

# State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

## Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 222

House concurrent resolution commemorating the placement of a historic marker at Wagon Wheels Farm in South Royalton

Offered by: Representatives Buxton of Tunbridge and McFaun of Barre Town

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack, and Nitka

Whereas, during the early years of the 20th century, Vermont's tourist industry became a mainstay of the State's economy, and

Whereas, in the 1930s, the Vermont Bureau of Publicity advertised the State as an unspoiled landscape, urging visitors from the urban centers of the Northeast to experience rural life through visits to Vermont's working farms, and

Whereas, Dorothy Canfield Fisher promoted Vermont farm stays in her 1931 stage play, *Tourists Accommodated*, and

Whereas, paying guests became a significant factor in Vermont farmers' economic subsistence during the Great Depression, and

Whereas, accommodating tourists was exemplified at Wagon Wheels Farm in South Royalton, where Robert Arthur Slater and Irene St. Jock Slater boarded guests between 1934 and 1942 to supplement their agricultural income, offering accommodations and home cooking, and

Whereas, the Slaters' guest book records the stays of visitors from much of the United States and Canada, and

Whereas, famous visitors to Wagon Wheels Farm included the artist Edward Hopper, and his wife, Josephine Nivison Hopper, who spent month-long sojourns on the farm in the summers of 1937 and 1938, and

Whereas, Edward Hopper's watercolor paintings of the Slaters' farm property, sugarhouse, and scenes along the White River celebrated the peace and beauty of rural Vermont and were exhibited at the Middlebury College Museum of Art in 2013, and

Whereas, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt stayed overnight at Wagon Wheels Farm on August 12, 1941 during a visit to Camp William James in Tunbridge, and

Whereas, the Wagon Wheels farmhouse still stands in South Royalton, on the east side of Route 110, and is visible to thousands of visitors en route to the annual Tunbridge Fair and the biennial Vermont History Expo, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the placement of an historic marker at Wagon Wheels Farm in South Royalton, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Thelma Slater and to the Royalton Historical Society.