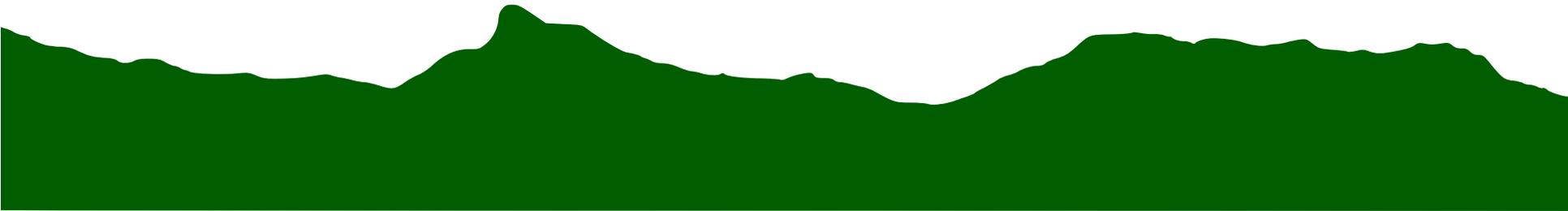




# Vermont's New Roving Archivist Program

James Condos  
Vermont Secretary of State

NASS State Heritage Committee Meeting  
July 1, 2019  
Santa Fe, New Mexico



# Background on the Roving Archivist Concept

- Not a new idea: several states have had roving archivists in the past
  - Massachusetts and Vermont currently
- Roving archivists have been part-time contractors who “rove” from one historical records repository to another providing archival assistance
- Grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), available to State Historical Records Advisory Boards (SHRABs), can be used as start-up funds

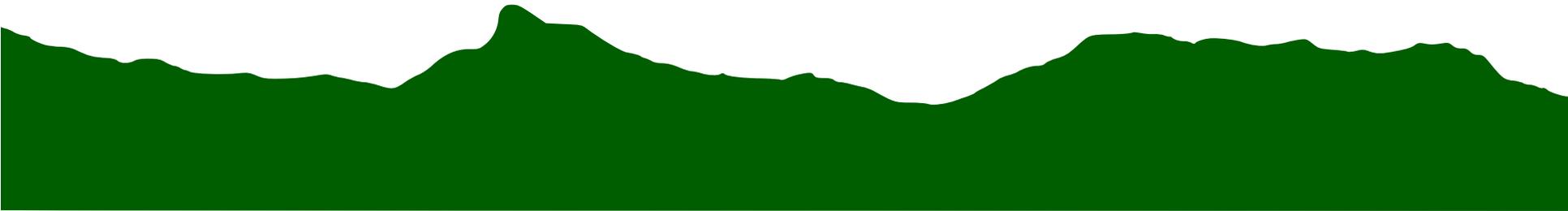


# Value of Roving Archivist Programs

- Allow state archival programs to focus on their public records responsibilities while also providing support for state historical records (private and public) across the state.
- Provide expertise at a low-cost (one single roving archivist) to multiple historical records repositories, such as local historical societies, museums, public libraries, colleges, etc.
- Streamline archival programs and services offered at a statewide level, which increases opportunities for grant-funded state projects.

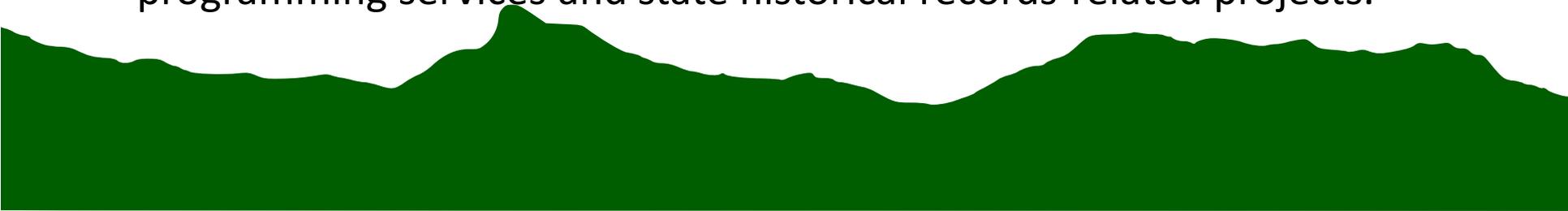
**BUT, to have a success program....**

**Roving archivists need sustainable employment and funding**



# Launching VT's Roving Archivist Program

- **May 2017:** With Secretary of State (SoS) funding for a part-time temporary coordinator, Vermont State Archivist and the Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board (VHRAB) creates “Vermont Historical Records Program” (VHRP).
- **June 2017:** VHRP Coordinator requests state programming grant from NHPRC and begins dual role as temporary “roving archivist.”
- **June 2018:** VHRP Coordinator becomes a full-time *limited* service position using \$40K NHPRC grant and SoS funds remainder of salary and all benefits. Roving increases and VHRP adds other services.
- **June 2019:** NHPRC extends funding for VHRP for two more years.
- **Goal for June 2021:** VHRP Coordinator becomes a full-time *permanent* SoS position and grant funds, including the \$40K annual NHPRC state programming grant, are shifted to statewide archival programming services and state historical records-related projects.



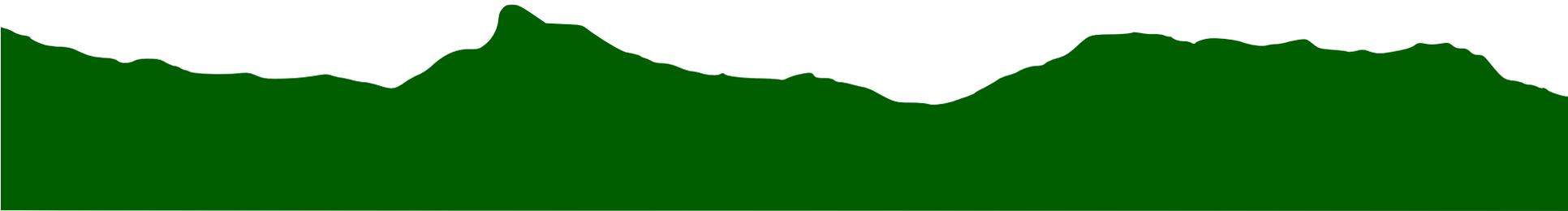
# Current Vermont Roving Archivist Activities

- One-on-one archival assistance with “lone arrangers” at historical societies, public libraries, colleges, museums, and other Vermont historical records repositories with single staff members
- On-site archival assessments & training sessions (41 locations to date)
- Statewide Workshops (15 to date)
  - Emergency preparedness and response
  - “How to Think Like an Archivist”
  - Grant writing
  - Digitization



# VHRP Presentations at Local Conferences

- New England Archivists
- New England Museum Association
- Downtown and Historic Preservation (Vt.)
- Vermont Library Association
- Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association
- Vermont Emergency Preparedness
- League of Local Historical Societies & Museums (Vt.)



# VHRP Coordinator is MORE than a Roving Archivist

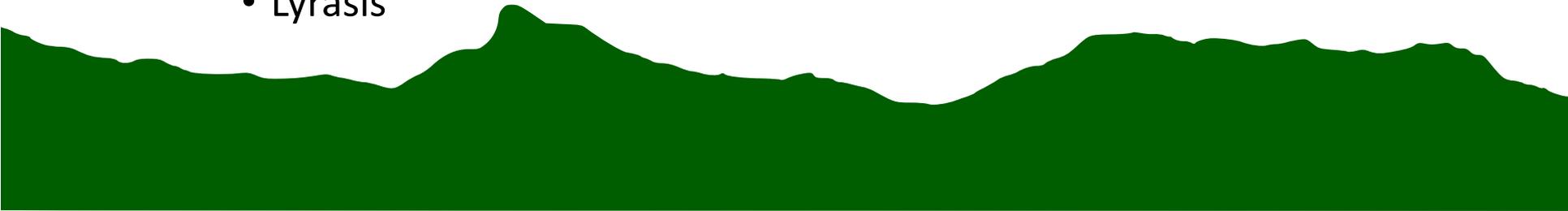
VHRP Coordinator also serves as the external liaison for the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA) and actively partners with:

- Vermont Historical Society
- Vermont Department of Libraries
- Vermont Arts Council
- Vermont Emergency Management
- University of Vermont
- Vermont Archives Network
- Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance
- Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
- ...and many others



# And, thanks to VHRP...

- Statewide capacity for archival assistance, including emergency preparedness, now exists in Vermont:
  - Vermont Arts & Culture Disaster and Resilience Network (VACDARN)
  - New Collections Care and Conservation Alliance (CCCA)
  - Contingency contracts with disaster recovery vendors (*in collaboration with State of Vermont Procurement Office*)
- Statewide Grant-Funded Records Projects with Other Funders
  - Institute of Museum and Library Services
  - Vermont Community Foundation
  - Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership
  - Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
  - Lyrasis





## For more specific information:

Vermont Historical Records Program (VHRP) Coordinator and Roving Archivist is **Rachel Onuf**. Rachel can be reached at:

[rachel.onuf@vermont.gov](mailto:rachel.onuf@vermont.gov)

802-828-2204