



Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Vermont

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Do you like the design changes in this issue? I indulged my often neglected right brain, which needs the exercise. It's the fun part of the Editor's job, so I hope it meets with your approval.

Important News!!! VERMONT VITAL RECORDS 1909-2008

Ancestry.com now has Vermont Vital Records from 1909-2008 available. This is a great new resource, especially for our members living far away from Vermont. The database includes births, marriages and deaths, and includes the images of the microfilmed records at the Vermont Archives. For those who have researched at Vermont Archives, you know the frustrations of trying to decipher poor microfilm images. The records have all been digitized and should be much easier to view.

On the page that displays a transcription of the record is a link to the digitized image. I encourage you to view the image, as there may be more information on it. For example, I viewed a death record for Amos W. Leach, and the transcription provided the names of his father (Hiram Leach) and his mother (Louisa). The image, however, also revealed his mother's maiden name (Louisa Prindle).

Another thing to remember when viewing early marriage records - two cards were included for each marriage. One was for the groom and the other for the bride. Although both provide the names of the groom and the bride, the cards otherwise provide information on only one of the parties (age, number of marriage, parents, birthplace, etc.) So be sure to get both cards for a more complete picture of the couple.

In order to view these images, of course, you will have to have a subscription to Ancestry.com. Failing a personal subscription, you may be able to access Ancestry.com through a public library or local historical society. The Vermont Historical Society maintains a subscription to the service for its patrons, as do the Vermont State Library and many public libraries. You can probably find a library near you who will provide the same service. Good luck and good sleuthing.

Bob Murphy



Genealogy Goes Prime Time

Genealogy has come out of the closet - and dusty attics, dark basements and stuffy storage rooms. Three prime time TV shows have brought it to the public's attention as only TV can in America. Love them or hate them, the publicity surrounding the shows will benefit the genealogy community. People who have never given their family history a second thought may discover how thrilling and emotional genealogy can be, and be inspired to try it themselves. (And we know they will get "hooked", just as we did!) With more family historians, there will be more opportunities for branches of your family to connect. As Juliana Smith put it, "Perhaps the key to your family history is waiting to be discovered in the attic of someone whose interest in family history is sparked by the show." She adds the following notes she received from the San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society in Texas:

As soon as we heard about the airing, our board members scheduled a beginners class entitled "How to Find Out Who You Are!" to begin Sunday afternoon after the first airing of

(Continued on page 5)

President's Message

Keep working on those submissions to Jonathan Stevens for the next volume of Vermont Families in 1791. We are hoping to produce that third volume in a year or so, and it should be an immediate best-seller. If you are not able to get anything ready for volume 3, be assured we are already planning for a volume 4, so get to work and be a contributor.

I had an interesting experience a week ago. I went to the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in Jericho, Vt., where I gave a talk on basic genealogy resources to a group of about 12. There were lot of questions, and I think I answered most satisfactorily. I promoted GSV and handed out samples of *Vermont Genealogy* and GSV brochures. If we are lucky, we may pick up a member or two by doing this. I will be giving a similar presentation at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier at the end of May. Experience from my Jericho presentation (that was the first time I've done this) should make the Montpelier talk even more successful. I mention this mainly because there are probably many of you out there who have considerable genealogical expertise, which you could share with others. Libraries, senior centers and other groups are always looking for folks to contribute knowledge and experience to their programs. I encourage you to offer your services. It is a way to offer service the community that is enjoyable and rewarding, and the feedback will help you improve your delivery for your next talk. Give it a try!

A long-awaited event has finally happened. The Vermont Vital Records (births, marriages and deaths) from 1909 to 2008 are

now available online at Ancestry.com. This is a wonderful resource for Vermont researchers. If you don't have a subscription to Ancestry.com, there is a very good chance that a library in your area does have one. Searching this database will be much easier than it was in the microfilmed version, as you can search not only on the name of the individual, but also on parents' names. By simply filling in the surname in question, and the first names of parents, it is possible to pull up an entire family's birth records at one time.

As anticipated, a bill is now before the Vermont Legislature to consolidate the court system, including the Probate Courts. It is not entirely clear to me whether GSV should be taking a position on the proposal. You can read the proposed changes at www.leg.state.vt.us/database/status/summary.cfm?Bill=H.0470&Session=2010 and decide for yourself if you would like to weigh in on this.

The Genealogical Society of Vermont now has a presence on Face Book. Join us there and share opinions, pose questions, etc. or just say "Hello."

The Vermont History Center is resurrecting Vermont History Expo at the Tunbridge Fair Grounds this June. The dates are Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27, and GSV will have a presence. Join us there for a great time. Dozens of local historical societies will have exhibits to entertain, educate and stimulate you, and you may actually learn something you didn't know about your ancestors.

Bob Murphy
rmm@sover.net

Researching 1791 Vermont Families - John Leach of Fairfield

Like many of you (I hope), I am working on a submission for the next volume of Vermont Families in 1791. As I continue my research on the Leaches of Fairfield, Vt., I am frequently frustrated by the lack of vital records, so have to turn to other resources. John Leach, Sr., of Fairfield, had 14 children by two wives, so I have a lot to find. Among the more difficult offspring have been Jacob and George.

Jacob Leach was born in New Fairfield, Conn., the last of John's children by his first wife, presumably ca. 1768. He would have been about 20 years old when his father moved to Fairfield, Vt. Jacob may have migrated with him, but that is not certain. The Leach Genealogy claims that Jacob married Betsey Nicholson, but no date or place is given. Looking at Jacob Leaches in the US Census, it looks like Jacob, his wife and children were in Half Moon, N.Y. in 1800. Ten years later, they were probably in Litchfield, N.Y., and after that in Winfield, N.Y. This supposition is all based on the family makeup, and there is no proof. The Jacob Leach in Winfield died in 1843, and had a wife named Elizabeth, who died there in 1845. Other Leaches in that vicinity who are of an age to be children of Jacob and Betsey are Daniel, John and Jacob. No proof; all is currently supposition.

George Leach was only 2 years old when his family moved to Vermont. We can be certain, therefore, that George was present with the family in 1791, and probably 1800 as well. I found a George Leach in nearby Cambridge, Vt., in 1810 with a (presumed) wife and children. No names, of course. He is no longer in Cambridge in 1820, but I found a George Leach in Cornwall, Vt., in that census, and the family composition is consistent with the 1810 George in Cambridge. No clues as to where George might have gone after that. Are these two Georges the same person? Is George the son of John of Fairfield? I have found no vital records (yet) which prove this, nor have I found any names of George's wife or children. Yesterday I was at Vermont Archives in Middlesex, and began a search of deeds in Cambridge. Serendipitously (early deeds were indexed only by grantor), I found a deed in 1807 where a Nathaniel Dickinson was selling 80 acres of land to Asa Leach of Cambridge and George Leach of Fairfield. This pretty much satisfies me that I have the right George, at least as far as Cambridge. (Asa Leach was a brother of George's, by the way.) I will continue my explorations to see if I can find a link between the Cambridge George and the Cornwall George.

(Continued on page 3)

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

**Gloria Altona**

7634 Kilt Court
 San Diego, CA 92111
 Researching: Brown, Day,
 Miltimore, Wing

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 Cushman, Miner, Poppy

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 Swan, Whitney

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Getting Around the GSV Website

The link to the Members Only section is the GSV Members button on the menu on the left hand side of the GSV Home page. You need to enter your member number from your membership card (also found on the mailing label for this newsletter) to gain access. The Members Only files are listed once you log in. Also, please check out the Queries section. Check the other menu options for indexes, which are on several pages.

John Leach of Fairfield

(Continued from page 2)

I have posted queries about both of these sons of John Leach on the surname mailing list of Genealogy.com, in the hope that someone out there has information to share. Meanwhile I continue my own searches in deeds, probate records and wherever else I can find references to these two.

The point of all this? Never give up. A lack of vital records sometimes just makes the search a little more challenging and interesting.

Bob Murphy

VERMONT GENEALOGICAL CONTENT on the GSV WEBSITE

Have you visited the GSV website (www.genealogyvermont.org) lately? If not, take another look. Since the GSV website was established a few years ago, much genealogically relevant content has been made available to members, and more is added all the time. Here is a list of some of that content:

- 24 years worth of *Branches & Twigs*, predecessor to *Vermont Genealogy*. Included are indexes to each year of the publication. If you are like me, you joined long after this publication was started, and have only a few issues of the later years; or perhaps none at all. For years this resource was available only at larger genealogical libraries – now it is available to all GSV members. The indexes comprise a total of over 180,000 entries!
- Marriages and Deaths reported in the *Burlington Free Press*. This is an ongoing project. The VHS library has 10 volumes of *Free Press* indexes. Seven have so far been transcribed and are on our website, covering the years from 1848-1867. More are coming.
- Westminster West Cemetery transcriptions.
- Early deeds of Kelleyvale.
- Marriages and Baptisms performed by Richard Bedford, Jr., Methodist Episcopal minister, 1836-1849.
- Vital Records from Central Vermont Newspapers for 2006.
- Marriages in Montpelier, Burlington and Berlin, 1789-1876.
- Topical Indices to both *Branches & Twigs* and *Vermont Genealogy*. In addition to name indices for these publications, it is sometimes helpful to know whether cemetery transcriptions from a certain town are included, or whether other geographically-related resources may be found in our publications. This is where to look for that information.

Members are invited to submit additions to this database by which all can benefit. If you haven't yet visited this resource, please do so, and let us know how we can improve and expand it. Thanks.

Bob Murphy

Quick Tips

Most digital cameras have a "Macro" setting, and many now have a "Text" setting, also. These settings allow you to take clear pictures of old documents and records. A tripod is not necessary, but it does help keep blurring to a minimum. A camera and folding tripod are much easier to transport than a scanner, and will not damage fragile old documents. A flash is not needed in normal light. Before taking pictures of the pages you need, take a picture of the cover and title page, or anything that identifies where the document came from. Digital cameras are great for headstones, also. Bring along a white board and white board marker. First, take a picture of the cemetery name sign. If there is no sign, write the cemetery name and location on the board and take a picture of that. If a gravestone is not in good condition, write the information on the white board and take a picture of it immediately after the headstone picture.

Exploring New Paths to Your Roots

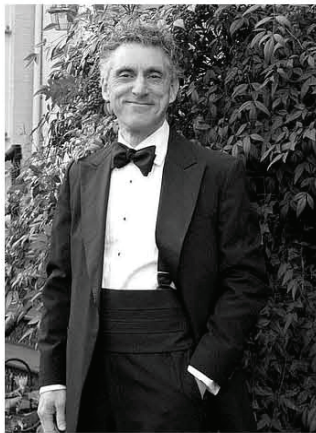
11th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



6-10 April 2011
Springfield, Massachusetts

Featuring over 50 genealogical experts and 100 informative lectures, workshops, the Ancestors Road Show, Librarians and Teachers Day, and popular Special Interest Groups.

National Speakers



John Philip Colletta

Entertaining, knowledgeable and experienced, John Philip Colletta is a popular lecturer. For 21 years he taught workshops at the National Archives and courses for the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Colletta is a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. His publications include articles, two manuals, and one "murder-mystery-family-history."



Paul Milner

Paul Milner, a native of northern England, is a professional genealogist and lecturer. Paul has specialized in British Isles genealogical research for 30 years. He is the author of several books on English and Scottish genealogical research. He has been designing workshops and lecturing to a wide variety of audiences for over 35 years.

More information at
www.nergc.org

*Genealogy Goes Prime Time***The Mailbox**

You were successful in recruiting me -- I've joined GSV, and enjoyed the piece in the latest newsletter warning us not to trust gravestones. In that matter I thought you might find the attached image worth a chuckle. Nathan Dame was the father-in-law of my great-great uncle George Cushman, 3/12/1856 Waterford VT - 6/18/1928 Medford MA, and as you can see, his death rewrote the calendar! The stone is in Oak Grove Cemetery in Medford, proving that not just rural stonecutters can screw up.

Best,
Allen Hill



"Who Do You Think You Are?" Our local NBC affiliate, WOAI-TV, not only publicized our event, they filmed our Library and gave us a live interview on the 5:00 & 6:00 pm news. We were inundated with calls, filled our first series of classes and have had to schedule another consecutive round of classes for new researchers! Thanks to all the above, our 50 year old Society with its 16,000 vol. library, is no longer San Antonio's best-kept secret!

The only genealogy themed series presented on a major network, NBC's "Who Do You Think You Are?" is undoubtedly the most popular of the shows and NBC has renewed it for a second season. (Lest you infer a major network has suddenly come up with an original thought, BBC has aired a very successful British version of "Who Do You Think You Are?" since 2004.)

PBS aired "Faces of America" nationally on Wednesday nights from February 10 - March 3, 2010, with their own list of celebrities. BYUTV's series, "The Generations Project", airs Monday nights at 10 pm EST, and can be viewed on their website (<http://www.byutv.org/thegenerationsproject/>) as well. Unlike the offerings on NBC and PBS, "The Generations Project" features ordinary people searching for their ancestors. There is even a menu option on their website to "Apply to be on the Show" if you are so inclined.

Deidre Dagner

EDITOR'S CORNER

As I was looking through my collection of original family documents for a death certificate I needed, I paused to review a document I hadn't examined closely before. It was my grandmother's military discharge paper, which didn't appear very interesting at first glance. Name, birth date, employment history, residence, date of enlistment - pretty dry stuff that I had copied to my genealogy file already.

For some reason my eyes suddenly focused on the education entries. It did not surprise me that she had not completed high school, and even the "8" entered in the Last Grade Completed was not a total shock. Women of that era from very poor - and usually very large - families often had to quit school in order to help support the family. My grandmother was the oldest child in her family, and the oldest children had the most responsibility to go to work very young.

The answer in the next box in this group under Age was "16". It was her

age during her last year of school. It took a few minutes before I realized the significance of this entry. My subconscious already knew this was important, but it took my conscious brain longer to catch up. I calculated how old I was in eighth grade. Fourteen, almost fifteen. Well, sixteen was close, so that wasn't what was bothering me. Suddenly, I realized why her age was important - that was her age when she married my grandfather. Somehow, sixteen did not sound so young when I discovered her marriage certificate. However, she was in *eighth* grade when she became pregnant! Her first child was born only three months after her marriage. Somehow, the words, "eighth grade," had much more impact than dates on her Family Group sheet.

I checked the rest of the document carefully. Her training in the army was listed as medical aide. I was told she had served as a cook in the army. My father must have made an assumption, as my grandmother was a cook for many years. This is the reason we

need to check the things family members relate. It is a small, harmless mistake, but serves to illustrate the how easily errors can get into our files.

It is very important to review all those notes and sources that you have spent so many hours carefully filing away (or rearranging into assorted piles) periodically. I discover something new every time I do this, without fail. It is one project sure to reward you with the thrill of discovery we all hope for every time we do genealogy.

Deidre Dagner

Sheldon Family Association Meeting

Sheldon Family Association will meet August 5-8, 2010 at the Holiday Inn in Grand Rapids Michigan at the 72th annual gathering for genealogy & friendship. For information contact the website at Sheldonfamily.org.



GSV PUBLICATIONS

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

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

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

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

Vital Records of Putney, Vermont to the Year 1900.

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

Vital Records of Rockingham, Vermont and the Records of the First Church of Rockingham.

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

Georgia, Vermont Vital Records. Peter S. Mallet, ed., 1995,

hardbound. Item No. GSV 4; \$27.00 members, \$30.00 nonmembers. This volume presents all births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials recorded in the 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.

Order Form

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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
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Vermont Genealogy, the GSV Journal contact information:

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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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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.).

Family Bible Record of John Hutchins & Mrs. Anna Casson

Polly [Casson] Smith born July __ 1779 [child of William & Anna ____ Casson]
Sally Hutching was born Dec 9, 1781
Lydia Hutchings was born March 29 1784
Phebe Hutchings was born June __ 1786

[John Hutchins married Anna ____ Casson, 9 Apr 1781, Bennington, VT.
Anna's first husband was William Casson
John Hutchins died 28 Mar 1792, Ea____, NY.

Anna married, third, Asahel Graves of PA. Asahel Graves died 17 Jul 1834.
John Hutchins enlisted Bennington, VT, under Capt. William Hutchins]

Revolutionary War Pension of Anna Casson Hutchins Graves W-19533

**INTERMENT RECORDS, EVERGREEN CEMETERY
1861-1904, RUTLAND COUNTY, VERMONT**

Compiled by Margaret R. Jenks—Edited by Dawn D. Hance

The original record book provides columns for: section, date of burial, age, place of birth and death, cause of death, parents and remarks. Many burials were transferred in from the older cemeteries. It has been found that many of the interments do not have gravestones. 210 pages, 8700 names, name & place indexes.

\$35.00 postpaid, NY residents please add sales tax.
Margaret R. Jenks, 24 Mettowee Street, Granville, NY 12832

Genealogical Society of Vermont

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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.



Mystery Photo

Do you recognize the uniforms these people are wearing? Most of the women in this picture are wearing long, black dresses with white aprons. One appears to have a nurse's hat and uniform. What kind of work would combine them into a group picture?