



# Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



## 2016 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant

### Interpreting the Champlain Valley Trapping Boat

#### Project Summary

The Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center received a \$5,000 2016 Local Heritage Grant to have students research, write, design and develop interpretive signage on trapping boats on Lake Champlain. The project was the direct outgrowth of a research project funded through a 2014 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant to Middlebury’s Henry Sheldon Museum where Hannaford’s Engineering Design class studied the traditions of muskrat trapping and specifically boatbuilding in the Champlain Valley. During that project, historic boats were brought into the classroom where students measured and drew them, finally building replicas. Students also interviewed trappers and visited historic trapping sites, including a family trapping camp, possibly the last in existence in the region.

The 2016 project utilized that body of student-generated materials with an eye toward designing interpretive materials to allow for wider, more effective dissemination of this research through exhibitions and publications. Students also sourced vendors, eventually recommending local firms, for the production of these materials. Looking forward, the project will use the interpretive panels in area events like boat shows, sportsmen rendezvous, and museum exhibitions.

The project also resulted in the publication of a boat-building monograph that was an overview of the two years of research with a specific focus on the construction of one particular historic trapping boat. Students in the fall 2016 Engineering Design class measured and built a replica of this boat, which provided the bulk of the photographs for the monograph. The result is a detailed description of the history, design, and construction of these unique, vernacular

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Students visited several barns and sheds in the Champlain Valley to measure trapping boats and hear the stories from trappers themselves.

<b>NEIWPC Code</b>	PO12149
<b>Date Complete:</b>	3/17/17
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$5,000.00
<b>Non-federal Match:</b>	\$8,950.00
<b>Total Amount:</b>	\$13,950.00