2018 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant

A New Approach to Teaching the Battle of Bennington to Middle School Students of the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union

Project Summary

The Bennington Museum received a 2018 Local Heritage Grant to fund a project aimed at helping young people understand how the historical memory of the Battle of Bennington was formed and continues to be formed. The funding enabled the Bennington Museum and its partners to carry out a program involving study and creative work by 7th grade students of the Mount Anthony Union Middle School. Students spent two weeks in May 2018 learning about the Battle through study of primary sources, through presentations by local history experts, and through a visit to the Bennington Battlefield in nearby New York State. Students then created digital storytelling projects culminating in public exhibitions of their work.

The project formed partnerships among individuals and organizations that are likely to last. The work laid the basis for continuing study of local heritage in our schools, and the materials will be shared with other schools in Vermont and New York.

Output: Educational programs that tells the story of the Battle of Bennington.

Outcome

Tasks addressed in the 2011 CVNHP Management Plan:

Task 9.11.6: Utilize new and existing research and documentation to support the evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage resources.

Task 9.11.7: Provide opportunities for teachers and students to participate in CVNHP-related field trips and restoration projects.

Tasks addressed in 2017 Opportunities for Action:

IV.A.5.d: Produce coordinated education programs for students.

Students from Mount Anthony Union Middle School in Bennington reenact a muster.