

**HISTORY OF THE ST. ALBANS RAID:  
ANNUAL ADDRESS BEFORE THE  
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.  
DELIVERED AT MONTPELIER, VT.,  
ON TUESDAY EVENING OCTOBER 17, 1876**

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History of the St. Albans raid: Annual address before the Vermont Historical Society. Delivered at Montpelier, VT., on Tuesday EvOctober 17, 1876 by Edward A. Sowles

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**EDWARD A. SOWLES**

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ANNUAL ADDRESS

BEFORE THE

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ON TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 17, 1876.

By Hon. EDWARD A. SOWLES.



ST. ALBANS:  
MESSENGER PRINTING WORKS.  
1876.

## RESOLUTION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The following Joint Resolution was adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives, at their biennial session, 1876:

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Senate be and is hereby directed to procure the printing in pamphlet form of fifteen hundred copies of the address delivered before the Vermont Historical Society on the 17th instant, by the Hon. Edward A. Sowles. That there be furnished to each member of the Senate and House of Representatives two copies; to each Town Clerk, one copy; to each college, normal school and academy in this state, one copy; to the Governor, each of the heads of departments, and each Judge of the Supreme Court, one copy; to the State Library, two hundred copies; to the Vermont Historical Society, two hundred and fifty copies, and that the remaining copies shall be divided between the public libraries in the State not otherwise supplied, under the direction of the State Librarian.*

The following letter was addressed to Hon. Edward A. Sowles:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE,  
MONTPELIER, VT., OCTOBER 23, 1876. }

*Dear Sir:* By a joint resolution adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives, I am directed to procure the printing of fifteen hundred copies of the address delivered by you before the Vermont Historical Society on the 17th instant, at Montpelier, on "The St. Albans Raid."

I would respectfully request you to furnish me with a copy of the above mentioned address for publication as soon as convenient.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

F. W. BALDWIN, *Secretary of the Senate.*

To which the following reply was received:

SENATE CHAMBER, MONTPELIER, VT., OCT., 25, 1876.

*Dear Sir:* Your favor of the 23d inst., informing me officially that a joint resolution adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives directed you to procure the printing of fifteen hundred copies of my address delivered before the Vermont Historical Society in the Representatives' Hall, at Montpelier, on the 17th inst., on "The St. Albans Raid," is received.

The address was prepared hastily, without any expectation that I should be called on by the Legislature to furnish a copy for publication. My private engagements and official duties have been such as to prevent a revision of the same. This, alone, might be ground for hesitancy in complying with the flattering request. I have concluded, however, to furnish it, trusting that the printer will correct and the public overlook all imperfections that may appear in so hastily written a production.

Yours Very Respectfully,

EDWARD A. SOWLES.

PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, 1876.

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The annual meeting of the Vermont Historical Society was called to order in room No. 12, in the State House, at Montpelier, on Tuesday, October 17th, 1876, at 2 p. m.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to nominate officers for the coming year: Samuel Wells, Dr. P. D. Bradford and Charles Dewey.

The Librarian's report was read by Mr. M. D. Gilman, the librarian, showing that the number of additions to the collections of the Society for the last two years is 4,784, for which acknowledgement has been made to each donor.

The Treasurer's report was read by Col. H. D. Hopkins, and ordered recorded.

E. B. Campbell, of Brattleboro, and J. G. Darling, of Boston, were elected honorary members.

The committee on nominations reported a list of officers for the ensuing year. Rev. Dr. Lord declined a re-election as president, and the report was on motion recommitted. Charles W. Porter and John W. Page were elected members of the Society. The following nominations were reported and the gentlemen named elected officers of the Society:

President—Hon. E. P. Walton, of Montpelier.

Vice-Presidents—Hon. James Barrett, of Woodstock, Luther L. Dutcher, of St. Albans, and Rev. Wm. S. Hazen, of Northfield.

Recording-Secretary—Chas. W. Porter, of Montpelier.

Corresponding-Secretaries—Hon. G. G. Benedict, of Burlington, O. S. Bliss, of Georgia.

Treasurer—John W. Page, of Montpelier.

Librarian—Marcus D. Gilman, of Montpelier.

Curators—Hon. R. S. Taft, of Burlington; H. A. Cutting, M. D., of Lunenburg; Hon. Gilbert A. Davis, of Reading; Rev. W. H. Lord, D. D., of Montpelier, and H. A. Huse, Esq., of Montpelier.

Printing and Publishing Committee—Ex. Gov. Hiland Hall, of Bennington; Hon. E. P. Walton, of Montpelier, Rev. W. H. Lord, of Montpelier.

President Walton, on taking the chair, read the following letter from T. W. Wood:

MONTPELIER, Vt., Oct. 17, 1876.

HON. E. P. WALTON:

*My Dear Sir*—Will you do me the favor to present to the Vermont Historical Society the portrait of Rev. Wm. H. Lord, D. D., which I have painted for the Society, with the hope that it may be the commencement of a collection of portraits of men who make the history of our State?

Very Truly Yours,

T. W. WOOD.

Hon. Joseph Poland offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

*Resolved*, That the hearty thanks of this Society be, and hereby are, tendered to the Artist, Thomas W. Wood, Esq., of Montpelier, for the presentation of the accurate and finely executed portrait of its retiring president, the Rev. Dr. William H. Lord.

*Resolved further*, That the Secretary and Librarian be requested to arrange with the proper officers for a suitable place in the State-House for its preservation and exhibition.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary and Librarian of this Society be, and are hereby directed, to receive such portraits of eminent and worthy citizens of the State as may be presented for preservation, and cause the same to be properly placed in the capitol.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five, to be appointed by the President, be raised to co-operate in behalf of this Society in such celebrations as may be had on Vermont centennial days in 1877, at Westminster, Windsor, Hubbardton and Bennington.

Hon. G. A. Davis offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of the Society be required to give a good and sufficient bond, for such sum as the Finance Committee shall deem necessary for the safety of the funds of the Society.

Dr. P. D. Bradford offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Recording-Secretary is requested to prepare complete lists of the resident, corresponding, and honorary members of the Society, for publication with the proceedings.

A revolutionary relic of great interest, a sword of the war of the revolution, was presented by Miss Hemenway.



The Society then adjourned to half-past seven o'clock p. m., then to meet in the hall of the House of Representatives, to be addressed by the Hon. Edward A. Sowles, of St. Albans, on the so-called "St. Albans Raid."

EVENING SESSION.

The Society met and was addressed by Hon. Edward A. Sowles, when it adjourned to October 24th, 9 o'clock, p. m.

OCTOBER 24, 1876.

The Society met pursuant to adjournment.

The President appointed the committee on Vermont Centennial days in 1877 as follows: Hon. Hilland Hall, of Bennington; Rev. P. F. Barnard, of Westminster; Rev. Franklin Butler, of Windsor; Hon. Gilbert A. Davis, of Reading, and Cyrus Jennings, Esq., of Hubbardton.

The following named gentlemen were admitted to membership in the Society, to wit.: Hon. Oscar E. Butterfield, Wilmington; Rev. James H. Babbitt, of Waitsfield; George E. Eaton, Esq., of Danville, and Geo. W. Wing, A. W. Ferrin and Charles Guernsey, of Montpelier.

The Society adjourned without day.

# ADDRESS.

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THE ST. ALBANS RAID.—In July 1863, S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy of the so called Confederate States of America, sent twenty-seven commissioned officers and forty petty officers to Canada, to organize an expedition against Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay, in the State of Ohio, for the purpose of releasing several thousands of Confederate prisoners of war, there held by the United States Government. The facts as there ascertained were reported to the Confederate Congress in December 1863.

On the 20th of December, 1863, Hon. William H. Seward, then Secretary of State, sent a dispatch to Hon. Charles Francis Adams, American Minister at the Court of St. James, for Earl Russell, British Foreign Minister, referring to Mr. Mallory's report, in which he said: "In the opinion of this Government, a toleration in Great Britain, or in those provinces, of the practices avowed by the insurgents, after the knowledge of them now communicated to his lordship, would not be neutrality, but would be a permission to the enemies of the United States to make war against them from British shores."

On the 20th of May, 1864, the Hon. J. F. Howard, United States Consul at St. John, N. B., likewise communicated to Mr. Seward information that an unusually large number of disloyal citizens of the United States had quite recently passed that city *en route* for Canada *via* Fredricton and *Riviere du Loup*.

The greater part of these insurgents had been living for some months in Halifax—others had found their way north from Nassau and Bermuda. The rebel general Frost had also then recently proceeded to Canada from St. John, N. B.

On the 31st of May, 1864, Mr. Seward officially communicated the facts contained in Mr. Howard's letter to Lord Lyons, British Minister at Washington, and the latter transmitted the same to Viscount Monck, then Governor-General of Canada, as well as to the British Government.

On the 29th of July, 1864, Col. R. H. Hill, in command at Detroit, Michigan, communicated to General Dix, in command of the Department of the East, that certain leading men of the South had found their way through the Union lines into the neighboring provinces of Canada, and it was soon ascertained beyond question that Jacob Thompson, formerly Secretary of the Interior, C. C. Clay, Jr., and George W. Saunders, formerly members of the U. S. Congress, were the accredited agents of the Confederate States in Canada, stationed at Niagara and other important points.

The purposes of their mission became very apparent to Mr. Seward and Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War. Accordingly, Mr. Seward, on the 9th of August, 1864, again enclosed to Lord Lyons, copies of communications "in regard to reported hostile projects of insurgent citizens of the United States lurking in Canada, with a view to inquiry into the matter, and to the adoption of precautionary measures. "Lord Lyons, as it appears from the correspondence, placed the British Government in full possession of all the facts.

About the 20th of November, 1863, Governor Smith, then Governor of Vermont, doubtless alarmed at the demonstrations, asked the War Department at Washington for 5,000 rifled muskets, a large quantity of ammunition, horses for a battery, and authority to station troops at Swanton, St. Albans and Burlington. Col. Ludlow was sent to Vermont by Major General Dix, on the 25th of November, 1863, and on the 28th of November, General Dix telegraphed Mr. Stanton, as follows: "Colonel Ludlow telegraphs all is arranged well in Vermont." On the 30th of November, 1863, Mr.