

HISTORIC ROOTS

HISTORIC ROOTS

Ann E. Cooper, *Editor*
Deborah P. Clifford, *Associate Editor*

ADVISORY BOARD

Sally Anderson	Nancy Chard
Marianne Doe	Mary Leahy
Robert Lucenti	Caroline L. Morse
Meg Ostrum	Michael Sherman
Marshall True	Catherine Wood

Publication of *Historic Roots* is
made possible in part by grants from the
A.D. Henderson Foundation and Vermont-NEA.

A Magazine of Vermont History

Vol. 4

August 1999

No. 2

LOCAL HEROES

Thomas Jefferson and Ann Story lived at the time when the United States became independent and during the early years of its new government.

Most people in this country know something about Thomas Jefferson. He was the third President of the United States. He wrote the Declaration of Independence. He built a beautiful house called Monticello in Virginia. His profile is on the nickel. He is a famous man, an important figure in our history.

Ann Story was a woman who moved to Salisbury, Vermont when it was wild frontier country. She lived in a log cabin and had few belongings. There are no pictures of her. She left no writings. Few people outside of Vermont have heard of her.

Why are she and Thomas Jefferson in the same sentence? Because, like Jefferson, her actions helped determine the future of Vermont and the whole course of the Revolutionary War.

Learning about the real person who was Thomas Jefferson helps us to see beyond the famous man of history books. It helps us to understand that history is the study of real people living real lives and why they acted the way they did.

Ann Story's life was not glamorous. She left no writings and never held office. Yet, as an

ordinary woman, she still had a great effect on many lives and on history.

Her story, like many others, has been passed down to us by oral tradition. Stories about her have become part of Vermont history. Other stories, such as those of soldiers who fought in the Civil War, people who survived the 1919 flu epidemic, settlers who made farms and homesteads out of dense forest, are preserved in diaries and letters. They are also part of our history. So are the stories of all the people we have never heard of.

Some of these people, like Ann Story, are local heroes. Most of them are unknown today. But each of them influenced the lives around them and the events they lived through. Without them, history would have been different, and the present also.

ANN E. COOPER, *EDITOR*

Rooting Around

If you have old photographs or letters, you might want to try to find out about the people in them. Who were they? What did they do? Would your life have been different if they had done something else?

Local historical societies often have pictures, diaries, and letters from earlier times. It is always interesting to see how towns have changed and to read about other people's lives and thoughts.