

Old Vermont Films: Opportunities for Research, New Films & Community Events

Fred Pond, MLS, Dana Medical Library, UVM & Vermont Historical Society

Objective: New Life for Old Films

In 2009-10, the Leahy Library of Vermont Historical Society transferred a number of 16mm films in their collection to digital format. We hoped this might generate new interest and use of the re-formatted works. Here are two films for a case study review:



Loew, Edgar (Producer) & Stoloff, Victor (Director). (1942). *Farm Work is War Work* [Motion picture]. United States: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Promotional film for Volunteer Land Corps recruitment; follows the experiences a young adult who learns to work on a Vermont farm as part of his contribution to the war effort.

- > **Film protagonist contacted Vermont Historical Society, calling attention to film, in National Archives.**
- > **Filed in Barnard area, script by summer resident & author Dorothy Thompson.**
- > **Enriched knowledge about Thompson's life in Vermont.**
- > **Expressed interest by Barnard Historical Society for community viewing.**



Going, Russell (Producer) & Bailey, Harold (Photographer). (1944). *The Vermont State Guard in WW II* [Motion picture]. United States: Vermont State Guard.

Depicts the training activities of Vermont's citizen militia in various state locations.

- > **Uncovered in Vermont Historical Society vault entitled 'Montpelier – Silent.'**
- > **Second copy, filming background document & related film clip found in state archives.**
- > **Unique to the state, enriches knowledge about war-time Vermont.**
- > **Four community showings across the state as of August 2011.**

Outcome: More Use

Digitized films have dramatically increased use of the Vermont Historical Society's film collection – ***Having a group of them digitized aids significantly in their use*** – Paul Carnahan, Society Librarian

Recent works which accessed digitized films:

- Lyons, Daniel (Producer). (2010). *Headline Vermont* [DVD]. Available at www.vpt.org
- Jacobson, Nora (Producer). (in production). *The Vermont Movie: Freedom & Unity* [DVD].
- Pond, Fred (Producer). (in production). *Tunbridge at 250* [DVD].
- Raynor, Tom (in press). *Vermont 1942: The Summer of Idealism - Dorothy Thompson, The Land Army and its Legacy*. Sinclair Lewis Society Newsletter.



Scene from *Headline Vermont*