

## EDITOR'S PREFACE

Our fall issue of *Vermont Genealogy* features a balance of compiled genealogies and unique source material. Each of the three genealogical analyses begins with a question and thus generates an inquiry approach to research.

The first of these articles, **Abraham and Hannah (Millington) Collins of Coventry, Connecticut, and Dorset, Vermont, Reunited**, compiled by master genealogists Roger Joslyn and Bradley Arthaud, begins with how they discovered the maiden name of the mother of Abraham Collins's eleven children. Typical of families in Vermont that moved here before statehood, the Collins family left a rich trail in town and vital records, but some mysteries within this family still remain unsolved, such as the identity of Lucy Harris, who married Solomon Collins, and Thaddeus Harris, who married Solomon's sister Hannah Collins. Were these HARRISES siblings, cousins, or of no relation to one another? Further research may one day solve the puzzle. Having worked for many years on the Collins family, Roger and Bradley have drawn upon some resources not available when they first began their quest—newspaper databases and findagrave images. These digital sources have been helpful in documenting Collins descendants as they moved farther from Vermont. As their article demonstrates, it is always worthwhile to check cemetery records that were once recorded a century ago in the card index to Vermont Vital Records but were not photographed as part of findagrave.com.

Karl Lamson, in an ambitious debut article, **Abigail Goodenough, A Pauper of Eden, Vermont**, probes why a six-year-old child lived as a town dependent in one household while her mother and third husband lived in another. Karl used prison records obtained from the Vermont State Archives to prove unequivocally that Abigail's father, Ephraim Goodenough, sentenced in Windsor, Vermont, was the same one convicted of counterfeiting in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

65.

**Entries of Convicts received into the STATE PRISON, in**

Names.	Age.		Height.		Description.			Where born.	
	Years.	Mon.	Feet.	Inch.	Eyes.	Hair.	Complexion.	Town.	County.
Ephraim Goodenough Contrafiter	68		5	8	blue	gray	light	Washington	

Though in the above entry Ephraim's age is off by ten years [68 instead of 58], his height, eye color, and hair color are the telltale pieces of evidence that link this man to other records and crimes. Newspaper accounts add vividness and context to the account of Ephraim's daughter Abigail and her children.

A marriage entry of a couple, with full names of the bride and groom, recorded by the Norwich town clerk a month after the event would appear to be unassailable fact. Drew Bartley proves otherwise in **Who Was the Wife of Joseph Ball of**

**Norwich?** His concise systematic study provides a good model of how additional research and serendipity can tumble a brick wall.

Drew also continues *Vermont Genealogy's* tradition, established twenty years ago, of **Seen Elsewhere in 2017**, a list of articles on Vermont topics published in other journals.

Familysearch.org has an excellent collection of digitized images of original Vermont records. Several examples within this issue reveal the value of combing town records page by page or retrieving the original town record. When Vermont town clerks sent copies of records to the state a century ago, there were gaps in completeness for all towns: Holland, Orleans County, on the Canadian border, was among the four not included in card index of Vermont Vital Records, 1760 to 1870. George W. Varney has transcribed **Holland, Vermont, Vital Records, 1825–1867**. In addition to the births and deaths that did not become a part of the card index, George's transcription includes a number of marriages of Vermont residents from the Eastern Townships of Québec.

Patricia L. Haslam has added two more installments of **Reconstructing the 1890 Census**, this time for the towns of Waterbury and Morristown. This project, initiated to fill a gap made by the fire loss of most of the 1890 census, reveals how a variety of other sources can establish the names of residents in the census year. One of the most valuable of the cited sources is the Veterans' Census, which not only gives details of the veteran's service, but also lists the name of the widow even when she married someone else.

It has already been established how details from prison records can fill in missing genealogical information. Mariessa Dobrick's **Gems from the Vermont Archives: Vermont State Prison Records** overviews this collection with samples from summary books and later entry cards, which include photos of the inmates.

Robert M. Murphy completes Volume 23 of *Vermont Genealogy* with the **Name Index**. His diligence in fulfilling this mammoth task is greatly appreciated.

It is never too soon to contemplate the new year. Articles for 2019 include a study of a Vermont Native American family and the difficulties encountered in tracing them through public records. Look for the debut of a new series, **Names of French Canada Lost in Vermont**. While many researchers have surmounted French name transformations and translations, Vermont abounds in one-of-a-kind names and scores of people who have no inkling of their heritage over the border. First names as well as last names were changed, and names varied from census to census and within vital records of the same town. These case studies of immigrant Vermont immigrant families will focus on problem-solving strategies. We invite our readers to submit ancestors who have thus far stymied them.

With my thanks to all the contributors to *Vermont Genealogy* during the last year and my encouragement to all works-in-progress,

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