

# **CHAMPLAIN VALLEY RELOCATION GUIDE**

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**For Mike Gannett's  
[www.burlingtonvermonthomes.com](http://www.burlingtonvermonthomes.com)  
And esteemed visitors to his web site**

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## **Introduction**

When passengers first glimpse Lake Champlain as our flight banks for its approach to Burlington International Airport, exclamations of wonder and delight resound throughout the cabin. Late afternoon sun glistens across the water, casting a golden glow on Vermont's Queen City. Tree-lined neighborhoods blanket the hillside crowned by the University of Vermont. The landscape segues into suburban areas that gently evolve into an undulating rural countryside. Church steeples rise above villages nestled in valleys surrounded by mountains. Whether the first time, or the fiftieth, reaction to the view of New England's West Coast is the same; it is spectacular.

Spectacular views are everywhere; Vermont is one state that actually looks like its postcards. Encompassing Chittenden, Grand Isle, Franklin, and Addison Counties, with influences extending into Washington and Lamoille Counties, Champlain Valley is more than just a pretty place to visit, there is an innovative spirit that permeates the landscape and makes it one of the best places to live and work in the United States. This is not a self-declared designation; numerous awards have been heaped upon the region. Burlington alone has received close to 50 awards since late 1960s including the Top City to Have It All by Arts and Entertainment Television. Vermont is the Healthiest State and the second Most Livable State in 2005 according to Morgan Quitno Press.

Vermont real estate ranges from single-family houses to condominiums, lakefront homes to mountain cabins, established neighborhoods to new developments. Champlain Valley has all of these. It is evident throughout the region that residents take pride in their homes, whether the structure has been standing for over 200 years, or was just completed two months ago. If you are searching for a place with four distinct seasons, excellent public schools, close proximity to cultural events, superb hospitals, historic homes, a solid historic foundation, and mountain views, you've found it here.

Vermonters take pleasure in four distinct seasons that provide a wide breadth of activities throughout the year. Although winter temperatures can drop far below zero, excellence of winter sports more than make up for the cold. Whether skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, skating or ice fishing, travel time is generally less than an hour. As soon as the snow starts to melt in the spring, bicyclists utilize hundreds of miles of bike paths along scenic routes. Runners and hiking enthusiasts follow suit. Seventeen public and two private courses greet golfers of all skill levels. State parks offer camping, hiking trails, and boating. Of course, area lakes, rivers, and streams provide a myriad of places to fish.

Much has been written about fall in Vermont, but the season really has to be experienced first hand to appreciate the magnificent array nature presents. Mixed hardwood forests blanket the region with a quilt of brilliant color ranging from yellow to brilliant oranges, crimsons, and purples, accented by evergreens, luring leaf peepers from many nations.

Beauty, innovative spirit, and the best places to live, work and play. What more can the region offer? Plenty. Let's start with the Greater Burlington area.

## **Greater Burlington Area/Chittenden County**

Greater Burlington, consisting of the city of Burlington and 17 communities that make up Chittenden County, is the most populous in the state with over 148,000 residents. Burlington is the largest community (39,025), and Essex (19,140), Colchester (16,960), and South Burlington (16,431) follow. The smallest is tiny Buels Gore with a population of 13. Each community has its own distinct character, from urban to a more rural landscape. The transition from city to countryside is gentle and open farmland can be reached in less than 15 minutes from downtown Burlington.

Nestled between Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains, Greater Burlington is ideal if you are looking for family-oriented neighborhoods that are convenient to shopping, schools, cultural events, and the other amenities associated with small cities. Housing prices in Chittenden County during 2003 averaged less than \$220,000, accounting for close to one-third of real estate sales in Vermont.

Often referred to as the Gateway to Northern New England, not only because it is the hub for major modes of transportation, Greater Burlington is the commercial and financial center of Vermont and the heart of the only Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in the state, which reaches into Grand Isle and Franklin Counties, with connections to Addison County. Home of IBM, Burton Snowboards, IDX, Vermont Teddy Bear, and Ben and Jerry's, the area provides necessary infrastructures, technologically advanced telecommunication systems, and business and education partnerships that benefit businesses and manufacturers.

Forbes recognized the area as an ideal place to live when working from home, when they rated Burlington fourth in their "Best Places to Telecommute." Greater Burlington real estate agents are knowledgeable about the high-band Internet connections and infrastructures available throughout the region. The majority of new homes in Vermont are pre-wired for Internet and cable access during construction. Many older homes have been upgraded to accommodate today's technology.

The area can be accessed through several modes of transportation. I-89, Routes 7, 2 and 15 are the major thoroughfares into Burlington and outlying communities. Lake Champlain Transportation Company provides ferry service between Vermont and New York from locations in Addison County, the Burlington waterfront, and Grand Isle. Burlington International Airport, the state's largest, is located in South Burlington with service to major cities, including Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Chicago. Amtrak furnishes rail service into Essex Junction. Vermont Transit Lines provides bus service throughout the Northeast, linking the major cities of New England with Boston, Montreal, and New York City. Based in Burlington, CCTA operates regular bus routes to twelve communities in the Greater Burlington area.

## **Burlington**

The largest city in Vermont with a population of 40,000, Burlington is located on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain. Although businesses are scattered throughout the city, downtown and the area surrounding Church Street is still the prime commercial center. Burlington's waterfront is experiencing a renaissance; luxury condominiums are within walking distance of downtown, shopping, cultural events, business establishments and transportation.

Burlington homes range from classic brick built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, to innovative modern structures. There are homes for all tastes; Victorian, Queen Anne, Tudor, Federalist, cottages, ranch, and condominiums. The Hill Section showcases impressive mansions built during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century when Burlington was a major port for the lumber industry. The South End reflects styles popular during the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century when that neighborhood was developed. The New North End is indicative of the 1940s and 50s, when housing was produced for returning servicemen and women. The Old North End built up during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries when workers at the nearby factories and mills needed housing. Perhaps the most upscale Vermont condos are located on the Waterfront, an area that has undergone a renaissance.

Some say that Burlington's Church Street pedestrian mall is reminiscent of Boulder, Colorado. I have to agree with them. Although active during winter, the street veritably bustles with activity during when the weather warms up. Street vendors (licensed, of course) offer a variety of goods and food items while musicians and magicians entertain. Spectators can view the show from a variety of places. Benches are strategically placed along Church Street, and those who wish to dine al fresco, a number of the restaurants and coffee shops have outside tables available.

## **Addison County**

Immediately south of Chittenden County, Addison County has a population of almost 37,000. Ranked 16<sup>th</sup> Northeast in *Progressive Farmer's* "Best Places to Live in Rural America," the county leads the state (with Franklin County) in farm acreage and value of products sold, primarily products associated with dairy farming. Rolling farmland surrounds quaint towns replete with village greens and steeped churches. The Town of Middlebury is no exception. Its steeped church overlooks Main Street, where a marker located in Cannon Park commemorates John Deere, inventor of the "plow that broke the plains." Deere apprenticed in a blacksmith shop close to the park from 1821-1825.

Although farmland predominates, most towns are within commuting distance of the Greater Burlington area. Architecture is similar to that found in most Vermont communities, since traditional architecture tends to be consistent throughout New England, contributing to the mystique that enfolds real estate in Vermont. Neighborhoods surrounding Middlebury College show a mix of styles. Properties, especially those near the Morgan Horse Farm, evoke the gentleman farmer. Residents also have easy access to Rutland and southern Vermont. The region is also conducive to outdoor pursuits.

## **Franklin County**

A leader in farm acreage, Franklin County is the largest Maple producing county in the United States, the largest milk-producing county in New England, and the top agricultural county in Vermont. Regional shopping centers, major department stores, and unique and specialty shops mix with historic downtowns to provide a unique experience for resident and visitor alike. Architectural styles include 19<sup>th</sup> Century mansions along main streets and more modern single-family dwellings and condominiums. Lake Champlain real estate is available.

Situated 17 miles from the Canadian border and 30 miles from Burlington, St. Albans is County Seat and business center for Franklin County. It is the site of the annual Vermont Maple Festival held on the last full weekend in April, a celebration that draws more than 50,000 visitors from all over the world. Historically known as the Rail City, St. Albans was the railroad center of northern Vermont during the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. St. Albans is the site of the northernmost engagement of the Civil War. On October 19, 1864, 20 confederate cavalymen robbed three banks in St. Albans, making off with \$200,000.

## **Grand Isle County**

The smallest county in Vermont, and the most northwest, Grand Isle has an agricultural base of dairy farms and apple orchards. The County consists of several islands in northern Lake Champlain, and the southern part of a peninsula that lies between Missisquoi Bay and the Richelieu River. Close to Burlington and St. Albans, vacation homes and year-round residences take advantage of incredible views. The County experienced the state's highest growth rate from 2000 to 2003.

The southernmost island of Grand Isle County includes the communities of South Hero and Grand Isle. Jedediah Hyde Log Cabin, built in Grand Isle in 1783, is considered to be the oldest log cabin still standing in the United States, and was occupied by direct descendants of Jedediah until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

## **Lamoille County**

Tourism and agriculture provide the economic base for Lamoille County. Less than 45 minutes from downtown Burlington, the region's quaint villages, exemplary outdoor recreation, and unique shops, make it one of the most popular places to visit in Vermont. Stowe Mountain Resort, Trapp Family Lodge and Smugglers' Notch are favorite winter and summer destinations for outdoor enthusiasts from all over the world. Because of this, there is a high connection to service industry jobs, although Montpelier and the Greater Burlington area do attract commuters. Stowe Vermont real estate consists of year round single family homes and condominiums, as well as second homes. In addition to traditional homes, chalets were a popular building style during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. Houses outside of the ski areas tend to be more traditional. The county had the state's second highest growth rate from 2000 to 2003.

## **Washington County**

Barre and Montpelier, Vermont's capitol city, are the most populous communities in Washington County, followed by Northfield and Waterbury. Situated in mountains and foothills, local employment in the area is relatively stable through a diversified economy. Rock of Ages, Ben & Jerry's, State Government, education, Cabot cooperative Creamery, Mad River Glen and Sugarbush ski areas, National Life, Capitol City Press, and Vermont Mutual Insurance are among the largest.

Again, homes are quintessential Vermont. Chalet styles are seen more frequently in the mountainous areas. The communities surrounding Mad River Glen and Sugarbush are attractive to those in market for a second home.

## **Schools in the Champlain Valley**

Quality of education is a top priority in Vermont. Property taxes are the major source of funding for local education and rates vary widely among towns. School districts strive to ensure students have the skill sets needed to successfully finish school and attend college.

## **Higher Education in Champlain Valley**

Four institutions of higher learning call Burlington home. The University of Vermont ([www.uvm.edu/](http://www.uvm.edu/)) overlooks the city proper from the top of Main Street in a setting of stately buildings and well-kept greens. The first Land Grant College in the United States, the university presents undergraduate and graduate degrees. UVM has received acclaim in several areas. *The Wall Street Journal* placed UVM 18<sup>th</sup> out of 30 of the top public universities ranked for their success in placing students in the nation's most prestigious medical, law, and business graduate programs. The National Survey of Student Engagement ranked UVM in the 93<sup>rd</sup> percentile in Student-Faculty Interactions and significantly above its peers in Level of Academic challenge and Supportive Campus Environment. *Princeton Review's* "America's Most Connected Campuses" 2004 edition ranked UVM 20<sup>th</sup> among 357 colleges and universities surveyed for technological sophistication. The 2005 edition of the *Fiske Guide to the Best Colleges* says that UVM is a unique blend of small college and large university. Sports are not neglected; the university is well known for its championship basketball and hockey teams.

Champlain College ([www.champlain.edu](http://www.champlain.edu)), situated in the heart of the Hill Section, is a private nonprofit college offering 29 undergraduate programs ranging from Business and Accounting, to Hospitality Services, and Computer Forensics, plus a Master's in Managing Innovation and Information Technology. Internships are offered in most majors, and the college has a 97 percent job placement rate. Champlain was ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in "Best Comprehensive Colleges in the North" by *U.S. News America's Best Colleges 2005*. Champlain's innovative degree in Electronic Game & Interactive Development has been written up in the Boston Globe and the Boston Herald. A number of classes are taught via the Internet.

Burlington College ([www.burlcol.edu](http://www.burlcol.edu)), located near the Lake on North Avenue on the edge of the Old North End, is a small, intimate school, providing a progressive liberal arts

curriculum. Small classes and an atmosphere that promotes encouragement, allows students to design individualized programs specific to their interests.

Community College of Vermont ([www.ccv.edu](http://www.ccv.edu)) is a Vermont State College with 12 learning centers around the state and classes taught via the Internet. Burlington's learning center is located on Pearl Street in downtown Burlington. A two-year institution, Associate and Associate of Applied Science degrees are awarded. Credits are transferable to bachelor's program.

Just minutes from downtown Burlington in Colchester's Winooski Park, St. Michael's College ([www.smcvt.edu](http://www.smcvt.edu)) is a Catholic liberal arts college. One of 270 colleges and universities nationwide allowed to host a Phi Beta Kappa chapter on campus, St. Michael's is consistently ranks as one of the 15 finest master's universities in the North by *U.S. News & World Report*. In addition to excellence in academics, the arts has a strong presence at the college. Saint Michael's Playhouse is one of the oldest Equity theaters in Vermont, auditioning 504 Equity actors in New York City for 20 roles in the summer 2005 season. It is the only fully contracted Actors' Equity Association Theater in the Greater Burlington area and the only CORST (Council of Resident Stock Theaters) theater in Vermont. The college's sports teams frequently receive recognition.

The New England Culinary Institute ([www.neci.edu](http://www.neci.edu)) has grown from one campus to three: two in Vermont at Montpelier and Essex; and one at H. Lavity Stoutt Community College in Tortola, BVI. Associate's and bachelor's degree programs are offered. NECI received the International Association of Culinary Professional's "Cooking School of the Year" award in 2004. Teaching restaurants include NECI Commons on Church Street in Burlington; Butler's and The Tavern at the Inn at Essex; Chef's Table, Main Street Grill & Bar, and La Brioche in Montpelier; as well as banquet and catering services.

Middlebury College ([www.middlebury.edu](http://www.middlebury.edu)) is probably one of the best-known institutions of higher learning in the region. A liberal arts college, Middlebury has had a long-standing international focus; the C.V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad is located in 19 overseas locations. Listed in the 2005 *Princeton Review's* and *Campus Compact's* book, "81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement," the college is nationally known for programs in environmental studies and science, as well as leadership in foreign language instruction and international studies. Graduate and summer programs include summer Language Schools, the Bread Loaf School of English, and the prestigious Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. Twenty-eight percent of students participate in 30 NCAA varsity teams. The Men's Hockey, Women's Lacrosse, Men's Lacrosse, Women's Hockey, and Men's Tennis teams all won national championships in 2004.

Johnson State College ([www.jsc.vsc.edu](http://www.jsc.vsc.edu)), a public institution located in Johnson, awards associates, bachelor's, and master's degrees in education and counseling, as well as a Master of Fine Arts. Part of the Vermont State College system, students are offered a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs.

Goddard College ([www.goddard.edu](http://www.goddard.edu)) a private school located in Plainfield in Washington County. Built on the former Greatwood Estate, Goddard is recognized for innovation in education, encouraging students to be creative, passionate, lifelong learners.

The Champlain Valley Region is within driving distance to other colleges in the State System, including Vermont Law School ([www.vermontlaw.edu](http://www.vermontlaw.edu)) in South Royalton, which is less than an hour and a half from Burlington.

## **Restaurants**

Dining in the Lake Champlain Valley is a delight! Wonderful surprises await the discerning palate. Whether plain food or upscale cuisine, gourmands and gourmets have a lot from which to choose. Delicious latte, cappuccino, espresso and chai can even be found in some of the smallest towns. For those who prefer good old-fashioned coffee or tea; that's available, too! Vermont's own Green Mountain Coffee Roasters is served in many restaurants and coffee shops. But, if you just can't live without Starbuck's, try Barnes & Noble in South Burlington or go to the Starbuck's in Williston.

Since the list of all of the great restaurants and cuisines is lengthy, I did some sleuthing. Souza's at 55 Main Street in Burlington offers authentic all-you-can-eat Brazilian style dining at a fixed price. Friends tell me Roque's Mexicano at 3 Main Street is wicked good, high praise in this part of the country. Italian favorites include Bove's on Pearl Street, Cannon's on North Avenue, Three Tomatoes Trattoria on Church Street, La Villa Mediterranean Bistro & Pizzeria in Shelburne, and Chow Bella on Main Street in St. Albans. The Euro Restaurant in the Essex Towne Marketplace offers Bosnian and Eastern European classics alongside Italian, Austrian, and French dishes. Shanty on the Shore on Battery Street affords beautiful lake views while dining on seafood, as does the more upscale Season's Bistro at the Wyndham Hotel just a few blocks north.

If you like food with an oriental flair, there are a plethora of Chinese restaurants throughout the region. Two of the best are the Single Pebble on Bank Street in Burlington and the Peking Duck House on West Canal Street in Winooski. Burlington has two Japanese restaurants: Koto on Shelburne Road, and Sakura on Upper Church Street. Thai aficionados will want to try Five Spice Café on lower Church Street, and Parima's Restaurant on Pearl Street. Is it curry you want, then the India House and Shalimar of India in Burlington, and the Taste of India in Middlebury is what you are seeking. Vegetarians can safely eat at most of the previous restaurants. Stone Soup on College Street in Burlington has vegetarian dishes, and one can eat-in at the small food court, or order take-out at South Burlington's Healthy Living Natural Foods Market.

Then there's comfort food. Gravy fries and generous hot sandwiches at Nectar's on Burlington's Main Street have sustained many college students and young professionals through the years. Al's French Fries in South Burlington is another tradition, real potatoes are freshly cut and deep fried to perfection in a setting reminiscent of a 1950s diner and malt shop.

Everything maple is featured at the annual Vermont Maple Festival is held the last weekend of April. Over 50,000 people visit the Maple Fest for a weekend of family

entertainment and yummy maple products. A way to get a sampling of what area restaurants are offering is to attend The Green Mountain Chew Chew Festival the last week of June each year. Held at Burlington's Waterfront Park, the Festival features food producers and Burlington area restaurants, music, and fun for all ages.

Click on "Restaurants in the Spotlight" on the *Burlington Free Press* home page for a list and reviews. [www.burlingtonfreepress.com](http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com)

## **Nightlife**

Most communities have a gathering place, but the Greater Burlington area and Stowe have the most active nightlife revolving around music and entertainment. Want to see where Phish got their start? Go to Nectar's, try the gravy fries, and then head upstairs to the Metronome where. Phish played their first paying gig. The Higher Ground on Williston Road in South Burlington has consistently top-notch entertainment, featuring the well known and up-and-comers in the music, comedy, and cabaret scene. Ri-Ra's brings a bit of Ireland to Burlington in a pub atmosphere. A list of clubs in the Greater Burlington area can be accessed by selecting "Entertainment" at the *Free Press* website. [www.burlingtonfreepress.com](http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com)

Theater groups and college theater programs provide diverse theatrical opportunities. The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts brings a wide variety of outstanding programs to the area, including, theater, puppetry, dance, music, jazz and the tours of current Broadway productions. ([www.flynntheater.org](http://www.flynntheater.org)) Lyric Theatre is celebrating its 32<sup>nd</sup> season of musical theatre. The area's largest community theatre group with over 400 members, Lyric has produced more than 60 musicals on the main Flynn Stage. ([www.lyrictheatrevt.org](http://www.lyrictheatrevt.org)) The Waterfront Theatre, Burlington's newest, will open July 3, providing a home for local theater companies to stage their productions. University of Vermont, and St. Michael's College have excellent programs. A myriad of community theater groups abound.

## **Events**

People like to celebrate, and the Lake Champlain Valley is no exception. The New Year is greeted by First Night, followed by the Burlington Winter Festival and the Magic Hat Mardi Gras Parade and Block Party in February. There is something to do every month of the year. In addition to the Maple Fest and Chew Chew festivals, there are: the Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Summer Festival Tour; Vermont Balloon Festival; Vermont Brewers Festival; Small Boat Festival; Stowe Celebrates Summer festival; Vermont Teddy Bear Company's annual Friend for Life Festival; Champlain Valley Folk Festival; Lake Champlain Bluegrass Festival; Northeast Street Rod Nationals; Stowe Foliage Art & Craft Festival; and the Champlain Valley Antiques Festival.

Vermont country fairs and expositions in the Champlain Valley include (in chronological order) the Vermont Flower Show, Vermont Maple Festival, Everything Equine & Horses, Washington County Fair & Field Days, Lamoille County Field Days, Franklin County Field Days, Addison County Field Days, Champlain Valley Exposition, Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival, and the South Hero Applefest & Craft Show. Big name entertainers

love the Champlain Valley Exposition! A list of fairs and links to their activities is at [www.vtliving.com/fairs](http://www.vtliving.com/fairs).

Outdoor enthusiasts have their share of sports events. Vermont Expos minor league baseball team is based at Burlington's Centennial Field, playing to an enthusiastic fan base all season. Fans of area college and high school sports teams are equally enthusiastic, especially when UVM's men's basketball team made it to the NCAA March Madness and trounced Syracuse in the first round of the playoffs. KeyBank's Vermont City Marathon and Marathon Relay has become a major event that attracts runners from beyond New England. The annual LCI All-Season Fishing Tournament is quite popular, and like the others, has a dedicated following that extends beyond Vermont.

Further information is available through several websites. The following provide dates and contact times:

Church Street Marketplace shows all events in Burlington throughout the year at: [www.churchstmarketplace.com/events.html](http://www.churchstmarketplace.com/events.html)

Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce Events Calendar is searchable by dates: [www.vermont.org/events/](http://www.vermont.org/events/)

Vermont Department of Tourism has a site searchable by region and dates: [www.travel-vermont.com/TravelPlanner/Search.aspx?catID=4](http://www.travel-vermont.com/TravelPlanner/Search.aspx?catID=4)

A number of major events are held at the Champlain Valley Exposition and Fairgrounds, for a complete schedule: [www.cvfair.com/events.cfm](http://www.cvfair.com/events.cfm)

### **Attractions**

Vermont is a sightseer's paradise and the Champlain Valley boasts some of the best views in the state! Quintessential Vermont villages and an exquisite landscape bring pleasant surprises as one travels throughout the region. Vermont State Parks are among the best in the world. See [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com) for more information.

The Lake Champlain Valley is home to Ben & Jerry's ([www.benjerry.com](http://www.benjerry.com)) and Vermont Teddy Bear ([www.vermontteddybear.com](http://www.vermontteddybear.com)). Both companies offer year round tours. Glimpses of the Lake and its history can be found at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum at Basin Harbor ([www.lcmm.org](http://www.lcmm.org)), and ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, Vermont's only aquarium located at the Burlington Waterfront ([www.echovermont.org](http://www.echovermont.org)).

Visits to the ski areas are *de rigueur* year round, whether in Stowe, Smuggler's Notch, Bolton Valley, Mad River Glen, or Sugarbush. Stowe's Trapp Family Lodge is still owned and operated by members of the Trapp family of *Sound of Music* fame. Links for skiing are at [www.skivermont.com](http://www.skivermont.com).

Founded by Electra Havemeyer Webb, the Shelburne Museum located in the heart of Shelburne is considered one of the most eclectic museums of art, Americana, architecture

and artifacts in the United States. Nineteenth Century structures provide a glimpse into another era. Visitors can also tour the landlocked “Ticonderoga,” a 220-foot restored steamboat that once carried passengers on Lake Champlain. The museum is open from May 1 through October 31. [www.shelburnemuseum.org](http://www.shelburnemuseum.org)

One of Vermont’s most historic sites, guides at the Ethan Allen Homestead on Burlington’s Intervale provide visitors with an intimate look at the life of Ethan Allen and his family. One of Vermont’s most colorful and historic characters, this famous Green Mountain Boy settled the house and farm along the Winooski River in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. A separate museum on the site contains artifacts and history of the region. [www.ethanallenhomestead.org](http://www.ethanallenhomestead.org)

The Rokeby in Ferrisburgh, Vermont ([www.rokeby.org](http://www.rokeby.org)), showcases the lives of 200 years of the Robinson family; Quakers, farmers, abolitionists, authors, and artists. The Robinsons harbored many fugitive slaves at Rokeby during the 1830s and 1840s. The historic site provides unique insight into the Underground Railroad.

Small, but interesting, the Hyde Log Cabin in Grand Isle has furnishings from the cabin and other homes in Grand Isle County, agricultural and household implements and other items evoking the settlement of Grand Isle. [www.dhca.state.vt.us/HistoricSites/html/hyde.html](http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/HistoricSites/html/hyde.html)

Morgan horses are an integral part of Vermont history. UVM Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge has been the home of the largest breeding program of the state animal since the late 1800s. The farm is open to visitors daily from May 1 through October 31. [www.uvm.edu/morgan/](http://www.uvm.edu/morgan/)

Another famous breed of horses that visits North Hero (just a few short miles from Grand Isle) each summer are the original Herrmann’s Royal Lipizzan Stallions of Austria. The horses seen performing dressage and the famous “Airs Above the Ground” are direct descendants of the horses rescued by General George Patton in World War II. See [www.herrmannslipizzans.com](http://www.herrmannslipizzans.com) for further information.

There are many more attractions to enjoy in the Lake Champlain Valley region. Several sites have more information: [www.vermont.org/visiting/attractions.html](http://www.vermont.org/visiting/attractions.html); [www.vtliving.com/attractions/burl.shtml](http://www.vtliving.com/attractions/burl.shtml); and a comprehensive list at [www.yankeemagazine.com/travel/destinations/champlain.attractions.php](http://www.yankeemagazine.com/travel/destinations/champlain.attractions.php)

The Champlain Valley Region of Vermont is truly a unique place to live, work, and play with friendly people and range of opportunities. Welcome to the Gateway of New England.