



Changing Times

Given the economic times we live in it should come as no surprise that genealogy will take a few hits. I've noticed that several subscriptions and memberships have started to increase (see Foot-Note.com), repositories are reducing hours and staff (see the Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics), and we can expect conference attendance to decrease.

The next few years may present major choices for genealogists. With less disposable income will genealogists find fewer clients able to pay for their services? Will large regional and national conferences happen less frequently?

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President's Message *Bob Murphy*

I have just returned from the 2009 New England Regional Genealogical Conference, held in Manchester, N.H. GSV was there as a sponsoring society; we got many visitors at our booth, and a large number of entries to win door prizes provided by us. Lucky winners were Diane Giammarco of Hinsdale, N.H. (*Branches & Twigs Index*) and Judy Chisholm of Winchester, Mass. (*Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy* and *VG 10:1, Genealogies in Vermont Histories*). By providing door prizes like these and giving out free sample issues at our booth, we hope to attract additional members to the society.

On Friday I had the pleasure of introducing our sponsored speaker, How-

ard Coffin. His talk focused on a project on which he is now working: identifying Civil War sites/connections in all 251 Vermont towns and cities. Those who heard his talk enjoyed it and found it interesting, stimulating and entertaining. Howard is, of course, Vermont's foremost Civil War historian and author, and we were fortunate to be able to get him.

Those staffing the GSV booth are to be thanked for their service, as well as those assisting in other capacities with the event. The list includes Jonathan Stevens, John Leppman, Mary Pat Brigham, Joann Nichols, Judy Goss, Jane Belcher, Bob Clark, Drew Bartley, Jim

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Vermont Genealogy To Be Published Twice A Year

As you may already know the society's journal, *Vermont Genealogy*, has moved to a biannual, semi-annual or twice yearly schedule to save money.

The GSV

Board made the decision based on cost savings and our most recent survey which found about 90% of respondents supported the new publication schedule.

Each issue will have twice the number of pages our quarterly issues contained, so the content will not be reduced in any way.



Is There A Netbook Computer In Your Future?

Netbook computers have made a good impression on users in the last year. Given their advantages of size, portability, cost and general ease of use it's no wonder.

Dick Eastman, the author of *Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter*, loves his netbook. In the July 12, 2009 *Plus Edition* of the newsletter Eastman discuss the versatility of his netbook as he travels to genealogy conferences and make presentations in various settings.

Netbooks can do almost all of what the larger laptop computers can do: word processing, presentations, spreadsheets, web browsing, and instant messaging. While these machines may not have the power features of a more expensive laptop, Michael Horowitz points out "for

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Holmes and probably others. There were about 800 attendees, so there may be some that I never bumped into during the three-day event. In any event it was a huge success and those who were fortunate enough to attend will probably agree.

On another subject, you all should have received your latest issue of Vermont Genealogy and have discovered that it is a "double issue" covering both January and April. The January quarterly issue was delayed while we negotiated prices for printing; a new printer was subsequently selected, saving the society a significant amount over what we had been paying. So the delay was well worth it; because of the delay we decided to print both the January and April issues as one.

Many societies have made the move from quarterly publications to semi-annual, and we are considering doing the same as a cost-cutting move. There is no reduction in content; the semi-annual publication contains twice the pages that a quarterly would. However, some folks prefer to get a publication four times a year rather than just twice, even if the content is the same. Your GSV Board will be meeting to discuss this issue in a couple of weeks, and will keep you apprised of decisions made via the quarterly Newsletter (which will remain quarterly). The subject of a twice-yearly *Vermont Genealogy* was raised in our questionnaire of a couple of years ago. When asked whether members would prefer a twice-a-year publication as a cost saving measure, 90% said they would approve of that.

We are just beginning the planning process for our Fall Conference. We will be discussing venue, possible speakers and topics at our next Board meeting. As I have mentioned before, please let us know of your suggestions, and if you feel past meeting places have been inconvenient for you and you have suggestions for alternative sites, please let us know. Please remember the criteria we use in choosing sites; reasonable price for a room that will hold 30-40 comfortably,

handicap-accessible, clean rest rooms, convenient parking, nearby lunch place(s) or affordable catered luncheon, and audio/visual equipment available that won't break the bank.

One item of interest to all is the recent merging of Vermont Archives and Public Records. For a long time, Public Records (where vital records are kept) was a part of General Services. The recent merging of the two in the old Public Records space in Middlesex has meant some changes in procedure at that facility. Controls are a little more formal than they were in the past, and there may soon be lockers where carrying bags, etc., will have to be placed. The microfilm cabinets holding town records and deeds are no longer in the public area – patrons must look up the film number(s) they desire, and staff then gets (up to five) microfilms for the patron's use. The public space now has windows, which provides a cheerier atmosphere, but creates some difficulty when trying to read poor microfilm images. Archives personnel, however, seem eager to please and I would expect issues like that one to be dealt with adequately in coming months.

Another issue of interest to you all is the digitization of Vermont vital records from 1909 to present. Archives has contracted with Ancestry.com to digitize all Vermont births, marriages and deaths for that time period. The effort is in response to the U.S. Real I.D. law, which is intended to provide greater security in issuing drivers licenses. Although only birth and death records are necessary to comply with the law, Archives is having marriages done as well. The intent (in addition to having a digital database which complies with the law) is to have all records available online at Vermont public libraries for genealogical researchers. I would expect that those outside Vermont may be able to access the records through a subscription to Ancestry, but am not sure of the details yet. What about the pre-1909 records, you say? No change there. They will still be available via the microfilmed card index and at the individual towns themselves, as they currently are.

Conferences, Lectures and Seminars

- 13 August—*Great Dividends: Researching Land in Your Community*, New England Historic Genealogical Society. Details at www.newenglandancestors.org/events.
- 15 August—*Using Diaries and Letters for Genealogical Research*, New England Historic Genealogical Society. Details at www.newenglandancestors.org/events.
- 25 August—*Finding Migration Routes for Your Family in Federal Records*. Pittsfield National Archives and Records Administration. Details available at

www.archives.gov/northeast/pittsfield/public/works_hops.html.

- 9 September—*Finding Your Family Roots in New England*, Worcester Chapter, Massachusetts Society of Genealogists. Details at www.massachusettsocietyofgenealogists.org/worcester.
- 16 September—*Revolutionary War Records*, Massachusetts State Archives. Details at www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcwrk/wrlidx.htm.
- 18, 19, 20 September—Genealogy, Culture and History Seminars, New Hampshire Highland Games,

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Unshelved by Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum



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many applications and users they are good enough.”

A typical netbook has a screen from 8 1/2 to 10 inches wide, weighs two to three pounds and has a smaller keyboard, from 80% to 95% of normal. Smaller screens may be available but there is a down side to small is better- the screen becomes more difficult to read.

Netbooks are commonly available with a number of features we have come to expect in full size laptops: Wi-Fi connectivity, Ethernet connectivity at the usual 100mbps, VGA output, two to three USB ports, a built in camera, headphone and microphone jacks, and a port for flash memory.

The limited size has resulted in a compromise in other features. The most notable, and the one that may be most missed by some users, is the lack of a CD or DVD drive. While this may seem like a problem keep in mind that flash or thumb drives can often substitute for a traditional CD or DVD storage disk.

Many models use the newer solid state drive that

replaces the traditional hard disk drive. The solid state drive (SSD) has two major advantages over hard disk drives – there are no moving parts and they are consistently faster than a hard disk drive. Because they lack moving parts they tend to be more dependable in a rough environment and may help extend battery life. This could be a serious consideration for frequent travelers. Horowitz notes that HDDs are often found on machines with Microsoft XP operating systems and SSDs are often found with the Linux operating system.

The use of a netbook for genealogy is somewhat limited at this time because of the choice of operating software. Eastman notes that one of the only genealogy software programs available for the Linux operating system is Gramps. There are many more compatible genealogy software programs that work with the Microsoft operating system, especially XP. Be sure to make your choice based on your expected use first, then identify the software you plan to use, and then on the type of operating system.

Thanks & Welcome

John Hallberg Jones, Treasurer General of the National Society, Sons of Colonial New England 1620-1776, 2700 East Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55406-3743 sends check #1168 in the amount of \$100.00 as voted at their Annual Meeting on 21 April 2009.

Mr. Jones continues "It is our pleasure to extend this unrestricted support to your society. Our objectives and purposes, among others, include the collection and preservation of materials pertaining to the history and genealogy of New England. As such, we share your society's interests. Please accept our warmest wishes for your continued success."

We have received a generous donation of \$75 from Richard Burnett, Toledo, OH

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In a larger sense will it be necessary to elect to pay more attention (in the form of dollar and material donations) to the support and care of family, friends, and neighbors before we follow our research goals? If we remain open to alternative solutions we may reinvent a new form of an old economic system—bartering for ancestors. In the process we might make some new friends. Yours aye, Bill

Newsletter Editor Wanted: I will be passing the editorial baton as of the first issue of 2010. Anyone interested should contact Bob Murphy. Bill Budde



GSV Publications

The society offers the following publications for purchase by our members and readers. GSV members receive a 10% discount on the purchase price. Postage and handling is extra—please add \$3.50 for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item in the same order to the same address. Mail your checks, payable to GSV, to:

Genealogical Society of Vermont, P. O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014

***Vermont Families in 1791, Vol. 1* is out of print.**

Vermont Families in 1791, Vol. 2. Scott A. Bartley, ed., 1997, 304 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 5; \$27.00 members, \$30.00 non-members. This second volume covers 107 families, has improved formatting and more complete information on the third generation of early Vermonters.

Vital Records of Putney, Vermont to the Year 1900. Compiled and edited by Ken Stevens, 1992, 406 pp. Item No. GSV 2; \$27.00 members, \$30.00 non-members. This is a complete compilation from all primary sources available in the town. This is augmented by the ministerial records of the pastors who served as early as 1776.

Vital Records of Rockingham, Vermont and the Records of the First Church of Rockingham. Reprinted from the 1902 and 1908 first editions, newly indexed by Christopher T. Norris and Scott A. Bartley, 323 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 3; \$27.00 members, \$30.00 non-members. Reprinted from the first editions of 1908 and 1902, this is an important source of one of Vermont's oldest towns. The town records extend to 1845 and church records from 1773 to 1839. New is an indispensable index of nearly 1,000 names.

Georgia, Vermont Vital Records. Peter S. Mallet, ed., 1995, hardbound. Item No. GSV 4; \$27.00 members, \$30.00 nonmembers. This volume presents all births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials recorded in the

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Membership fees are listed on the back cover.

Please include your membership number for renewals and member discounts.

Want To Contact Us?

Our website is at

<http://www.genealogyvermont.org/>

News, articles and comments for the **Newsletter** should be mailed to:

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142A Munn Terrace
Arlington, VT 05250-8573
(802) 375-9296
E-mail: bbudde@verizon.net

Newsletter deadlines are
Dec 15 for the February issue
March 15 for the May issue
June 15 for the August Issue
September 15 for the November issue.

If you would like to **contact our journal, *Vermont Genealogy***, write:

Scott Andrew Bartley, Editor
Vermont Genealogy
20 March Avenue
West Roxbury, MA 02132-2604
E-mail: YourGenealogist@aol.com

Copies of relevant **books for journal review** can be sent to:

John A. Leppman
Book Review Editor
20 Thwing Lane
Bellows Falls, VT 05101-1640

Contact Bob Murphy, President at
PO Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014
rmm@sover.net

Moving? Let Us Know

Please inform GSV if you move. Send notices to Diantha Howard, 57 East Shore North, Grand Isle, VT 05458

Advertising Policy

The newsletter accepts paid advertising at \$3.00 per column inch. It must relate to genealogy, preferably Vermont, and must be received before the deadline listed above. Checks made out to GSV are sent to the newsletter editor along with the exact wording for the ad. *GSV offers no warranty on the services of advertisers.*

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town. All the civil books were transcribed as well as the records from the Georgia Plains Baptist Church, Congregational Church, and Methodist Church of Georgia and North Fairfax.

Windsor County, Vermont Probate Index, 1778-1899. Scott Andrew Bartley and Marjorie-J. Bartley, compilers, 2000, 560 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 6; \$45.00 members, \$50.00 nonmembers. This is a comprehensive index of all files in the Windsor County Probate Court Districts—Windsor and Hartford. The records cover the period from the earliest 1778 records through the end of the nineteenth century, more than 20,000 probate files. The files are indexed by the name of the major party in the case, place of residence, probate district, type of record, year, and probate record volume.

Index to Branches & Twigs, 1972—1995. Robert M. Murphy, ed. 2000, 572 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 7, \$40.00 ppd members, \$65.00 nonmembers. This is the every-name index to GSV's *Branches & Twigs*, published for 24 years in 96 issues. The 180,000 entries include every genealogically important name mentioned in every issue. Separate sections of this work list the coverage of each Apple Orchard installment, and

provide a full author and title index to book reviews. *Branches & Twigs* included large quantities of information of interest to family historians.

Sudbury, Vermont: Transcription of Vital Records and Genealogies of Residents. Mary Ann Z. Wheeler, 2000, 416 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 9; \$44.55 members, 49.50 nonmembers. This book is a comprehensive transcription of census and vital records for Sudbury, plus carefully compiled genealogies of families. This book is among the very best genealogical resources about a Vermont town. This is a cooperative publication between GSV and Picton Press.

A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy, 2nd edition. John A. Leppman, 2005, softbound. Item No. GSV 10, \$9.00 members, \$10.00 nonmembers. (Mail orders should add \$1.50 for postage and handling, not the \$3.50 normally charged.) This is a new edition of *A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy* was released in April 2005. It includes more listings than the first edition, most published since 2000. It is keyed to Drew Bartley's *Genealogies Found in Vermont Histories* (Vol. 10, no. 1 of *Vermont Genealogy*, also designated GSV publication number 10.).

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Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH. Eighteenth Century Scottish Naming Practices; Genealogy—What's New and What's Lost in 2009. Email billbudde60@gmail.com for details.
19 September—Luncheon program, *Orphans and Orphan Trains*, Connecticut Society of Genealogists. Details available at www.csginc.org/genealogy_event_s_ct.php.
11 October—*The Massachusetts State Archives Databases*, Middlesex Chapter, Massachusetts Society of Genealogists. Details

at www.massachusettsocietyofgenealogists.org/middlesex.
17 October—Annual Family history Seminar, Connecticut Society of Genealogists. Details at www.massachusettsocietyofgenealogists.org/middlesexwww.csginc.org/genealogy_events_ct.php.
18 October—Massachusetts Society of Genealogists Annual Meeting. Details at
28 October—Lecture by the archivist of the Archdiocese of Boston, Massachusetts State Archives. Details at www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcwork/wrlidx.htm.

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GSV Membership Chairperson
57 East Shore North
Grand Isle, VT 05458

All other correspondence, except for submissions and queries to *Vermont Genealogy* and items for the *Newsletter*, should be sent to Genealogical Society of Vermont, P. O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014.

Seen In Passing

The U.S. Census Bureau seems to have put in a major effort this spring to ensure the accuracy of the address lists for the 2010 canvas. Despite this effort the usefulness to future generations of genealogists and family historians will be limited. The short form that most people will receive will only ask for "name, sex, age, date of birth, race, ethnicity, relationship and household tenure." Information that genealogists found so useful in the census questionnaires from 1850 to 1930 will be missing— questions on place of birth, occupation, citizenship, education achievement, etc.

Ancestry.com has announced an ongoing program to add to their "collection of high school, junior high school, elementary school and college and university yearbooks from across the United States." Vermont towns include Brattleboro, Burlington, Chelsea, Island Pond, Middlebury, Newport, Orleans, Randolph, Saxton's River and St Johnsburry. All schools and years in a town are not available, and missing books are welcome.

Ancestry.com has also announced that they now offer the entire Canadian census collection. Digitization reportedly took 600,000 man hours to complete, a number that helps explain the subscription cost for Ancestry.