



Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Vermont

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President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying summer weather. Here in Vermont we have just gone through our first heat wave in seven years. Normally, weather at this time is very conducive to outdoor activities, but lately one good way to find relief from the heat has been in the air-conditioned comfort of genealogical research facilities. So heat waves have their upside!

Vermont History Expo was back this year. After a one-year hiatus due to budgetary limitations, the Vermont Historical Society again staged this very popular gather-

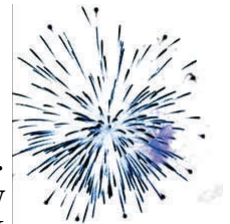
ing of historians and genealogists at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. GSV was there, as we have been at every Expo since the event was inaugurated ten years ago. Although I was principally involved in assisting at the VHS booth (where I volunteer each Tuesday), our booth was right next to the GSV booth, so I was able to keep in touch and even help out briefly from time to time.

Volunteers Joann Nichols, Judy Goss, Jonathan Stevens, John Leppman and Jane Belcher staffed the GSV booth, which was quite

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Independence Day Some 21st Century Freedom

The geographic distances between family members grows with every decade. In order to keep our family bonds strong, travel - for a week or even a few days - is often a necessity. Since I also live far from my genealogical roots, I am away from home on research trips, too. I pack up my laptop computer and hope I can connect to the Internet from my destination. I have a web based business, so I must check my email for orders at least twice a day. And if I get lucky and find some ancestral gems on my trip, I can't wait to share them online with other family researchers.



Most hotels now include a wireless Internet connection, for free or charged daily to your room bill. Hotels are too expensive for my budget, though, for the long trips I take, so I often

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busy for much of the two-day event. [Despite the apparent naming pattern, you did not have to have a first name beginning with “J” to work at our booth!] A brisk sales business brought in a goodly sum to the GSV treasury. It was a most successful and pleasant week-end.

I have just received a note from the Vermont Historical Society librarian, Paul Carnahan, stating that VHS was recently the recipient of microfilms of all Federal Censuses from 1790-1930, courtesy of the National Archives. Apparently, fewer people are accessing the records on microfilm because they are so widely available on the Internet. Despite that fact, however, Paul points out that where scanned images are poor, going back to the microfilm might be worthwhile. Something to keep in mind as you struggle with some of those less-than-perfect online images.

Speaking of online, new content on the GSV website available to members includes “Marriages and Deaths reported in the Burlington Free Press for 1868,” and “Marriages in Montpelier, Burlington and Berlin, Vt., 1789-1876.” Another feature added to the website is a reminder of when your membership expires. It appears on the members’ page after you log in. Check it out and contribute your own Vermont content for other

members to access. The website is at www.genealogyvermont.org.

Your Board is busy behind the scenes planning for the Fall 2010 membership meeting/conference, scheduled for Saturday, 16 October. Castleton is probably out of the running because of cost considerations; we are currently considering Springfield, but are open to other suggestions that members may have. Nothing is yet cast in stone. So if you have some ideas for a venue or speakers/topics please let us know. Your input is important. Pass your ideas on to me at rmm@sover.net, mail them to our Randolph mailing address, or talk to any member of the GSV Board (which includes Jonathan Stevens, Mary Pat Brigham, Jane Belcher, Diantha Howard, Joann Nichols and John Leppman).

Finally, keep working on those submissions to Jonathan Stevens (family sketches for *Vermont Families in 1791, Vol. 3*), Diantha Howard (content for the GSV website), Drew Bartley (articles for *Vermont Genealogy*) and Deidre Dagner (for the *GSV Newsletter*). Your fellow members are counting on you!

Bob Murphy

LondonLives—Three Cheers for the Brits!

If you have Vermont ancestors, it is very likely you also have British ancestors. I’m always looking for free or inexpensive online sources for my 18th century British research, so I was excited about a new project called *LondonLives* (www.londonlives.org). This resource consists of over 240,000 manuscript and printed pages from eight London archives, with supplemental datasets from other projects. These are fully searchable, digitized primary sources whose focus is ordinary Londoners. The project was designed to assess the role of these individuals in the evolution of social practices, so the choice of records to include was based on this agenda. The working class and indigent left records of their lives in their parishes, hospitals, the courts, and work houses. Some are included on tax rolls and voting records.

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We're Growing!
**WELCOME OUR
 NEW MEMBERS**



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 Researching: Bliss, Buxton, Button, Glass,
 Smith

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stay with relatives or friends, either in my little camper or on an extra bed in their homes. My last experience was the final straw in a string of frustrating attempts to connect via someone else's Internet connection over the past few years. It is never a quick or easy process, but sometimes its just plain impossible. After three days of wasting precious hours I could have spent with my grandchildren, I headed to a local retail store and purchased an air card. I was connected to the Internet after a five minute installation and a ten minute Happy Dance. For \$39 a month, I was finally free of a major source of irritation while traveling. No matter where I tote my laptop, I can bring along my own connection to the Internet.

So, what's an air card? Simply put, it's a piece of equipment about the size of a USB

flash drive, that provides you with a broadband wireless connection. A bit like a dial-up connection using a wireless phone, but much faster. Best Buy offers the card itself for free, but the wireless provider tacks on a small "connection" charge. I thought it sounded too good to be true when I first heard about it, but it is true for the service and plan I purchased (Verizon). It may seem that \$39 a month is expensive for a connection you use only when you travel, but if you also use the air card for your home connection, it is a comparably low priced method. There are plans that allow you to purchase air time for just a few days or other short periods, or pay for your actual connection time. These can be expensive if you want to do more than just check emails. Other plans allow for heavier use, with higher monthly payments.

My primary concern was that I would not be able to connect from my home or other remote locations. The 30 day money back guarantee gave me enough time to test it out when I returned to Virginia. The air card is a faster connection than my prior method – the only high speed option available to me here is a satellite connection – and it has been working fine. On a lark, I decided to try connecting to the Internet as my husband and I were traveling back home from our trip in our car. It was nice to view an online map of a congested area and find an alternate route as my husband drove. I decided to surf the web for a while to ease the boredom of the long trip, and only got disconnected once, very briefly. It was amazing!

Sprint, Virgin, and other wireless providers offer air cards. I opted for Verizon after I overheard a conversation about how great the service was between two young men who sounded like they traveled quite a bit and needed good Internet access. Go to a local electronics store and keep your own ears open. You may hear a good tip, too.

Deidre Dagner

Announcements

Saturday, September 18, 2010 Friends of NARA Pittsfield Conference

The Friends of the National Archives – Pittsfield, MA, will present its annual Full-Day Genealogy Conference, Life in the Past Lane VII, on Saturday, September 18, 2010, at the Williams Inn in Williamstown, MA. The day will include lectures by Jean Nudd, Leslie Albrecht-Huber, and Gregory Pomicter. Complete program details and a printable registration form can be found at www.narafriends-pittsfield.org Call 413-236-3600 or email pittsfield.archives@nara.gov for further information or to receive a registration form by mail.

Editor's Note: I include any event notices sent to me, space permitting. A good place to check for upcoming events near you is Dick Eastman's Calendar of Events at www.trumba.com/calendars/eogns_calendar.

EDITOR'S CORNER

This is my third newsletter as your new editor already. I do hope you are enjoying these few pages every quarter and finding tidbits to help your research. I have received email from a few members, and I so appreciate their suggestions and words of encouragement. However, this newsletter *NEEDS* much more from its entire audience! I know summer is a season in which we all like to kick back and relax, but the leaves will be turning before you know it, so let's get to work. Ideas for articles, columns and member submissions are needed. Please join the efforts of our dedicated Board and editors, and the kind people who always step up and pitch in. If you think you can't possibly spare the time to write, check out GSV's Facebook page. I think you'll enjoy it and make some friends with similar

GSV Fall Meeting Notice

Saturday, October 16, 2010 Unitarian-Universalist Church Springfield, VT

Bob has just alerted me to a few details about our very important Fall Meeting. Be sure to mark your calendar. There will be three speakers. One speaker will be Elise Guyette, who will speak about her research on the black families of Hinesburg. Diantha will post the details of the other speakers and topics as we receive confirmation, so check the website for news.

There will also be a business meeting, during which elections of officers will be held.

interests. Add to the discussions, express your opinions, crow about your breakthroughs!

After I had finished May's newsletter, I gave myself a treat. I took a trip to NH and attended my first GSV membership meeting. I met quite a few of the people I have been corresponding with and put faces to their names. Member Denise Levinick joined us from Pasadena! And we both had lunch with President Bob. Joann introduced herself. She is a true asset to our Society and always so helpful. Jane Belcher manned the entrance, taking responsibility for our money. She hails from my family's little town of Braintree so I'm sure we'll see each other again soon. Our Vermont Family authority, Jonathan Stevens, is surprisingly young for all his accomplishments. It was an informative meeting and I enjoyed myself thoroughly.

See you in October, I hope!

Warning to Researchers at Vermont Archives

Vermont Archives (formerly VT Public Records) in Middlesex used to be pretty much one-stop shopping for vital records, early town records, deeds, early probate records and more. Well, it still is for the most part. However, there are exceptions.

As I was browsing the card file there today for Vergennes deeds, I came across a card that read:

Vernon
5/3/10. At the request of the Town Clerk, all Vernon records have been returned to the town office.

When I inquired as to the meaning of the card, it was explained to me that there has recently been controversy about “ownership” of the town records. These are not the original town records, by the way, but only microfilms of them. At any rate, Archives gave all towns the opportunity to weigh in on the issue, and a handful opted to seize back all of their (microfilmed) records.

So, if you are planning a trip to the Vermont Archives, it might be a good idea to call ahead to make sure the town in which you are interested is represented in their collections!

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There are two major features in *LondonLives* that I loved. Firstly, the images themselves are clear and crisp, and they load quickly. A good sized thumbnail displayed above the transcription shows the overall layout of the page, moving your mouse over the thumbnail zooms in on that part of the thumbnail, and clicking the thumbnail brings up a full size version of the page.

The second feature is an adjunct to the primary focus of the project – the record sets included and search engine are designed to locate all the documents for an individual across a range of sources. A search can be performed on a name, occupation, place, and keywords. Registered users have access to advanced search facilities, a personal workspace where you can link these documents together, compile, and share biographies. Registration is free but it's not required to take a “test drive” around the website.

I found several other nice touches on *LondonLives*. Not only are the record sources that have been digitized thoroughly explained and enumerated, but there is also a list of records that couldn't be digitized due to their unfit condition. You'll also find links to online resources, a suggested reading list, historical background pages, and a list of abbreviations.

Just to give you an example of what you'll find on *LondonLives*, records of the following institutions are included:

Old Bailey Proceedings	Parish Records: St. Botolph
Ordinary's Accounts	Aldgate, St. Clement Danes,
Sessions Papers	St. Dionis Back church, St.
Criminal Registers	Martin in the Fields, St. Luke
Coroner's Inquests	Chelsea
Carpenters' Company Guild	St. Thomas' Hospital
Marine Society	

Deidre Dagner



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, bap-

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Order Form

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M 001	Membership: New or Renewal			
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P. O. Box 14				Total Due: _____
Randolph, VT 05060-0014				

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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Newsletter deadlines are:
 Dec 15 — February issue
 Mar 15 — May issue
 June 15 — August issue
 Sept 15 — November issue

Bob Murphy, President
 PO Box 14,
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Vermont Genealogy, the GSV Journal contact information:
 Scott Andrew Bartley, Editor
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 20 March Avenue
 West Roxbury, MA 02132-2604
 drew@yourgenealogist.com

Send copies of relevant books for journal review to:
 John A, Leppman
 Book Review Editor
 20 Thwing Lane
 Bellows Falls, VT 05101-1640

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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tisms, marriages, deaths and burials recorded in the 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, \$58.50 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.).

BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF GSV OFFICERS

Office	Nominee		or Write In:
President	Jonathan Stevens	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Vice President	Carolyn Adams	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Secretary	Stephanie O'Rourke	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Treasurer	Jane Belcher	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Voting Member Name _____			
Membership No. _____			

Please return ballots to GSV at P.O. Box 14, Randolph, VT, 05060-0014, to arrive no later than a week prior to the annual meeting, scheduled for 16 Oct 2010.

Genealogical Society of Vermont

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Canada and Mexico are \$30.00
All other foreign addresses are \$35.00 in US funds.

Membership includes our journal *Vermont Genealogy* and four issues of our newsletter. These publications will keep you abreast of genealogical news and present current articles on genealogical source material, conferences and meetings, techniques and queries. If you would like to receive a membership card, please include a self addressed stamped envelop with your dues. Send membership dues and applications to:

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.