

## EDITOR'S PREFACE

Our spring issue of *Vermont Genealogy* marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of its publication. We know several long-time Genealogical Society of Vermont members who have a complete run of our journal. Accessing past issues through 2014 and finding names, however, presented a challenge often requiring hours of digging. As fully described in our newsletter, the database of *Vermont Genealogy* at [americanancestors.org](http://americanancestors.org) [see access on our web page] puts thousands of pages at our fingertips.

Having this resource is indeed a boon to all genealogists researching Vermont individuals and families. Years ago, Henry Hoff, Editor of *The New England Historical Genealogical Register*, advised me that before contemplating publication of an article, check out what has already been printed. The description of *Vermont Genealogy's* database highlights some of our unique transcriptions of unpublished primary sources and family studies that have solved genealogical puzzles. A comprehensive index, updated annually to within five years of the current issue, allows researchers to access and sometimes to be surprised by what has already been discovered.

Many of us honed our genealogical research and writing skills through reading established genealogical journals, and some of us still do. There is, however, a noticeable generation shift in newer genealogists not valuing periodicals. It did not help when major research libraries stopped subscribing to periodicals—that lapse in judgement has been reversed in some instances. The Genealogical Society of Vermont's board holds fast to the value of juried genealogical scholarship and editing as well as how a journal provides a lasting product for future researchers.

We are fortunate to have a queue of articles under consideration for publication. The process of conferencing, editing, and revising an article, as authors can attest, takes time. At press time, we await the opening of archives and research facilities to complete some articles in progress. To expediate some lengthy genealogical projects and to continue transcriptions in a timelier fashion than twice-a-year, we will be posting more material on the website, making sure that backup copies authors' works will be stored off site.

Looking towards the continued economic viability of *Vermont Genealogy*, I am concerned about the diminishing number of subscribers. When our numbers reach only into the low-two hundreds, we risk not being able to cover our production and mailing costs. Our society's Facebook page has three times the number of followers. How then can we translate this interest into more members? Spread the word, please.

This issue features three compiled genealogies which emanate from different motivations. The first, Roger D. Joslyn's **Vermont Families in 1791: Jabez Josselyn of Poultney, Vermont, and His Children and Grandchildren** represents a topic near and dear to the author's heart. Roger's ancestor Jabez Josselyn

was the uncle of Poultney historian Joseph Josselyn. Jabez, however, mirrors the demographic of many heads of household at the time of Vermont's first census: he stayed in Vermont for only about five years before heading west into New York's Ontario and Genesee counties. Roger has compiled family data over five decades. At the beginning of his quest, in addition to making requests by mail, he made trips to western Massachusetts, western New York, Michigan, and Illinois to track Jabez and his descendants with days and days at courthouses, historical societies, libraries, and cemeteries.

George W. Varney's research in **Stephen Burbank of Hopkinton, New Hampshire, Underhill, Vermont, and Hatley, Lower Canada** begins in Québec's notarial records. George's motivation for undertaking this study was to correct the misidentification of Stephen Burbanks's parentage as stated in George Burbank Sedgley's 1928 genealogy, often cited in many family trees. Each of the locations within the article's title encapsulates a significant aspect of the saga. Besides repeating the error of Stephen Burbank's parents, some researchers have tried to reconcile the perplexing chronology of Stephen's two wives by creating a false death for the first and a concocted marriage date for the second. Divulging any further detail would result in a spoiler alert!

Scott Andrew Bartley's **The Search for the Paternal Ancestry of Sarah (Ewell) Lamphere, Wife of William Lamphere of Milton, Vermont** ticks several fascinating boxes. Drew explores new territory through autosomal DNA matches to his maternal uncle, and he follows up on these clues with documentary evidence. His research made the connection to the pre-famine migration of the Moiles/Miles family from Ireland. Moreover, these discoveries would not have been possible without new research tools such as digitized Irish records. As the second generation of Moiles married and settled in northern Vermont, probing further into their marriage records uncovered more instances of French-Canadian names transformed in Vermont—the Shackett/Sacket family, here in the 1840s, descended from Jean Baptiste Choquette whose children were baptized in Marieville, Québec, in the 1820s.

Alice Blakely Marsh's **Thompson Bible Rescue** tells a remarkable and inspiring story of how a dumpster find was united with a descendant of the family whose ancestors were recorded in the Bible's pages.

This issue completes Robert M. Murphy's **Methodist Episcopal Church Records: Vershire Circuit, 1802–1861**, started in *Vermont Genealogy* 23:1. Bob worked on many of his projects at the Vermont Historical Society, which remained closed during the COVID outbreak. While online access allowed us to continue research while staying at home, we all look forward to getting out and into libraries, town offices, and state archives throughout our state and elsewhere.

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