

EDITOR'S PREFACE

One usually associates the word *pneumatic*, from the Greek πνεῦμα, meaning “breath,” with bicycle tires and compressed air guns. This same adjective, however, may be appropriated to describe genealogists who breathe new life into old bones. Their skill in investigating and drawing conclusions about ancestors—their associations among kin, friends, work, church, and community—make them three-dimensional once again. A vital element in animating past lives is to understand how individuals reacted to the larger social forces that shaped them and their families. Our compiled family studies and biographical explorations in this issue exemplify how insightful genealogists create rich tapestries that start with names and dates but then weave in other colorful threads.

Cherry Fletcher Bamber, FASG, expands upon her late father's research for a *Mayflower* ancestor. Her article, **In Search of Submit (Cushman) (Scott) (McClintock) Litchfield**, uncovers some startling facts. Submit had three husbands, with children by each one. At times, she and her children knew poverty. This family also reflects the fluidity of nineteenth-century Vermont demographics: Submit, born in Massachusetts, lived in several Vermont towns. Only one of her children remained in the town where they were born, and two of her Vermont-born children died in Rhode Island.

Jane Belcher constructs a fascinating three-generation study in **The Family of Michael Lee of Highgate and East Randolph, Vermont**, a complex web of Irish immigrants, a disappearing husband, fostered children, Civil War soldiers, and one entrepreneur who made his surname a household word.

Jane Dempsey Gramlich investigates **Eveline Sargent Towsley, Chronicler of an Early Rupert, Vermont, Family** and validates the credibility of the woman who created a chart of Revolutionary soldier Nathaniel Towsley's descendants. Eveline moved with her parents from Vermont, to Wisconsin, and finally, to South Dakota.

Alice Blakely Marsh reveals **The Story Her Bible Did Not Tell: Gratia Huntley of Essex, Vermont**, about a school teacher who did not follow her husband to California. Even among highly religious families, divorce followed as a consequence of desertion.

For source material, Denise E. Cross links the South Hero Lotting Map, published in Spring issue of *Vermont Genealogy*, to deeds in **Using the South Hero Lotting Plan to Place Settlers on the Map**. Robert M. Murphy completes the final installment of **Records of the First Congregational Church of Newbury, Vermont**. Long-standing contributors to *Vermont Genealogy*, John A. Leppman has written a **Book Review**, and Drew Bartley has compiled **Seen Elsewhere in 2016**.

This issue concludes with Joseph C. Anderson II's **Name Index**, a much-appreciated and time-intensive undertaking which documents the depth and scope of the articles that have appeared in *Vermont Genealogy*, Volume 22. My sincere thanks to all our contributors.

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