



Genealogical Society of Vermont

Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, my first presidential message, in Vermont we are in the depths of winter. The picture recently posted, on our website, of a very snowy hemlock tree, will certainly attest to that. Many times research tends to come to grinding halt in the winter months, you never know what the weather is going to do from one minute to another; and cannot plan anything in advance. I always have to chuckle to myself, when a client, from a much warmer part of the country, wants cemetery research done. My answer is, wait till spring, they're not going anywhere.

The GSV board decided that for their many years of service to the society, we would pay the \$110 registration fee for the Eleventh New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) in Springfield, Mass., April 6-10, 2011,

for both past President Bob Murphy and former Secretary Mary Pat Brigham. Both have contributed greatly to GSV in numerous ways throughout the years and are most deserving of this gift, in appreciation of their service. Bob was at the helm of the society through some tough economic times. Mary Pat was, is and will always be, the life blood of the society.

GSV is sponsoring a luncheon at NERGC 2011 on Friday April 8, 2011 (*see separate notice on page 2, for more information*). We are also sponsoring speaker David Allen (*see separate article, on Old Maps below*).

The Fall 2010 issue of *Vermont Genealogy*, has arrived in members' mailboxes. Editor, Scott Andrew Bartley, once again has done a stellar job putting together a top notch issue. Thank you, to all of the contributors as well.

(President's Message, continued on page 2)

OLD MAPS—DAVID ALLEN

GSV's sponsored speaker at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) in Springfield, Massachusetts, will be David Allen whose lecture entitled "*Mapping Vermont in the 1850s*" will be on Saturday April 9, 2011 at 10 am. The lecture is about scanned reproductions of 1850s Vermont county wall maps and their origins. The discussion will include map accuracy, uses for genealogy and road research and current map indexing efforts. He will also explain nineteenth century surveying methods and map selling procedures.

Old Maps is the name of David Allen's business www.old-maps.com that was established in 1980 to

republish historical maps. It started with printed volumes of Cheshire County, N. H., but the focus has since expanded to offering digital and printed reproductions of historic state and town maps, birds eye views, and more, from all over New England. For instance a complete copy of the original 1796 "Whitelaw" map is now available as a paper reprint. This remarkable map, shows every town in the state.

During the 1850s Vermont's 14 counties were mapped on 11 individual wall maps. These are currently available from Old Maps on CD-ROM and or

(Old Maps, continued on page 2)

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

Due to the restructuring of the Vermont Judiciary, on February 1, 2011, the double probate districts in the four southern counties were consolidated, to one court per county. Through the years, I have spent a lot of time at the Windsor District Probate in North Springfield, and have learned that all of the docket books and file papers in that court up to 1965, were transferred to the Vermont State Archives in Middlesex on January 20, 2011, the remainder of the material going to the probate court in Woodstock.

On a final sad note, newsletter editor Deidre Dagner has resigned due to a serious illness. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her and her family. Though she edited, a mere four issues, in 2010, the board had come to think of her as a part of the GSV family. The November 2010 issue was her last. The newsletter, is now under the editorship of the board.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President

(Old Maps, continued from page 1)

in print, including full size reproductions suitable for hanging. Old Maps also offers reproductions of the 1860 H. F. Walling "Map of the State of Vermont" on CD-ROM or in print. This map was the first map to show every road throughout the state and house locations are also included. The 1869 to 1878, F. W. Beers county atlases feature detailed maps of towns and villages, showing all roads and names of many homeowners, are also available on CD-ROM. Other interesting items on CD-ROM are the topographical maps of Vermont. The state is covered by 62 "quad sheets" and these maps date from the 1890s to 1950s.

Another item you can purchase from Old Maps is a set of 11 paper prints of old Vermont railroad maps (1844 to 1878) showing the development of the railroads in the peak period of construction. The set includes two maps showing proposed "Rail Roads" (pre-1848 when trains first reached Vermont). Each print is a full-color 11"x14" map, and are suitable for framing.

The nineteenth century "birds eye views" that Old Maps has made available, include the towns and villages of Barre, Bethel, Bellows Falls, Bennington, Brattleboro, Bristol, Castleton, Enosburg Falls, Fairhaven, Hardwick, Ludlow, Lyndonville, Middlebury, Morrisville, Poultney, Rutland, Springfield, St. Johnsbury, Vergennes, White River Junction, West Randolph,

(Old Maps, continued on page 5)

DONATIONS

Audrey B. Bailey, of Morrisville, Vt.
S. Dean, of Scarsdale, New York
Virginia W. Koster, of Boston, Mass.
Robert M. "Bob" Murphy, of Barre, Vt.

GSV TO SPONSOR LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2011 AT NERGC 2011

GSV will sponsor the luncheon, on Friday April 8, 2011 at 12:00 noon to 1:30 p. m., featuring **Laura Prescott**. Her talk will be entitled "***Business Secrets of Professional Genealogists: We're Human Too!***" The inside scoop on how professionals balance the abundance of files, images and clients with a scarcity of time, energy, and organizational skills. Choice of: baked scrod with crabmeat & parmesan \$33 or vegetarian tower balsamic portabella mushrooms \$31.00.

VERMONT FAMILIES IN 1791 VOLUME 3

The format for Volume 3 has been updated and is based on the standard used in *Vermont Genealogy*, but with inline notes for citations. Submissions for census entrants should be 2 to 4 pages in length, and must be thoroughly documented. That means as much primary source material as possible. Of course, not everything is recorded, but relationships still have to be proven, from the best available source material.

A sample sketch can be found on the GSV website www.genealogyvermont.org. Also featured on the GSV website are listings of those entrants that were included in Volumes 1 and 2. Regarding the citations used in the sketches, TR is for Town Record, VR is for Vital Record, LR is for Land Record and PR is for Probate Record. This is then followed by the volume and page number. Remember that, in the majority of towns, in Vermont, the pre-1857 vital records are recorded in the town records. If a printed vital record is being used, e.g., the Massachusetts to 1850 series, the short cite would be VR, followed by a page number. The full cite of the volume will be in the front of the book. Footnotes can be used for citations that require lengthy explanations.

Do not be concerned about the particulars of the format, i.e., margins and styles used, as it will retyped in a template. Send submissions in Microsoft Word via an attachment to e-mail. If you have any other questions please contact the editor at stevens@vermontel.net.

NEW MEMBERS**Virginia W. Koster**

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 researching: *Stanley, Carroll*

Mark Allen

15736 Hesse Drive
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 researching: *Curtis, Whitehorn, Gilbert, Raymond*

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139 Daggett Rd.
 East Montpelier, VT 05651
 researching: *Coburn, Greaves, Comstock, Martin*

Richard Fipphen

168 Chatham Rd
 Fairfield, CT 06825
 researching: *Phippen*

Kathy Horner

104 Woodpond Road
 West Hartford, CT 06107
 researching: *Pierce, Wells, Lyon, Conger, Benson*

Paul Keroack

1150 Nichols Ave
 Stratford, CT 06614

Cindy Donovan

301 Parkwood Drive
 Truro Heights, NS B6L 1P1
 Canada
 researching: *Caldwell, Bevis, Andrew, Steele*

REINSTATED:**Hugh S. Putnam**

29 Meadow Drive
 Springfield, VT 05156
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 researching: *Putnam, Rice, Royce, Stearns, Fitch, Thibault*

MINUTES OF THE FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD IN SPRINGFIELD, VT.

The fall membership meeting of the Genealogical Society of Vermont was held Saturday, October 16, 2010, at the Unitarian/Universalist Church in Springfield, Vermont. Twenty five members, three speakers, and thirteen non-members were present.

Bob Murphy, retiring President, called the business meeting to order about 9:40 a.m.

Copies of the secretary's minutes of the last meeting, plus copies of a current report of the treasurer had been distributed at registration. No further discussion of either was needed. Both reports were accepted as read by those present.

Bob Murphy read a list of the names of officers and other volunteers who have given service to GSV during the past year, and urged those present to honor them. A round of applause followed.

Bob Murphy made the following announcements:

1) Vermont Vital Records from 1909 through 2008 are now available on ancestry.com

2) The Mormon Church is in the process of a vast project to digitize and index the Vermont Vital Records Card Index, formerly (since about 1920 when it was made by the town clerks from the original town records) available in Montpelier, and now (on microfilm) in Middlesex. Volunteers are needed. This project has been broken down into packets of twenty records at a time. The more of us who volunteer to take part, the greater the chance that the project will be completed on schedule.

3) Brochures concerning the NERGC Conference, coming up April 6-10, 2011 in Springfield, Mass, were made available to all present.

4) The GSV Board has voted to cancel the usual Spring Membership Meeting, which would otherwise have been scheduled for April or May of 2011. Such a cancellation was also made in April, 2009, when the last NERGC conference was held in Manchester, NH. The by-laws require us to have one membership meeting a year, and as many more as are needed. Except during conference years, we ordinarily hold two

(Fall meeting minutes, continued on Page 4)

NOTICES

Feb. 10-12, 2011 **First Annual RootsTech Conference**, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah, <http://rootstech.familysearch.org/> Sponsored by Microsoft, Dell, FamilySearch, the National Genealogical Society, brightsolid, Ancestry.com, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and Brigham Young University

April 6-10, 2011 **Eleventh New England Regional Genealogical Conference**, Springfield, Massachusetts www.nergc.org, blog <http://nergc2011.blogspot.com>

May 11-14, 2011 **National Genealogical Society Family History Conference**, Charleston, South Carolina www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info

June 3-5, 2011 **ROOTS 2011 An International Conference on Family History Research**. McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Hosted by the Quebec Family History Society This event will be the largest English-language genealogical conference ever held in Quebec. There will be numerous well-known speakers discussing all aspects of family history research, computer demonstrations, and a book fair. All lectures and events are in English. www.qfhs.ca e-mail: roots2011@bell.net P.O. Box 1026, Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada H9S 4H9 or call: 514-428-0238

June 18, 2011 **POINT Chapter 20 of Pittsburgh, Penn., Roots in the Boot** Italian Genealogy Seminar, Carnegie Lecture Hall, Ruth Merriman of the Family History Library Salt Lake City, Utah will present four lectures related to Italian Research. Kathleen Rosella Secretary / Treasurer POINT Chapter 20 at MDRKVR@aol.com



(Fall meeting minutes, continued from page 3)

such meetings. All who might attend a membership meeting next April are urged to try to attend one or more days of the NERGC conference in Springfield.

5) **Bob Murphy** urged everyone present to send in contributions that might be suitable for reproduction in the Newsletter.

The last item on the business meeting agenda was election of officers to serve for the next two years, until the fall membership meeting in 2013. **Bob Murphy** is retiring after two terms as president, and **Mary Pat Brigham** is retiring after many years as secretary. **Joann Nichols** was president when **Mary Pat** came on board. Last spring, a nominating committee was recruited — **Judy Goss** and **Margaret Jenks**. They recommended the following slate. At a GSV Board meeting in August, this slate was accepted for presentation at today's meeting:

President: **Jonathan W. Stevens**, of Chester (currently Vice-President)

Vice-President: **Carolyn L. Adams**, of South Ryegate
Secretary: **Stephanie M. O'Rourke**, of South Hero

Treasurer: **Jane Belcher**, of Braintree (up for reelection)

As there were no further nominations from the floor, it was moved that the nominations be closed and the secretary be directed to cast one ballot. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote. All ballots that had been received by mail had been cast for the above slate.

The business meeting was then adjourned at about 10:00 a.m.

The first speaker of the morning was **Rosanne Putnam**. She is a native of Springfield and publishes a weekly historical column in The Springfield Reporter. Her presentation was "Who Made Springfield."

The second speaker of the morning was **Elise Guyette**, historian, writer and educational consultant. Her presentation was "Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburgh, 1790-1890."

Luncheon was served at noon by the women of the Unitarian/Universalist Church.

(Fall meeting minutes, continued on page 5)

(Fall meeting minutes, continued from page 4)

A brief board meeting was held at the side to welcome the new officers and plan for a future board meeting.

Meanwhile, everyone else had a short time to visit and to examine displays brought by the speakers.

The afternoon presentation was by **Marcia Melnyk**, "Getting the Most from Land and Probate Research." She is a professional genealogist, teacher and author, and formerly was a reference librarian at the NEHGS.

At the conclusion of her presentation there was a brief raffle. The meeting was adjourned about 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Pat Brigham, Secretary



(Old Maps, continued from page 2)

Wilmington and Windsor, all on CD-ROM and as prints, which are suitable for framing.

As you can see Old Maps offers quite a few interesting items, many of which could prove to be quite informative and helpful in genealogical research. Old Maps also offers low resolution downloads, of several different maps on the website for free.

In addition to being GSV's sponsored speaker, David Allen, purchased a full page of advertising space in the NERGC 2011 syllabus, so GSV could meet our required obligation. He will also have for the first time, a booth in the Exhibit Hall at NERGC, so be sure to stop by and check the many fascinating items that he has to offer.



KENNETH C. STEVENS, 1916-2010

The following notice appeared in the Fall 2010 *American Ancestors*, the quarterly magazine of the New England Historic Genealogical Society:

Kenneth C. Stevens, an NEHGS member since 1969, died September 8, 2010, in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, on September 22, 1916, the son of Cyril and Monica (Richards) Stevens.

From 1941 to 1945, Mr. Stevens served with the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain and the 101st Airborne Divisions. He worked for Preferred Utilities Manufacturing Corporation of Danbury, Conn., for twenty-seven years, retiring as vice president of sales. Beginning in 1988, Mr. Stevens published six volumes in his genealogical series on Wilsons from New England.

His wife, Helen, died in 2003. Mr. Stevens is survived by a son, Paul Stevens, a daughter, Janet L. Stevens; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

In addition to the above, Ken Stevens and his wife, Helen, lived in Walpole, New Hampshire, and he was a long-time member of the Genealogical Society of Vermont. He compiled the *Vital Records of Putney, Vermont*, which was published by the GSV. He also compiled the *Gravestone Inscriptions of Putney, Vermont*, made available to researchers by Margaret Jenks. Copies of these two books are still available. He was a speaker at some of the GSV conferences, and submitted several articles to the GSV newsletter.

Submitted by **Joann H. Nichols**



G S V P U B L I C A T I O N S

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

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

Jonathan W. Stevens, President
 PO Box 14,
 Randolph, VT 05060-0014
stevens@vermontel.net

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

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 PO Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014 along with the *exact* wording for the ad. *GSV offers no warranty on the services of advertisers.*

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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 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 Scott Andrew Bartley's Genealogies Found in Vermont Histories (Vol. 10, No. 1 of *Vermont Genealogy*, also designated GSV publication number 10.).

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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*, should be sent to

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