who also chairs the Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board.

“Providing the opportunity for researchers like Gary to share their work, experiences and findings is as important as preserving and providing access to the records themselves.”

The Vermont State Archives and Records Administration is located at 1078 US Route 2 in Middlesex and both events are free and open to the public. Directions and additional information are available at [www.vermont-archives.org](http://www.vermont-archives.org) or by contacting VSARA at [archives@sec.state.vt.us](mailto:archives@sec.state.vt.us) or 802-828-2308. VSARA’s mission is to provide, protect, promote, and preserve Vermont public records, in collaboration with other public agencies, for the benefit of the public they collectively serve.

