



Genealogical Society of Vermont

Newsletter

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NEW MEMBERS

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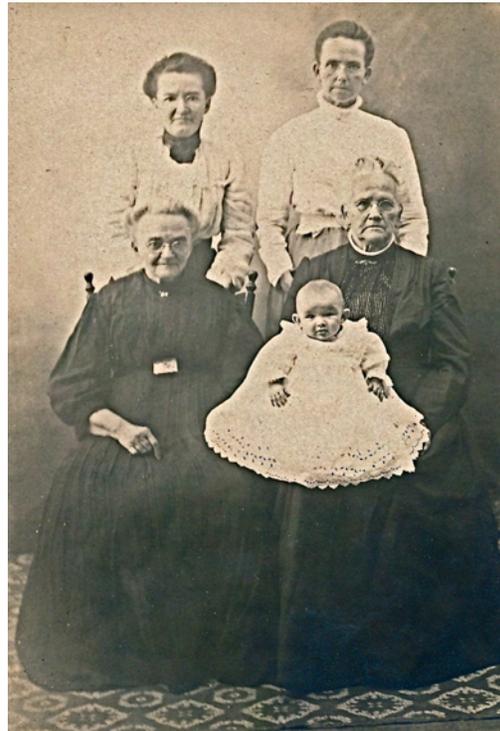
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is spring finally here? When I look out the window I have to ask myself that question. As of this writing the ground is still entirely covered with several feet of snow.

After two years of very hard work and countless planning meetings, the 13th New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) will be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, on April 15-18, 2015. GSV's sponsored speaker is Jane Williamson: **Telling it Like it Was: The Underground Railroad in Vt.** [F-233]. Her presentation will be on Friday April 16th 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. and will be held in room 552A. GSV will also have a booth in the Exhibit Hall. GSV's donation for door prize drawing is a copy of: *The Vermont Difference: Perspectives from the Green Mountain State* (edited by J. Kevin Graffagnino, H. Nicholas Muller III, David A. Donath, and Kristin Peterson-Ishaq) (2014). GSV is required to provide 20 hours of volunteer time at the conference. If you are attending and would like to volunteer, please contact Mary Choppa, Volunteer Chair. Her email is mchoppa@myfairpoint.net. Please make sure that you state your time is to be counted for GSV. Also please let me know as well, so I can keep track of who our volunteers are, for the post-conference paperwork. GSV is once again donating a quart of maple syrup to the volunteer raffle. See you there.

MYSTERY PHOTO



Top: Abbie Woodcock, Lilla Hutton.
Lower: Mrs. Colby, Mary Childs, Thelma Dunham.

The above photo is from the Vermontiana collection of John A. Leppman. If you are a relative and are interested in the photo, contact him at: 20 Thwing Lane, Bellows Falls, VT 05101-1608 or by email at john.a.leppman@dartmouth.edu.

Members should receive the Spring 2014 [19: 1] issue of our scholarly journal *Vermont Genealogy* later this spring. Just a reminder to new members, the mailing list used, was for those who were members at that time the issue would have been published. Back issues are available for most issues of *VG*. [see pages 6-7 of this Newsletter for details]. Work is well underway on articles for the Fall 2014 [19: 2] and Spring 2015 [20: 1] issues. Some of the articles to be included are: part two of Londonderry Vital Records, Peru Vital Records, and a section of transcribed Bible/family register records.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President

The New England
 Regional Genealogical
 Conference (NERGC)
 15-18 April 2015



Providence, RI
www.nergc.org

DONATIONS

National Society Sons of
 Colonial New England

Marcie Crocker of
 Colchester, Vermont

Carleton J. Howard of
 Boulder, Colorado

**VOCA SPRING MEETING
ANNOUNCED FOR THE SLATE VALLEY MUSEUM
GRANVILLE, NEW YORK**

Members and friends of VOCA will have the unique pleasure of meeting at the Slate Valley Museum in Granville, New York, just west of the Vermont-New York state line. All the museum exhibits will be open for viewing the full day.

This meeting will be held on Saturday May 2, 2015 at the Slate Valley Museum in Granville, New York
Refreshments and registration beginning at 9 a.m.
Meeting at 10 a.m.

Lunch will be at noon catered by Edwards Market in Granville, by reservation only.

The afternoon program will start at 1 p.m. on:

Gravestones & Railroads of the Slate Valley, NY & VT

Reservations for lunch must be made by April 22nd, by sending your check, made out to **VOCA to Peggy Jenks, 24 Mettowiee St., Granville, NY 12832**, or register by phone 518-642-1894, by that date. Be sure to state if you want the vegetarian meal.

Directions

Routes to Slate Valley Museum:

From the south: From Manchester: north on Rt. 30 through Pawlet to the yellow blinker light in North Pawlet and Rt. 149, west 2 miles to Granville. Straight through the 2 yellow blinkers, for one block (see the Slate Valley Museum signs), left/south on either side of the old train station now a B&B, to the museum. (Do not cross the Mettowiee River bridge.)

From the east: From Rutland: west on Rt. 4 to exit 4 (Castleton Corners – Poultney), south on Rt. 30, to the stop light in Poultney (Rt. 140), south 1 block to a stop sign; continue straight south on Rt. 31 to Granville. At the red blinker light, turn right for 1 block (see the Slate Valley Museum signs), left/south on either side of the old train station now a B&B, to the museum. (Do not cross the Mettowiee River bridge.)

From the north: South on Rt. 30 from Middlebury, cross under Rt. 4 to the stop light at Castleton Corners (Rt. 4A), continue south on Rt. 30 to the stop light in Poultney (Rt. 140); continue south 1 block to a stop sign; continue straight south on Rt. 31 to Granville. At the red blinker light, right for 1 block (see the Slate Valley Museum signs), left/south on either side of the old train station now a B&B, to the museum. (Do not cross the Mettowiee River bridge.)

From the north west: South on the Northway I-87 to exit 20; left onto Rt. 9 north for about 1 mile; east/right onto Rt. 149 to Rt. 4 in Ft. Ann; left/north on Rt. 4 to the stop light at Rt. 22; right/east on Rt. 22 to Granville. There is a school on the right, then a yellow blinker light. Now continue south another mile to the first left, Mettowiee St. Go left to the 3rd stop sign, right onto Glen St., left over the bridge, then the next right to the museum.

From the south west: Route 22 north to the stop light at Route 149. Right up the hill on Church St., pass Price Chopper Plaza, cross the Mettowiee River bridge, watch for museum sign, take the first left, Water St. to the museum

Spring Sale

***INDEX TO BRANCHES
& TWIGS, 1972—1995***
*by Robert M. Murphy, ed. 2000, 572 pp.,
hardbound. Item No. GSV 7.*

*Plus \$3.50 shipping and handling for the first copy
and \$1.00 for each additional copy.*

**Regular price \$58.50 members,
\$65.00 nonmembers.**

Special Sale Price \$30

DEATHS.

~~DE~~ **Marriages and Deaths inserted FREE.**

PROCTOR/CHELSEA — Frank Ray Keyser Jr. passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2015, surrounded by the family he loved and inspired. Ray was born in Chelsea, Vermont, on August 17, 1927. A passionate father, civic leader, fisherman and hunter, he was devoted to his home state of Vermont.

Ray was the 72nd governor of Vermont from 1961 to 1963, and earlier served as speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives. He served in the U.S. Navy, and after his discharge in 1946, he attended Tufts University and graduated from the Boston University School of Law in 1952. At Tufts, he met and married Joan (Friedgen) Keyser, and following graduation, they moved back to Chelsea, where they had three children, Chris, Carol and Fran. Ray joined his father, the Honorable F. Ray Keyser Sr., and Governor Stanley Wilson at the law firm of Wilson & Keyser.

In 1965, Ray and Joan moved their family to Proctor, and Ray joined the Vermont Marble Co., where in 1970, he became the chief executive officer. They remained connected to Chelsea, where they built a home and a 5.5-acre pond on acreage outside of town. For Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July and throughout the year, Ray's children and their children have gathered at this home, simply called Camp. He was proud to tell friends that as a result, the cousins were as close as siblings.

During his long career, Ray served the business community as chairman of the board of the Hitchcock Clinic and as a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Union Mutual Insurance Co., the Vermont Golf Association, the Green Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Associated Industries of Vermont, Central Vermont Public Service Corp., S-K-I Ltd. and numerous other organizations, both in Vermont and nationally. He was a Mason and helped design the expansion of the Proctor-Pittsford Country Club, of which he was a stockholder.

After Joan's death in 2002, Ray began spending winters in Hernando, Florida. He met and married Mary Lou (Underhill) Keyser in 2005, in a Christmastime ceremony. He and Mary Lou enjoyed playing golf and bridge with their many friends in Florida. Ray devoted himself to writing his memoirs, which his family intends to publish soon.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Keyser; his sister, Natalie Niles; his children, Christopher Scott Keyser, Carol Ellen Fjeld and Frank Ray Keyser III, and their spouses, Jane Kosmider, George Fjeld and Pam Keyser; his grandchildren, Ariana Malutich, Mary Rachel Voity, Jessica Fjeld, Chelsea Keyser, Troy Keyser, Hannah Fjeld, Amy Sheppard, Christian Fjeld and Kalle Joan Fjeld, and their spouses, Matt Malutich, Matthew Voity, Benjamin Bearnot, Martin Fjeld, Mark Sheppard and Jana Culjak; and his great-grandchildren, Maci Mae Voity, Maggie Ray Voity and Veda Malutich.

Services will be held in Chelsea in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the United Church of Chelsea, Ducks Unlimited, the Chelsea Fish & Game Club or the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice.

The Boardway & Cilley Funeral Home, Chelsea, VT is in charge of arrangements. A private message of sympathy can be shared at www.boardwayandcilley.com

Printed in the Rutland Herald on March 9, 2015

THE QUEBEC FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY PRESENTS

Roots 2015

An International Conference on Family History in

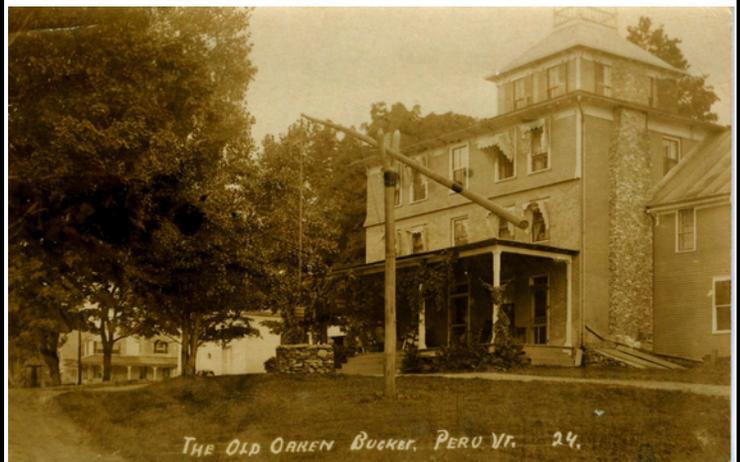
Quebec

June 19-21, 2015

At McGill University

Montreal, Quebec

Full Details available at www.qfhs.ca



INTRODUCING THE EARLY VERMONT SETTLERS TO 1784 STUDY PROJECT by *Scott Andrew Bartley*

The focus of much New England research has always been on the pre-1700 families mostly in southern New England. The logic of it affecting more people's ancestry makes perfect sense. NEHGS has now embarked on projects to get those researchers who are stuck outside of New England to get through the migration brick wall of western New England. NEHGS started the Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 project with Helen Schatvet Ullmann several years ago and it has produced great results. She is identifying families moving across the Berkshires using the snapshot of the 1790 census to develop an understanding of the migration through this region. Today we announce a sister project with the same purpose covering those who traveled north of the Massachusetts border on their migration out of southern New England.

Just like the first project, the Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 will find a large number of the children in each sketch who have moved on, commonly west to New York, Ohio, and beyond. Vermont was the last frontier of New England. The first settlement was Fort Dummer near Brattleboro in 1724 under the authority of Massachusetts, but settlers were not granted land until 1749. The French and Indian War (1754-1763) kept settlement to a minimum, but it also introduced the area to the soldiers who were sent to fight along this frontier. The 1760s and 1770s saw Vermont as a political battleground between New Hampshire and New York – each who staked their claim to this territory. Many religious factions moved into Vermont to find their freedom from the established towns of southern New England. Add to this mix the seeds of the Revolution and you have the ingredients that founded an independent Vermont – not part of the new United States and also not part of colonial British America – for fourteen years. This is the backdrop for our project.

Vermont is unique in its migration history. The initial settlers laid down the political and religious fabric of the state. The end of the Revolutionary War in 1783 unlocked a flood gate of settlers to this new, open land which at the time was thought would become one of the most populated areas of the country. By 1808, settlers determined that the land was not that good for farming as they thought and flatter land with rich soil started opening up in New York and Ohio which slowed down the number of immigrants to Vermont. By 1830, the mass exodus west began. As fast as the settlers arrived in the 1780s and 1790s, they seemed to leave even faster. The vast majority of Vermont towns still have not exceeded their peak pre-1850 population.

With this project, we hope to learn who the players were on the political and religious fronts, uncover the migration patterns for this period in the region, and identify all those just looking to better their lives on the new frontier. Those included in this study project are heads of households identified in Donald Alan Smith's thesis "Legacy of Dissent: Religion and Politics in Revolutionary Vermont 1749 to 1784" (Clark U., Ph.D., 1980), a copy can be found in the NEHGS library.

Family sketches will be based on the heads of households included in Donald Alan Smith's work and any others that might be identified through this research as a head of household by 1784. Each sketch will be in *Register* format, fully and concisely documented. Sketches will include the ancestry of the head from secondary sources (if found); all vital records of the head, spouses, spouse's spouses (if applicable), all children, all children's spouses; citations to all published gravestones (online and printed); identifying the head in his pre-Vermont setting; finding any occupations, religious affiliation, political affiliation, military record, education, offices held in Vermont, and proprietorships (if possible); all probate records; and a survey of the Vermont State Papers, local histories, and genealogies.

Sketches will be published monthly as stand-alone articles on the NEHGS website with a detailed, searchable index. A table of contents will show the heads of household covered in the online sketches which will grow over time. Being such a massive undertaking, NEHGS members are urged to write the Society with copies of any additional primary material as the possibilities to revise and update sketches is possible. The thesis suggests that this project can include upwards of 2,500 sketches. The hope is to produce a minimum of 50 sketches per year, but likely between 100 and 120 sketches is anticipated.

The plan is to cover the earlier settlers first since their older children will likely be candidates for the later part of the project. We will use the 1771 census of Cumberland County as our first guide and add more from that base. The author is in contact with the Vermont and New York state archivists to help identify collections of records that will cover these early citizens of Vermont.

Submitted by Scott Andrew Bartley. He can be reached at VermontSettlers1784@nehgs.org.



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; 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. *out of print.*

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)

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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:

Jan. 15 — March issue
April 15 — June issue
July 15 — September issue
Oct. 15 — December issue

Vermont Genealogy, the GSV Journal contact information:

Vermont Genealogy Editorial Board
P.O. Box 14,
Randolph, VT 05060-0014
stevens@vermontel.net

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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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 - 18: 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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Dues are \$25.00 for US addresses.

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*, should be sent to

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

