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

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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:


- 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.
- Filmed 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.


- 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:


- Pond, Fred (Producer). (in production). Tunbridge at 250 [DVD].