



Genealogical Society of Vermont

Newsletter

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www.genealogyvermont.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter in Vermont—just wait a minute and it's bound to change. A couple of weeks ago, it was so cold the thermometer outside the kitchen window stuck at -16. The following week it hit about 50 and consequently, most of the small amount of snow that we did have melted. Then there was winter storm Nemo, though here in Vermont, it was hardly the mega-storm that was predicted. Just a typical Vermont snowstorm; I measured about a foot in the driveway, but we are up on a hill, so no doubt there was less in town.

Just a reminder: the early bird registration fee of \$110 for NERGC 2013 ends on February 28, 2013. You can still register after that point, but the price increases to \$135. GSV has distributed brochures at locations throughout the state including: the Vermont Historical Society; Vermont State Archives; and Vermont French Canadian

Genealogical Society, plus several Vermont libraries that are GSV members. If you have never attended a conference, consider it. You will find it a worthwhile experience

Scott Andrew Bartley, known to his friends and colleagues as Drew, has stepped down as editor of *Vermont Genealogy* with the Fall 2012 issue. That issue should be arriving in members' mailboxes around the time you receive this issue of the Newsletter. After nine years of editing, we wish him the best in his new endeavors. He is currently a Content Specialist for Wiki.FamilySearch.org, editor and researcher for the Newbury Street Press at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and editor and researcher for Five/Six Generations Project for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

NEW MEMBERS

Carolyn Address
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East Montpelier, VT 05651
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Velcea Kae
3 Chester Rd.
Springfield, VT 05156
researching: Graves, Benway, Burts, Ainsworth

FamilySearch.org continues to update their collections of Vermont probate records. Three recently added collections are: Franklin County Probate Records 1796-1921; Orange County, Bradford District 1780-1915; and Orange County, Randolph District 1790-1935. These are additions to the probate collections that FamilySearch previously had online: Bennington County, Manchester District (Estate Files) 1779-1935; Washington County Probate (Estate Files) 1862-1915 and Windham County, Westminster District 1781-1921 (currently only back to 1881); plus Vermont Probate 1791-1919, which consists of Chittenden and Essex Counties. All these are browse-only collections, except the last one, but with a little patience you are bound to find something of interest and just maybe—even an ancestor.

As most of you are aware, GSV will not have
(President's Message, Continued on page 2)

The New England
Regional Genealogical
Conference (NERGC)
17-21 April 2013

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DONATIONS

Jim Shea of
East Montpelier, Vermont

GSV is offering the following used CDs for sale. All are used, but in good condition and have been donated to GSV. Please contact GSV President Jonathan W. Stevens at stevens@vermontel.net for additional information and availability. Note that there is only one copy each and these titles are offered on a first come first serve basis. Shipping on the CDs is \$2.00 for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item. We hope to be able to offer additional titles in future Newsletters.

FAMILY TREE MAKER CDS

Note: These CDs require that you have Family Tree Maker or the Family Archive Viewer installed.

CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1790		\$3
CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1800		\$3
CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1810		\$3
CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1820		\$3
CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1830		\$3
CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1840		\$3
CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1850		\$3
CENSUS MICROFILM RECORDS: MASSACHUSETTS 1850 <i>[contains images of the microfilm]</i>	[5 disc set]	\$15*
CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1860		\$3
VETERANS' SCHEDULES: U.S. SELECTED STATES 1890		\$3
REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS, 1775-1782 <i>[contains images of all 17 volumes of Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War]</i>	[2 disc set]	\$10
FAMILY ARCHIVE VIEWER		\$5
	*\$5 shipping on this item	

(President's Message, Continued from page 1)

a spring membership meeting this year, as the Board decided it was best to concentrate all of our energy on NERGC. A fall membership meeting will be held at the usual time in October, in a more central location than the last two meetings in Putney and South Hero. As of this date the venue and the speakers have not been set. We are always open to suggestions on venues and speakers. Much of our planning and ultimately the decisions come down to keeping the cost to members in check as much as possible.

While this doesn't have anything to do with Vermont, it does make me think of a point that can be applied to genealogy or historical research in general. I have been recently following the story in the news about the discovery and the ultimate identification, through modern DNA testing, of the body of Richard III under a parking lot in Leicester, England. I am a bit of an Anglophile, and have always found the subject of

the War of the Roses to be fascinating. What I found rather interesting is that much of public's perception of the king, including even the most recent news items and editorials, are shaped by Shakespeare's play. It is, after all, just play, and should not be taken as historical record. Nevertheless, it has shaped the public's view of the man in far greater measure than the actual historical record. When applying this to our own genealogy, we have to be objective concerning our ancestors. People tend to be products of their times, social and political environment and economic circumstances.

As always a big thank you to our Newsletter Coordinator Randy Brown. For those of you who receive the Newsletter by mail, it is because of Randy's hard and diligent work that it is possible.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President

VOLUNTEERS FOR NERGC 2013 WANTED

NERGC always needs volunteers to make sure the conference goes smoothly. Below are some of the volunteer jobs that have to be filled at NERGC. Please contact Christine Bard, NERGC 2013 Volunteer Chair at bardc@comcast.net and provide the following information: name, society name (GSV), email address, task(s) you are volunteering for, registered participant (or spouse), and days & times available.

Registration Booth: Work at the booth helping people register.

Hospitality Table: Sit at the hospitality table of local info.

Audio Visual (AV): A general knowledge of computers, LCD projectors, and general A/V is recommended. Those signed up for AV will assist in making sure the equipment is setup and functioning for the program sessions.

Signage: You will assist with the production of signs (don't worry if you don't have computer knowledge not everyone has to do this). Most of the work will consist of switching of signs for the upcoming sessions, typically this is done during or between sessions.

Hallway Guide: Between sessions guide attendees to the various area (i.e. ballrooms, session rooms, exhibit hall)

Session Door Monitor: Make sure those entering sessions have an attendee badge, put evaluations on the chairs and collect evaluations at the end.

Session Speaker Intro's: Introduce the speaker (bio provided) and help door monitor with evaluations.

Tech Day Registration Table: Help register those attending this one day event on Wednesday.

Library / Teachers Day Registration Table: Help register those attending this one day event Wednesday.



THE SHELDON FAMILY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND REUNION

The Sheldon Family Association announces the Annual Meeting and Reunion will occur August 2-4, 2013 in Oberlin, Ohio. Persons interested in Sheldon history and families are encouraged to join us. Deborah Mohler and the Rev Brian Wilbert are the hosts. More information about events and reservations at the Oberlin Inn are at the web site: <http://sheldonfamily.org/v2/>

The Sheldon Family Association has chosen Oberlin, Ohio as the site for the 74th Annual Meeting and Reunion of our membership and others interested in Sheldon history August 2-4, 2013. In recognition of the effort by H.O. Sheldon of Oberlin College to collect Sheldon Family histories, we have enlisted the help of Brian Wilbert and Deborah Mohler as the hosts for this important event. The Association was incorporated in 1939 by Sheldon descendants of the 5 colonial Sheldon men of New England: Isaac Sheldon of Windsor, Conn. and Northampton, Mass.; John Sheldon of Providence, Rhode Island; and John Sheldon of Kingston, Rhode Island; Godfrey Sheldon of Saco Maine; and Richard Sheldon. Our Reunion Chairperson is Wendy Sheldon Black of Murphys, California.

Submitted by Jeanne (Arnold) Jeffries of Walpole, N.H.

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PHILIP ROWELL.
Middlebury, March 7, 1808.*

Middlebury Mercury, issue 16 March 1808



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SANBORN PARTRIDGE

SHELBURNE— Sanborn Partridge passed away peacefully at Wake Robin Retirement Community in Shelburne, Vermont, on January 13, 2013.

He was born on April 30, 1915, in Proctor, Vermont, to Frank C. Partridge and Sarah Sanborn Partridge.

He graduated from Westminster School, Magna Cum Laude from Amherst College in 1936, and in 1939 he earned one of few combined degrees ever granted by Yale Law School and Harvard Business School.

During the next three years he practiced law in Rutland, was Town Grand Juror and got his private pilot license. From 1942 through 1945, he was in the Army Air Corps and the Army Air Force, becoming a first lieutenant in the intelligence section.

He did graduate work in geology at Yale from 1946 to 1950, and then taught geology first at the University of Kansas and then at Amherst College, and did extensive field work in Utah. He then returned to Vermont and became an expert in oriental rugs and old coins, especially Vermont coins, and was able to give a set of these to the Fleming Museum and another set to the American Numismatic Society.

From 1961 to 1970, he served in the Vermont General Assembly, and 1970 to 1981 in the Senate. He was a part of the "Young Turks," a group of Republicans and Democrats who worked together on many projects for the good of Vermont including the highway sign bill, and reapportionment. He was a member of the executive board of the University of Vermont, serving as Chairman for one year. He also served on the boards for the

Proctor, Rutland and Vermont Historical Societies, several library boards, the Rutland Hospital, the Red Cross and the Union Church of Proctor. He led over 25 canoe trips with the youth groups of the Union Church, and later even two trips from Wake Robin.

He was active with the Boy Scouts, serving as a scoutmaster, as President of the Green Mountain Council, on the Region One Executive Board, and the International Committee of the BSA's National Board. He attended many international jamborees and was awarded the Silver Beaver, the Silver Antelope and the Order of the Arrow.

Sanborn Partridge spent his last years happily at Wake Robin, with his siblings. He was predeceased by his sister Frances Coulter and brother Charles, and is survived by his sister Ruth, brother David and sister-in-law Dee, eight nieces and nephews, 15 grandnieces and nephews, and 5 great-grandnieces and nephews.

His family cherishes their memories of his love of camping and the out-of-doors, and of his devotion to Vermont and its history. His family is grateful for the presence of Wake Robin and especially to the staff at Linden for the great care and support he received in his last five years.

There was a Circle of Remembrance at Wake Robin on Saturday, January 26, 2013, at 3 p.m.

Donations in his memory may be sent to the Green Mountain Boy Scout Council or the Vermont Historical Society.

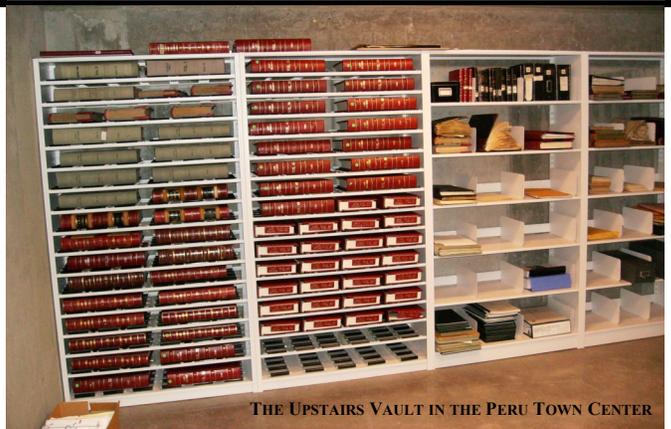
Published in the Rutland Herald on January 15, 2013

MAJOR RENOVATIONS AT THE PERU TOWN CENTER

The town of Peru, Vt., bounded on the east by Landgrove, south by Winhall, west by Dorset, and north by Mt. Tabor, finally has a vault to store the town's records. A major renovation to the Peru Town Center, the location of the town clerk's office, has resulted in improved working space, plus much needed storage capacity—a two story vault. In addition to the vault, the building was made handicap accessible, the flooring was redone, bathrooms were renovated, the entire inside of the building was painted, and the parking lot was paved.

The town clerk's office and its records, were temporarily relocated during the renovation, to the first floor of Peru Cheese Factory/Community House. After various delays, the project finally reached completion, and moving day arrived. On January 17, 2013, a cold and snowy winter day, volunteers helped move everything from the cheese factory, into the newly renovated space. The entire contents of the town's two safes (the Peru safe, plus the former Manchester safe) including: town records, vital records, proprietors' records, deeds, writs, liens, indentures, just to name a few of the items, are now in the upstairs vault. As this is on the second story, it was decided to build a two level vault, for support and additional storage. The downstairs vault contains older grand lists, election materials, and various other items.

The Peru Town Center is located in 4th range and 7th tier according to the original allotment, of the town, on a parcel that was sold by Joel Adams Jr. to the Prudential Committee of the Second School District, on March 19, 1856. The district moved their schoolhouse to this spot; then in 1864 built a new building. That structure burned to the ground in 1902, and was replaced the following year by present building, which was subsequently enlarged in the 1962. The last class to graduate from the school was in 1970, and at the annual school district meeting, on March 7, 1972, it was voted to convey the property to the town. The following year, on March 6, 1973, the school district sold the property to the town; as a result the village school became the Peru Town Center.



THE UPSTAIRS VAULT IN THE PERU TOWN CENTER

BOOKS NOTED

Books that have not been submitted for review in *Vermont Genealogy*.

Adams, Maurice McAshan and David Blakemore Adams, *The Genealogy of Peter Adams of Andover, Vermont and Some of His Descendants* (Austin, Texas: the author, 2010), paperback, 148, [15] pp. Order from the [first] author, 2516 Wooldridge Drive, Austin, TX 78703. No price stated.

Many published genealogies are thoroughly researched and give fascinating insights into a particular branch of a family. Intimate knowledge of one's own family and the localities in which they resided can prove to be quite informative. The best genealogies are simply indispensable references that cannot be overlooked, and ultimately these can be used for generations to come. Unfortunately, this is not one of those cases. The titular subject of this genealogy, Peter Adams (1761-1832), a Revolutionary War veteran, settled in Andover in 1801, was a descendent of the immigrant William Adams of Ipswich, Mass. The authors descend from Shepherd Adams, son of Peter and his wife Lucy (Gibson) Adams. Shepherd, along with older brother and business partner Abraham, moved to Ludlow where they were involved in several business ventures, including the Ludlow Woolen Mills, but ultimately went bankrupt. This book basically disregards Abraham, only mentioning him in passing.

The book's cover, a reproduction of a bird's eye view entitled "Ludlow, Vt., 1859 from South Hill" is attractive, and well printed, though it does seem slightly amiss, given the title; perhaps using a picture of the Adams homestead, which still stands, would have been more appropriate. There are a couple of photos of the rural farmhouse within the pages, but that was probably not the image that the authors were trying to portray here.

The arrangement of the material is questionable at best. The book is divided into chapters by generation, which is commendable, but there is absolutely no regard to *Register* format, which would have made the text far easier to follow. This hardly can be considered a thorough genealogy, and really only covers the direct line of the authors. Material that would have been much better suited to the appendix, which only contains some bible pages and copy of the letter from the NEHGS research staff, has been interspersed within the text. Many items were simply photocopied; check marks and hand written notations abound. This makes the book look more like a work in progress, rather than a finished product. Ultimately this tends to break the flow of the narrative, and gives it the look of a scrapbook, rather than the scholarly genealogy that it purports to be.

Examples of "vital records," referred to here as "certificates," are also interspersed within the text. However these are not from the town records as indicated, but from the Vermont Vital Record Card Index. It would appear that authors do not

know that there is a difference, which raises the fundamental question that any genealogist should rightfully ask: How could anyone think of publishing a genealogy without consulting the town records, either in the original or microfilm form, of the localities in which their ancestors resided? In the case of Peter Adams, there is a family group record in the town records, which the authors totally disregarded.

The authors seem to hold great contempt for small town rural Vermont, although Ludlow was deemed acceptable, referred to as a "vibrant thriving town." Andover didn't fare so well, referred to as "a collection of widely separated unexceptional houses." While it may be a bedroom community; statements like that have no place here.

The book is rife with errors; one chart states that both Peter and Lucy died in Windsor. Andover is located in Windsor County, and clearly this is an error. It is the only time Windsor was ever mentioned. There are also several contradictory statements regarding the birthplace of Mary Bailey, the wife of Shepherd Adams. The authors claim more than once, that she was born in Andover; even stating that her father Jesse Bailey lived next door to Peter Adams, but the family subsequently moved to Ludlow. Jesse Bailey never lived in Andover and the statement is erroneous. In another place the authors slightly redeem themselves by stating that Mary was born in Ludlow and even provided a copy of the "certificate." These may simply be editing errors, but mistakes like this raise questions to the validity of much of the other material.

The Andover deed information clearly shows that the authors did not understand their source material, referring to page numbers as "deed numbers," but omitting the most important part: the number of the volume. Peter Adams' first Andover deed is included here, provided by a local researcher; they also mention two additional deeds, but have misinterpreted the information so much, the meaning is lost. All of the remaining Adams deeds recorded in Andover—were simply ignored.

The book is clearly the work of two individuals; perhaps better editing, rather than simply putting everything in, would have resulted in a more professional end product, and hopefully would have caught the multitude of errors mentioned. The book does have its high points. It is well printed and contains many photos, especially of more recent generations that are well reproduced, and may be of interest. However as a genealogy of a family in nineteenth century Vermont it falls well short of its lofty expectations.

Reviewed by Jonathan W. Stevens



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 and church records from 1773 to 1839. New to this edition 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 non-members. This volume presents all births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials recorded in the town. All the civil books

(Continued on page 7)

Order Form

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Our website is at

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

Jonathan W. Stevens, President
P.O. 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:

Denise Picard Lindgren, Editor
Vermont Genealogy
P.O. Box 129
Acworth, NH 03601

vtgenealogyjournal@gmail.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
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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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VERMONT**
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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: Genealogies, Vital Records, and Census Records. Mary Ann Z. Wheeler, 2000, 416 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 8; \$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 11; \$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.).

Index to the History and Map of Danby, Vermont, Compiled by Joann H. Nichols. (1998), softbound, Item No. D1; \$3.50, plus \$1.50 shipping for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy. An index to J[ohn] C. Williams, History and Map of Danby, Vermont (Rutland, Vt., 1869; reprinted S.L. Griffith Library, 1976). **Limited Number Available.**

Vermont Genealogy Back Issues:

Issues 1: 1-13: 4, are available for \$5.00 each, except special issues 10: 1 and 11: 1 & 2, which are available for \$10.00 each. Issues 14: 1 & 2, 14 : 3 & 4, 15: 1, 15: 2 and 16: 2, are available for \$10.00 each. There is a mailing fee of \$2.00 (\$3.00 to Canadian addresses) for each single issue, \$2.50 (\$3.50 to Canada) for each double issue (i.e., the \$10 issues). For multiple issue orders, please add \$1 for each additional 1 to 5 issues. Note: issues 1: 4, 3: 3, 3: 4 and 4: 4 are out of print.

***GSV Special Publication
Number 13*****VITAL RECORDS OF SPRINGFIELD, VT.**

by Scott Andrew Bartley

Back Issues available:

For \$15, plus \$3.50 shipping for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy

Genealogical Society of Vermont

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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*, should be sent to

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

