



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Dates to remember

#### May 31 - June 4, 2000

New England Regional Genealogical Conference, combined with National Genealogical Society conference, Providence, Rhode Island. Late in 1999 or early in 2000 you will receive full registration materials. If you have never attended a major genealogical conference, you should plan to go to this one. There will be literally hundreds of speakers on topics of interest to any genealogical field and skill level.

Members of GSV have signed up for our minimum number of hours of volunteer time assisting in the administrative needs of this huge conference. The conference could still use more of us, however, and our own organization will need people to help staff our booth in the exhibit area. If you are planning on being there, please let a GSV officer know if you can spend some time helping the conference - as a guide to help lost people in the conference center, assisting with registration, setting up a slide projector somewhere, etc. etc.; or helping GSV tell folks about Vermont genealogy and sell books.

As previously announced, tentative dates for GSV meetings in 2000 are **May 6** and **October 21**.

### Town Clerk of the Year Award

We are pleased to announce that the award in 1999 went to Barbara Baker, Town Clerk of Alburgh. Alburgh's local historians have been busy preparing for publication the second volume of Allen Stratton's *History of Alburgh*, with compiled genealogy for the town, which was incomplete after the publication of the first volume and Stratton's subsequent death. The partially assembled manuscript has been at the Vermont Historical Society. Ms. Baker's involvement in this project has been immensely valuable to

seeing through to publication a potentially significant Vermont genealogical work.

### Volunteers needed

At this writing, we are still looking for a **Webmaster** and a **Correspondence Assistant** for the Genealogical Society of Vermont. See the last issue of the *Newsletter* for details and please get in touch with any GSV officer if you think you can help.

### Records preservation

We have funding available for considerably more projects to preserve Vermont records of genealogical interest, by microfilming, publication, putting on the Web, or whatever means you think of, than are now in progress. Look around for material which has not been published or filmed, and let us know if you want a copy of the guidelines for this grant program.

I enjoyed a lively meeting of GSV members and others interested in Vermont family history in the library of the University of Alaska at Anchorage on June 22. Thanks to Alden Rollins for planning this and providing a warm reception and refreshments in what I believe to be the most unfailingly friendly state of all the fifty I have now been to.

## MAY GSV MEETING

Those of us attending the May meeting in Randolph were privileged to hear three excellent speakers.

Paul Donovan gave us a most detailed report on the resources of the library, many resources your editor had no idea were available.

After lunch, Miriam Herwig gave us a delightful talk on Randolph and its people. She was followed by Kerrin McCadden, English teacher at Montpelier High School who teaches an English course on Genealogy. She has inspired many students to trace their family history. Their creed: "I haven't found it yet, don't say I can't find it."

## GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AT THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

The Department of Libraries' Reference and Law Services (RLS) offers substantial genealogical resources, next door to the more familiar Vermont Historical Society. Monday-morning genealogists are often surprised to discover that RLS has U.S. Censuses of Population from 1790 through 1920 (with all available indices) as well as Censuses of Agriculture and Manufacturing (also known as Mines, Industries or Commerce), rosters of veterans for the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, both World Wars, and the wars in Korea and VietNam. The collection of Vermont town reports, from circa 1890 to present, has no rival, and is at their fingertips.

Greeting them in the stacks is Hemenway's indispensable "gazetteer", town and county histories and directories, biographies of Vermonters, and professional organization directories. And covering all the events in all those volumes are Vermont newspapers - far more than any other single collection.

Genealogists are delighted to locate other treasures as well: personal accounts,

A quarterly publication © 1999  
Genealogical Society of Vermont

News, articles and comments  
should be mailed to:

Mrs. Margaret R. Jenks  
24 Mettowee Street  
Granville, NY 12832-1037  
(518) 642-1894  
e-mail: mjenks@capital.net

Deadlines for information are:  
Dec. 15, Mar. 15, June 15 & Sept. 15  
for the February, May, August and  
November issues of the *Newsletter*.

diaries, maps, and cemetery listings. The Department also has information on how to utilize other sources such as the National Archives and immigration records, and can provide contact information to other states' vital records and genealogical and historical societies.

Located at 109 State Street in Montpelier between the State House and the Pavilion Office Building (which houses the Vermont Historical Society), and open Monday through Friday from 7:45 until 4:30, this variety of genealogical sources is available to the public on site, or through their local libraries, via interlibrary loan. Spread the word: the Department of Libraries is a place where genealogists can "come to their census"!

Paul Donovan, Librarian

### BRANCHES AND TWIGS INDEXING PROJECT UPDATE

by Bob Murphy

This project is entering the home stretch. Of the 96 issues of Branches and Twigs only 9 remain to be indexed and checked, bringing us to 86% completion. Those who have done the indexing have produced an outstanding volume of work over this past spring and summer.

Combining files for the various issues into volumes has begun, and when that is complete, the 24 volumes will be combined into one massive file for production of the final index. The same is being done with the book reviews, but of course those files are much smaller and easier to deal with.

I am hopeful that the indexing and checking of remaining issues can be completed within another month. I then plan to put the entire work together in preparation for printing. We are still on target for completion of our work (not the printing portion, of course) by the end of 1999. That has been, and continues to be, my goal.

### BOOK REVIEW POLICY

Books for review should be sent to John A. Leppman, 29 Oak Hill Terrace, Belows Falls, VT 05101

### VERMONT FAMILIES PROJECT WINS AGAIN!

The 12th annual Literary Awards from the Connecticut Society of Genealogists were handed out in May. They group books into three categories: Genealogy (descendancy); Family History (ancestry); and Other (including indexes, guide books, reference works). Vermont Families in 1791, Volume 2 was entered in the "Other" category.

First prize went to *Hopkinton, Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries* by Gayle E. Waite and Lorraine Tarket-Arruda. Our volume tied for second place! You may recall that Volume 1 won first prize in 1995.

The editor, Scott Andrew Bartley, is pleased. "It is interesting to note," he says, "that this volume is much better than the first, and this one placed second! That just means genealogical societies like GSV are inspiring more people to produce lasting memories to our hobby, family, and history. That will ultimately make it easier to conduct research in the future."

Material is still being gathered for the next volume of Vermont Families in 1791. The editor has been working on other projects recently, including four articles that were published and the Windsor County Probate Index, 1778-1899, which will be out by year's end. After that, work on volume 3 will begin in earnest.

Scott is also announcing a new web site designed by a friend, Walter Petruck. <http://www.yourgenealogist.com>. It will soon be linked to the major browsers and the GSV website.

One feature is the consolidated Vermont Families in 1791 place index for both volumes. He hopes to have the name index up soon. He will also have his old articles available here. After the current articles have been published 6 months, they too will appear. Scott is writing a series of articles on Vermont for the NEHGS website. Take a surf into the site and spread the word.

### UNPUBLISHED INVENTORIES OF THE TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND CITY ARCHIVES OF VERMONT, 1936-1942

by Alden M. Rollins  
Anchorage, Alaska  
June 1998  
*Background*

The Vermont Historical Records Survey of the U.S. Works Progress Administration began its work in 1936, and closed down prematurely in 1942 because of the war. Its primary business was to inventory the public and ecclesiastical records of Vermont, although it undertook as well such valuable endeavors as an index to the *Burlington Free Press*. The goal was to publish the results of its inquiries, and from May 1939 to January 1942, 48 volumes were issued, of which 32 were inventories of town records. The closing of the agency left a vast amount of material in varying stages of completion, resulting in a search for a suitable repository.

The University of Vermont and the Vermont Historical Society hosted the unpublished inventories and other material for many years, until the town, county, and church inventories were turned over to the Vermont Public Records Division. The boxes are stored in a vault in Middlesex at the great archival facility on Route 2, just off Exit 9 on Interstate 89. Henry Howard Eddy, the last supervisor of the survey, tells the story and gives an outline inventory of the surviving material as of June 1942 in his invaluable *Final Report and Inventory of the Vermont Historical Records Survey* (1942).

#### *The Town Surveys*

The unpublished inventories of the town records are in 20 archival storage boxes. They are catalogued in the computer at the storage facility as PRA 1206 to PRA 1226, and are available for investigation to those researchers who know about them. In fact, they are rarely touched, which is in one sense a good thing considering the fragility of the paper used in the 1930s.

The boxes hold - perhaps "hide" would be a better word - a priceless guide to all the public records in the towns of Vermont at the time, excluding the 32 towns whose files were purged when their inventories were published. Moreover, there are historical sketches of most towns. These are of great value in themselves; for many towns they provide the only written histories, although the narratives are often choppy and concentrate on a few basic themes (first settlers, politics, early economic activity, etc.) without much analysis.

While sometimes little more than sketches, the town inventories are usually well along in the process of publication, and the level of detail is often extraordinary, going well beyond what would have been published. For instance, using the inventory worksheets, the researcher can identify not only which town books may have relevant data, but even the pages on which the data are located. Thus the inventory sheets for the first volume of the land records of Kirby reveal that warning out certificates were recorded on pages 102, 104, 105, 107, 111, 114, 115, 116, 118 and 120. The amount of research time saved the researcher armed with this information can well be imagined. Conversely, it is in a sense just as valuable to know quickly that information is NOT available in the town records, again saving much time.

The inventories are now over a half century old, and cannot be expected always to reflect perfectly what remain in the vaults of the various towns. This is a sad

statement to make; it means that valuable material has been lost, unless it had the good fortune to be microfilmed, which is seldom the case. While one hopes that most records survive, it remains a fact that losses are uncovered all the time. The inventories show one town with a beautiful collection of Grand Lists back to 1844, now completely lost except for one at the University of Vermont library and another at the Vermont Historical Society; they show another town with a thick book of warning out certificates, still seen in the town public library in 1990, now gone; they show another town, one of the most important in early Vermont, with a valuable first volume of town proceedings, still extant in the 1970s, now lost. The list goes on, and the solution is to get all this valuable primary source material microfilmed before it is too late.

#### *Why the Inventories Are Being Microfilmed*

Genealogists are on the prowl these days in greater numbers than ever before, and they are looking far beyond vital statistics for information on their ancestors. They are, in fact, also family historians who wish to discover historically relevant material of all kinds both on specific people who lived in the past and on the circumstances of their lives. Almost everyone with an ancestor in the northeast seems to be discovering Vermont connections, not surprising given the large numbers of people flooding into (and then out of) Vermont after the Revolutionary War. With the town inventories conveniently at hand on film, researchers across the country can probe the vault in each town clerk's without actually being there. When relevant material emerges, the researcher can make specific requests when writing to town clerks, thus saving everyone involved in the transaction much time and confusion.

Genealogists are not alone in the need for good inventories of old town records. Historians increasingly find local history appealing as a basis on which to formulate new theses about trends and movements in the American story. Many young historians (antiquarians too) are using New England town records in ways unimaginable only a few decades ago, and if they

had conveniently at hand a vast inventory like this, the amount of time spent pouring over old records would be focused and reduced considerably.

But the dilemma of historical research is that a fragile collection such as these inventories is safest when unused. Once news gets out, it enters the danger zone. No one wants a good resource to sit hidden forever in a vault, but at the same time one has to recognize that the more hands that play with it the greater the danger of loss. Microfilming is the answer: the material is available to a larger audience than could ever visit the original collection, which is left in comparative safety.

#### *Sponsors of the Filming*

The money necessary to subsidize the work comes from as near as Vermont and as far as Alaska. The Genealogical Society of Vermont made the filming of these inventories a priority in 1997, and pledged a generous sum. In the meantime, because of my research activities involving heavy use of Vermont records, the University of Alaska Anchorage where I have worked for 25 years also came forward with financial support. In the end, the cooperation of the Vermont Public Records Division made the project a reality beginning in June 1998.

Many individuals had to be involved in a complex story like this, but I would like to extend very special appreciation of John A. Leppman, President of the Genealogical Society of Vermont, whose support has been strong since the project was first proposed; to Randy Hurlburt, the micrographics supervisor and head of research at the Vermont General Services Center in Middlesex, who worked patiently with me from the start to make the project a reality; and to the many supporters of my research at the University of Alaska, especially the recently retired director of the library, Barbara J. Sokolov.

This is really a project to benefit American studies generally, and my hope is that it may inspire more filming projects like it to help improve the quality of historical and genealogical research everywhere in the United States.

#### **A REMINDER**

Please look at your address label. Your membership expires on the date shown on the label. Send your check in US funds to:

**Genealogical Society of Vermont,  
PO Box 1553  
Saint Albans, VT 05478-1006**

**Dues are \$20 for US addresses  
Canada and Mexico \$25, foreign \$30**

For the latest information on meetings and GSV, visit us on our Internet home-page at: [http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/induni\\_n\\_j](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/induni_n_j)

## FAMILY REUNIONS

Announcements of family reunions must be received by the editor no later than **March 15** each year to be included in the **May Newsletter**. Be sure to include date, place, name & address of contact person. Announcements received after March 15 will be used in the **August Newsletter** if they are for reunions held after September 1.

## ARE YOU MOVING? REPLACEMENT COPIES

Please notify the Society in advance of any address changes (including summer and winter addresses). Your copies of *Vermont Genealogy* and *The GSV Newsletter* are forwarded to you by the Post Office with additional charges to the Society if you have filed a forwarding notice with the Post Office.

We will send you replacement copies of *Vermont Genealogy* by first class mail for a small replacement fee of \$3.25 for each issue. Replacement copies of *The GSV Newsletter* will be forwarded at no charge. Thank you for letting us know of any address changes in advance. This helps keep costs down.

Janet Induni, Treasurer

## B & T BACK ISSUES

Each issue is \$2 (including postage). Currently available are: Volumes 12:5; 14:1,3,4; 15:3; 16:1-2; 18:1,2,3; 19:4; 20:1-4; 21:1-4; 22:2,3,4; 24:1-4.

## VG BACK ISSUES

Each issue is \$5 (including postage). Currently available are: Volumes 1:1-4; 2:1-4, 3:1-4

Your checks should be payable to GSV and sent to: GSV Back Issues, PO Box 1553, St. Albans, VT 05478-1006.

## Contributions to the Computer Fund

None

## Contributions to the Permanent Fund

None

Please send your donations to GSV, P.O. Box 1553, St. Albans, VT. 05478-1006. Please mark your check "Permanent Fund" or "Computer Fund."

Janet Induni, Treasurer

## MEETINGS

### NEHGS GETTING STARTED

This program is offered the first Wednesday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

This **free** program gives an introduction to NEHGS, its services and ways to help you find your family roots. Tips on how to begin your own family research, tour of the newly renovated library and a chance to meet the library staff. No registration is required.

### SPRING VOCA MEETING

The spring meeting of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association is planned for May 6, 2000 in Williamstown, Vermont. Unfortunately this is the same day as the planned GSV meeting due to scheduling problems.

VOCA grants funds for repairing old cemeteries. This year the grants are \$500 to be matched with volunteers or money. Workshops may be scheduled to teach grave stone repair. Please visit VOCA's web page at: <http://homepages.together.net/~btrutor/voca/vocahome.htm>.

### THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBERS:

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 Mesa, AZ 85206

*e-mail:* sutphin@goodnet.com  
*research interests:* Mosher, Snyder, Handy, Canedy.

### THE ELUSIVE ANCESTOR

I went searching for an ancestor, I cannot find him still.  
 He moved around from place to place and did not leave a will.  
 He married where a courthouse burned, he mended all his fences.  
 He avoided any man who came to take the U.S. Census.

He always kept his luggage packed, this man who had no fame.  
 And every 20 years or so, this rascal changed his name.  
 His parents came from Europe. They should be on some list of passengers to the U.S.A. but somehow they got missed.

And no one else in this world is searching for this man.  
 So, I play geneasolitaire to find him if I can.  
 I'm told he's buried in a plot, with tombstone he was blessed; but the weather took engraving, and some vandals took the rest.

He died before the county clerks decided to keep records.  
 No family Bible has emerged, in spite of all my efforts.  
 To top it off, this ancestor who caused me many groans, just to give me one more pain, betrothed a girl names JONES!

Author Unknown, reprinted with permission from Sikes/Sykes Tributaries 8:3

### Subscribe to FGS Forum You're Entitled To a Discount!

This society is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, a confederation of more than 525 societies in the United States and Canada. One benefit to you is that you are entitled to a subscription to its quarterly magazine, *Forum* at the discounted price of only \$11 per year.

Each issue of the magazine contains articles designed to advance your knowledge of genealogical research. Previous issues have covered areas such as cemetery and courthouse research, the IGI, research in specific states, etc. A typical issue is 40 pages.

*Forum* has the most complete "Calendar of Events" of any genealogical magazine. A typical issue shows as many as 50 different seminars and lectures being held throughout the United States. A handy "Calendar of Events by State" allows you to easily pinpoint which events are in your area.

The column "State Reporting," lists many activities of various genealogical societies and other groups that might advance your research. The "Record Access" column describes the status of accessibility of information by state. Other regular columns appear for family associations, ethnic/international, book reviews and new briefs. If work of a particular society is unusually significant, their efforts appear on the "Society Spotlight" column.

Subscribe now! Send \$11.00 to FGS Forum; P.O. Box 200940; Austin, TX 78720-0940.

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### GRANVILLE, WASHINGTON COUNTY, NEW YORK CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS

Settlement began about 1770 by families mostly from New England. The oldest extant stone, dated 1779, is in the Old Middle Granville Cemetery. The cemetery records are most important as New York did not require the registration of vital records until near 1900. Transcribed 1993.

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### PAID ADVERTISING

The *Newsletter* is now accepting paid advertising at the rate of \$3.00 per column inch. All advertising must relate to genealogy, preferably Vermont genealogy, and must be received before the deadline of the issue the ad is to appear in. Checks must be made out to GSV but sent to the *Newsletter* editor along with the exact wording for the ad. GSV offers no warranty on the services of the advertisers.

**VERMONT FAMILIES IN 1791,  
Volume 1**

Edited by Scott A. Bartley

This award-winning first volume of a projected long series has stimulated research and guided many people to sources useful to establish their own ancestry. The goal of this series is to describe in detail the families listed in the First Federal Census taken in Vermont in 1791, the year Vermont joined the Union. Special Publication No. 1, 1992. xxvii + 281 pp.

**Volume 2**

Edited by Scott A. Bartley

This volume covers 107 families and has improved formatting and more complete information of the third generation. Special Publication No. 5, 1997. xlviii + 304 pp.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

The directory lists addresses & interests of a majority of GSV members. Published for GSV members only. \$3.00 from our post office box address.

**VITAL RECORDS OF PUTNEY,  
VERMONT TO THE YEAR 1900**

Compiled and edited by Ken Stevens

This is not just a verbatim listing of such events, but a complete, concise and accurate compilation from all primary sources available in the town. This material is augmented by the ministerial records of the pastors who served from as early as 1776. Special Publication No. 2, 1992. x + 406 pp.

**GEORGIA, VERMONT  
VITAL RECORDS**

Edited by Peter S. Mallett

The first of its kind for northern Vermont, 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, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and Methodist Church of Georgia and North Fairfax. GSV Special Publication No. 4, 1995.

**VITAL RECORDS OF  
ROCKINGHAM, VERMONT AND  
THE RECORDS OF THE FIRST  
CHURCH OF ROCKINGHAM**

Reprinted from the rare first editions of 1908 and 1902, this is an important source for one of Vermont's oldest towns, chartered in 1752. The town records extend to 1845, church records from 1773 to 1839. New to this publication is an indispensable index of nearly 10,000 names, constructed by Christopher T. Norris and Scott A. Bartley. GSV Special Publication No. 3, 1994. 323 pp.

Each of these five books is \$30.00. Please add \$3.50 for postage for the first book, \$1.00 for each additional book in the same order to the same address. Please add the Vermont Sales Tax of 5% (\$1.50/book) for books mailed to a Vermont address. Mail your checks, payable to GSV, to:

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