

Weston A. Cate, Jr. (1921-2010)
Vermont History Radio Broadcasts, ca. 1978-1983
RA-3

Introduction

This collection consists of recordings of radio broadcasts made by former Vermont Historical Society director, Weston A. Cate, Jr., as part of the historical radio program, "The Voice of the Vermont Historical Society." The original recordings were preserved on 68 reel-to-reel tapes, which have subsequently been transferred onto 14 cassette tapes and 25 compact discs. The original reel-to-reel tapes were found in Director Michael Sherman's office in 1990 and transferred to the VHS library. The collection occupies one document storage box (1 linear foot) of shelf space.

Biographical Note

Weston A. Cate, Jr. (July 16, 1921 - September 23, 2010) was born the son of Arlene Jeffords and Rev. Weston Cate in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. He grew up in Nashua, New Hampshire, and Auburn, Maine, and graduated from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. He worked as an English teacher at the Hartford High School in White River Junction, Vermont, from 1947 to 1958. In 1958, he moved to Montpelier, where he served as executive secretary of the Vermont Education Association from 1958 to 1974. Between 1975 and 1985, he was executive director of the Vermont Historical Society. In his retirement, he became a dealer of Vermont books and ephemera and created his own homegrown company, Adamant Books.

Weston Cate held a lifelong interest in history, publishing, and journalism. While living in White River Junction, he worked as a part-time columnist for the *Valley News*. He was also a frequent public speaker and contributor of op-ed pieces to local newspapers. When he was director of the Vermont Historical Society, he produced the historical radio program, "The Voice of the Vermont Historical Society." He was also known locally for the radio broadcast of his reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." He was also the author histories of both the Vermont Historical Society and the town of Calais and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Center for Research in Vermont in 2006.

Weston Cate was active in many local organizations and community affairs. He held several town positions, including town moderator, planning commission member, and selectman in East Montpelier, and school board member in Montpelier. He was married to Jean Margaret Stetson in Derby Line on June 29, 1944.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of recordings of radio broadcasts made by Weston A. Cate, Jr., during his tenure as director of the Vermont Historical Society. These

broadcasts were part of a historical radio program called “The Voice of the Vermont Historical Society,” which first aired over station WNCS-FM in Montpelier in June, 1977. This program, described in a VHS newsletter from November - December 1977 as a fifteen minute broadcast on historical topics, first aired on Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm and covered a wide range of topics related to Vermont’s history. The specific subjects discussed in all recordings included in the collection are listed in the inventory below.

Weston A. Cate’s original radio broadcasts were preserved on 68 reel-to-reel tapes (5”) numbered from RA3.1 to RA3.68. These tapes were later transferred onto 14 cassette tapes numbered 378.1 to 378.14. These cassette tapes have, in turn, been recorded onto 25 compact discs. While the majority of the original reel-to-reel tapes are undated, dated broadcasts span from July 1978 to April 1983 with the bulk dating from 1980.

Related Collections

The collections of the VHS library also include Weston Cate’s histories of Calais, *Forever Calais : a history of Calais, Vermont* (974.31 C125f), and of the Vermont Historical Society, *Up and doing : the Vermont Historical Society, 1838-1970* (974.306 C282) as well as a sound recording of an interview of Weston A. and Jean Cate by Ethan Hubbard about their family camp on Nelson Pond in Woodbury, Vt., 1974 (Audio 80A). Collections of the VHS library also include the Cate Family Papers, 1864-1978 (Doc 585-590, FB-95, Size B, C, and D).

Inventory

The following is a as a guide to all the radio broadcasts in the collection. The topic and date (if known) of each broadcast is included with the cassette tape number, reel-to-reel tape number, and compact disc number indicating where that recording may be found.

Cassette Tape (M #)	Reel-to Reel Tape (RA #)	Compact Disc	Topic	Date
378.1	3.17	378.1	Margaret Macarthur and the work of the Vermont Historical Society	Unknown
378.1	3.18	378.1	Philip Lord	4/1982
378.1	3.19	378.1	Larkin Mead	1/1981
378.1	3.30	378.1	Statistics on the health of Vermonters, ca. 1857	Unknown
378.2	3.35	378.2	R. Davis on Will Davis’ Vermont humor and jokes	3/1982
378.2	3.11	378.2	Shaker gardens and seeds and the history of the Shakers	Unknown

378.2	3.08	378.2	Groundhog Day; Boy Scout Day; Famous Vermonters honored in February; Lincoln's Birthday in Vermont; and other special days in February.	Unknown
378.2	3.53	378.2	The Rural Vermont newspaper in 1886	Unknown
378.3	3.07	378.3	Ghost towns in Vermont	Unknown
378.3	3.40	378.3	Puzzle of Samuel Hopkins; and Making potash in Vermont	Unknown
378.3	3.60	378.3	District 11 school in Marshfield in 1875 - 85	Unknown
378.3	3.51	378.3	More on District 11 school and their boys band	9/14/1980
378.3	3.64	378.3	Prof. Leon Bean on Vermont folklore and tall tales	Unknown
378.4	3.54	378.4A	Eliza Chapman Weeks	1/4/1981
378.4	3.55	378.4A	Vermont country fairs; horseracing, poultry and apple judging at fairs	Unknown
378.4	3.56	378.4B	The story of Rowland Robinson	10/26/1980
378.4	3.57	378.4B	The automobile in the early days of Vermont	Unknown
378.4	3.46	378.4B	Summer teas in Vermont	Unknown
378.5	3.42	378.5A	Historical preservation of old buildings, including horse sheds, outhouses and corn cribs	Unknown
378.5	3.06	378.5A	Payne Turnpike	Unknown
378.5	3.22	378.5A	The last words of a person	Unknown
378.5	3.43	378.5B	Legislative "fun" session in 1931, occurring after the regular session	Unknown
378.5	3.23	378.5B	Poor farms and the southwest corner of Vermont	Unknown
378.6	3.38	378.6A	How East Montpelier came to be	Unknown
378.6	3.39	378.6A	Cold weather records and living in cold and snow	Unknown
378.6	3.28	378.6B	Case of the 57 fat hogs in St. Johnsbury court	12/7/1980
378.6	3.41	378.6B	Story of the Johnnycake Trail	4/1983
378.6	3.32	378.6B	Mud, bathtubs, and bathing	Unknown
378.7	3.65	378.7A	Corn	10/3/1982
378.7	3.66	378.7A	Importance of bells in Vermont	9/13/1981
378.7	3.67	378.7A	Household chores in early Vermont	Unknown
378.7	3.63	378.2B	Montpelier in 1902 and history [of the town?] from 1787-1902	Unknown
378.7	3.31	378.2B	Postage stamps dealing with Vermont and history of the postage stamp	Unknown
378.8	3.33	378.8A	Underground Railroad and views on	Unknown

			slavery in early Vermont	
378.8	3.12	378.8A	Old fashioned vegetable varieties I	Unknown
378.8	3.34	378.8B	Old fashioned vegetable varieties II	Unknown
378.8	3.13	378.8B	Potatoes	8/17/1980
378.9	3.05	378.9A	Tall tales of Vermont animals and birds	7/6/1978
378.9	3.58	378.9A	Montpelier school system in 1915 by the Senior class of 1915	Unknown
378.9	3.59	378.9A	The old general store in Vermont	Unknown
378.9	3.52	378.9B	Mud season	6/22/1980
378.9	3.37	378.9B	Old fashioned camp meetings	Unknown
378.10	3.25	378.10A	Samuel Reed Hall	11/9/1980
378.10	3.16	378.10A	Panthers in Vermont	Unknown
378.10	3.27	378.10A	Battle of the flowers and the choice of state flower in 1894	Unknown
378.10	3.21	378.10B	Visit of Emperor of China to Burlington in 1853	Unknown
378.10	3.36	378.10B	<i>Broken tape</i> - Civic interests in Montpelier and a poem about Montpelier	8/3/1980
378.11	3.44	378.11A	Gardening in Vermont; 19 th century vegetables types; and Weston Cate's heritage garden	Unknown
378.11	3.24	378.11A	Jackson's son murder ballad and H. H. Flanders folk music collection	Unknown
378.11	3.14	378.11A	The Vermonter Magazine	Unknown
378.11	3.20	378.11B	The WPA book about Vermont	8/31/1980
378.11	3.26	378.11B	Trains in Vermont and train wrecks	Unknown
378.11	3.15	378.11B	Daniel Webster at Stratton Mountain	Unknown
378.12	3.10	378.12A	<i>Broken tape</i> – Vermont standard and superior one room schools	11/23/1980
378.12	3.62	378.12A	Rev. Alexander Twilight of Brownington, VT, and his "old stone house"	Unknown
378.12	3.61	378.12A	Story of Ira Dutton (Brother Joseph) who worked with Friar Damien to treat lepers on Molokai	Unknown
378.12	3.68	378.12B	What being a rural mailman was like 40 years ago	Unknown
378.12	3.45	378.12B	John Henry Hopkins, Jr., who wrote "We Three Kings of Orient Are"	12/21/1980
378.12	3.48	378.12B	Beekeeping and honey in Vermont	Unknown
378.13	3.47	378.13A	The Noon house (or Nooninghouse); and June training day in Vermont	Unknown
378.13	3.50	378.13A	Old post and toll roads and canals in Vermont	Unknown

378.13	3.04	378.13B	Beginning of the town of Marshfield; Vermont Civil War soldier (the last one to survive); and the Belknap blade	Unknown
378.13	3.49	378.13B	Gardening and old fashioned vegetables	5/10/1981
378.13	3.51 end	378.13B	Bert Harmon Townshend on the Marshfield Band	9/14/1980
378.14	3.01	378.14A	Maple sugaring	Unknown
378.14	3.02	378.14A	Montpelier's 1845 town report	Unknown
378.14	3.03	378.14B	Winter in Vermont	2/3/1980
378.14	3.29	378.14B	Beginnings of Barre-Montpelier Airport	Unknown
None made	3.09	None made	Introduction to new Vermont books	Unknown

No cassette tapes were made from number RA3.9 of Wes Cate's reel-to-reel tapes.