



# Genealogical Society of Vermont

## Newsletter

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August 2011

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: 40 YEARS OF GSV

Many things have changed since 1971. Vermont is certainly not the same place that it once was. By the 1970s it had already changed considerably. It was still a rural state, but the building of the Interstates and shifts in the political landscape had forever changed Vermont. That is not to say that all the change that has happened is bad. It is simply that we live in a much different world today than the one of forty years ago. Life is more complex. That has certainly helped with genealogy through the availability of material online, something that would never have even been thought of in 1971. However, regardless of what some people think, there is still something to be said for those original records and ultimately the thrill of the chase when you find a clue in an old ledger with a inch of dust in the back of a vault. GSV has advanced from the humble beginnings of our former publication *Branches & Twigs* (if you don't have any copies, I urge you to check out some the early issues on our website) to this newsletter and our scholarly journal *Vermont Genealogy*. It does make you sit back and wonder what the future holds.

Our fall meeting on October 29, 2011 will mark the first one since the untimely passing of Joann H. Nichols (a full obituary is featured on page 2). Joann was Charter Member #22, served as GSV's first secretary from 1971 to 1975 and was President for eighteen years from 1975 to 1993. The story of the early history of GSV and that of Joann's interest in genealogy go hand and hand. She recounted much of early history of GSV in a article in the very first issue of *VG*, 1: 1 January 1996 entitled "History of the Genealogical Society of

Vermont as remembered by Joann (Heselton) Nichols." I thought I would mention a few of the highlights from that article. Who better to tell the beginnings of GSV than Joann herself?


"I first became interested in genealogy in 1970 when I went with my aunt and uncle to the Kibling Cemetery in Strafford and found the grave of Thomas Heselton/Hazelton, who turned out to be my third-great grandfather. In pursuing his ancestry, I became acquainted with Florence Lawson, who was descended from a brother of my Thomas, and she shared a lot of her information with me. During the summer of 1971, I saw a notice in the Brattleboro paper announcing a meeting in Burlington of people who might be interested in starting a genealogical society. I called Mrs. Lawson, and we decided to go. The meeting was held on a Saturday in August at the College Street Congregational Church in Burlington, and a good sized handful of people attended. The person who had convened the meeting was Professor Leon W. Dean, the founder of both the Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA) and the Green Mountain Folklore Society."

The officers that were chosen at that first organizational meeting were Leon W. Dean as president, Enoch Tompkins as treasurer, and Joann as secretary. Harley Walter Kidder of Barre volunteered to serve as vice-president. A date for the first meeting was set for October 23, 1971, in Montpelier.

Elizabeth Simonds of Westminster was chosen chair of the Constitution and By-  
*(President's Message, Continued on page 4)*



## *DEATHS.*

 **Marriages and Deaths inserted FREE.**

### JOANN EDITH (HESELTON) NICHOLS 1930-2011

**BRATTLEBORO,**-Joann Edith Heselton Nichols, 80, of Chestnut Street, Brattleboro, died peacefully at Pine Heights Rehabilitation Center on Sunday afternoon, May 22, 2011, following a brief illness. Joann was born on Dec. 1, 1930, in Tinmouth at the home of her maternal grandparents, Leon and Clara (Doty) Gilman. She was raised in Bridgewater by her parents, Ward and Gladys (Gilman) Heselton, and graduated in 1948 from Woodstock High School. Joann was employed in Brattleboro by the Holstein Friesian Association of America, Brattleboro Trust Company, Gates Insurance Agency, Marlboro College, and the law office of John A. Rocray. She was married to Alaric George Nichols on Oct. 6, 1973, at Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro. She joined Centre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, on April 7, 1955, and served for the next 56 years as a church school teacher, church clerk, historian, and member of Deacons, Christian education, and Member Care. Joann was also a member of many genealogical and historical societies. She was a charter member of the Genealogical Society of Vermont in 1971 and was president from 1975-1993. She published the genealogy of Giles Roberts of Scarborough, Maine, and compiled Index to Known Cemetery Listings in Vermont, the third edition, which was published in 1995 by the Vermont Historical Society. For several years she was a member of the Brattleboro Historical Society. Joann is survived by two brothers, Leon Heselton and his wife, Emmy, of Frankfort, N.Y., and Elroy Heselton, and his wife Betty, of Quechee, and many nieces and nephews. Joann was predeceased by two sisters, Blanche Hurlburt Marro of Mt. Holly and Hilda Heselton Bartucca of Bristol, Conn., and her husband, Alaric, who died on May 18, 1991, in Brattleboro. Funeral services in celebration of Joann's life were conducted Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Centre Congregational Church, with the Rev. Carra Bradt, pastor, officiating. A reception and time of fellowship followed the service in the church parlor. Burial service was held on Fri-



Photo Courtesy of John A. Leppman, taken April 10, 2011, at NERGC.

day, June 17, at 2 p.m. in Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery in Brattleboro.

**Editor's Note:** The passing of Joann cannot be summed up in mere words. Her contributions to GSV and the entire genealogical community as a whole were immeasurable. She was not only a past president and a current board member of GSV, but was a member of the Herrick Family Association, the Vermont Mayflower Society and the Brattleboro Historical Society. Joann along with her friend Dawn Hance published extracts of the genealogical items from early issues of the Rutland Herald.

The attendance of her funeral was a testament of just how beloved she was. Joann touched many lives in many different circles. From genealogy to the congregation of the Centre Church, to people who just knew her. GSV was represented at the funeral by Jonathan W. Stevens (president), Carolyn L. Adams, Esq. (vice-president), Stephanie M. O'Rourke (secretary), Jane Belcher (treasurer) and Tom Record (sales chairperson). All sat together in same pew in solidarity, for our former president and board member. The funeral was a fitting goodbye to a lady, who was like a mother, mentor and friend to all of us. Jonathan represented GSV at the small committal service held in Brattleboro's Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery. Carolyn walked in memory of Joann in the Relay for Life in St. Johnsbury on June 11<sup>th</sup> and the board provided a donation for the purchase of luminaries in her honor.

With Joann's passing there is void that will never be filled, not just in GSV, but in all of our lives. She is no longer there to bounce ideas off, to catch typos, or to just simply talk about many interesting things. That has and will take some getting used to for all of us. She was certainly one of a kind, and we are all better genealogists, but perhaps even more importantly, are better people for having known and been able to spend time with Joann.

### GSV 2011 Fall Meeting

*The GSV board is busy making the final preparations for the society's Fall 2011 Meeting, at the Vermont History Center in Barre. Registration will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the annual business meeting at 9:30 a.m. The first speaker will be at 10 a.m. The second at 11 a.m. At noon lunch will be catered by Hilltop Restaurant of Barre Town, and will consist of meat or vegetarian lasagna, bread, salad and a dessert. The final speaker will be at 1:30 p.m.*

*Registration is \$25 for GSV members (\$30 for non-members). Send checks payable to GSV to P.O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014, by October 21, 2011.*

### The Speakers

#### **Paul G. Zeller: "Williamstown, Vermont, in the Civil War"**

Paul G. Zeller will make a presentation on his new book titled *Williamstown, Vermont, in the Civil War*. He will discuss how he came to write the book, how he did the research, and talk about several of the soldiers he covered. His book tells the stories of the men who enlisted in Williamstown, Williamstown natives who served other state units or the Regular Army and veterans from other places who settled in Williamstown after the war. Some of these men were heroes, some were not, and most were probably somewhere in the middle. Some of the men joined the military to defend the Union, others joined for adventure and yet others, especially later in the war, joined for the large cash bounties that were being offered. Here for the first time are their unvarnished stories.

After a 21-year career as a Department of the Army Civilian, Paul retired in 2006 as the Chief of Training Development for the U.S. Army Transportation Corps where he was responsible for curriculum design and training product development. He is also a retired U. S. Army Reserve colonel. He and his wife, Sally, moved from Yorktown, Virginia, to Williamstown, Vermont, in June 2007. Paul is the author of *The Second Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861-1865* (2002), *The Ninth Vermont Infantry Regiment: A History and Roster* (2008) and *Williamstown, Vermont, in the Civil War* (2010). He has also written a number of articles on Vermont in the Civil War.

#### **Scott Reilly: "Family History Resources in the Vermont State Archives"**

An overview of the family history sources available for research at the Vermont State Archives. The talk will not only

illuminate existing genealogical sources in the archives, but will also discuss current projects underway at the State Archives to improve access to archival public records, including a major initiative to preserve and make accessible Vermont's historic court records.

Scott Reilly is an archivist with the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA). He has been with VSARA since 2008 and has headed its State Archives Unit since March 2010. He holds an MLS in Archives and Records Management from the University of Texas at Austin.

#### **Russell Belding: "The Hidden History of Barre"**

Russell Belding is a native of Rutland, and even though his parents and their parents and grandparents were born outside Vermont, some of his ancestors several generations back, were born in Vermont. He has lived in Barre for most of his life; graduated from the Adult Degree Program of Norwich University in 1990, and has worked for the State of Vermont since 1981. His reading interests are primarily in the areas of local and American history. Russell has been married for ten years, and he and his wife Lori live in Barre with two dogs and one cat. He is concurrently working on histories of North Main Street in Barre, the Barre-Montpelier Road, the Montpelier and Wells River Railroad, and Groton State Forest.

#### **New Town Clerk Office Locations in Vermont**

*If you are planning to do research in the below mentioned towns, these are recent changes, you should be aware of.*

##### **Castleton, Rutland Co.,**

The town offices moved into the Old Chapel, 71 Seminary St., on the campus of Castleton State College, on July 28, 2011, while dealing with a mold problem and other health concerns in the town hall located at 556 Main St. The town is utilizing both the downstairs meeting room and the Great Hall upstairs. The town clerk's office is on the first floor. According to an article in the Rutland Herald, the town purchased a portable, climate controlled vault for \$5,000 from the town of Randolph to house the town records.

##### **Winhall, Bennington Co.,**

The town clerks' office in Winhall is moving from 3 River Rd. to the newly renovated town offices located at 113 Vt. Rte. 30. The town offices will be closed from Sept. 1 through 11, to accommodate the move. The move had been planned for sometime, but has been delayed due to concerns about elevated humidity in the new vault.

(President's Message, Continued from page 1)

laws Committee; another member of that committee was Ronald Warriner of Vernon.

Approximately 100 people attended the October meeting. The By-laws Committee presented a constitution and by-laws, which were adopted. Included was the guiding statement of purpose: "*The purpose of this Society shall be to foster genealogical interest and activity in the State of Vermont, to assemble, preserve and make available genealogical records, and to assist those in need of genealogical information.*"

At the meeting plans were discussed for a quarterly publication, *Branches & Twigs*, and Carol Church of Westminster West was chosen as the editor. Florence Lawson was chosen as Genealogical Secretary (a position later renamed Archivist). The afternoon program consisted of a presentation by Robert J. Tarte of Massachusetts, representing the "Salt Lake City Genealogical Project." He brought books, charts and material for display and distribution and spoke of the many sources available for genealogical data and methods of recording it.

Forty years from those humble beginnings in 1971, when Joann happened to see an ad in the newspaper; GSV publishes this newsletter, a first rate scholarly journal *Vermont Genealogy* and continues to progress on the Vermont Families in 1791 Project. The board has an excellent fall meeting planned, with three interesting and diverse speakers, on October 29, 2011 at the Vermont History Center in Barre (see pages 3 and 5 for further details). So mark your calendars now. I hope to see you there.

*Jonathan W. Stevens, President*

**GSV Special Publication  
Number 13**

**VITAL RECORDS OF SPRINGFIELD, VT.**  
*by Scott Andrew Bartley*

*Back Issues available:*

*For \$15, plus \$3.50 shipping for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy*

**DONATIONS**

Beverly Haughton of Los, Gatos, Calif.

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Linda S. Martin**

4712 Overman Ave.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455-5410  
email: [martinspl@cox.net](mailto:martinspl@cox.net)  
researching: Richards, Patch, Jacobs

**Dawn MacIntire**

47 Main Street  
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email: [vt dawn@comcast.net](mailto:vt dawn@comcast.net)  
researching: Stone, Olcott, Pecott, Ploof, Nelson

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researching: Bennett, Coburn, Silloway, Andrus/Andrews, Colby

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578 Pine Shore Drive  
Hinesburg, VT 05461  
email: [edmcguire.vt@gmail.com](mailto:edmcguire.vt@gmail.com)  
researching: Lampman, Conger, Chaffee

**Wendy Davis**

1160 Downing Drive  
Waukesha, WI 53186-6735  
[turweston@earthlink.net](mailto:turweston@earthlink.net)  
researching: Nichols, Holcomb, Shaw, Barrows

**Stephen McClure**

1715 Bardstown Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
[smcclure7@carolina.rr.com](mailto:smcclure7@carolina.rr.com)  
researching: McClure, McClur

**REINSTATED MEMBERS:**

**Brooks Memorial Library**

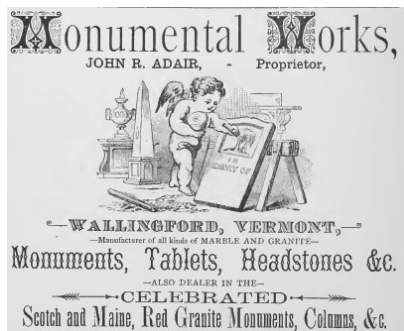
224 Main Street  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

**Tech Svcs Dept/HG**

Conn. State Library  
231 Capital Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Paula Mason Parker**

437 Parker Hill Rd.  
Cavendish, VT 05142-9634  
email: [angellight@tds.net](mailto:angellight@tds.net)  
researching: Parker, Douglass, Mason, Cone, Harrington



[From *Aurora of the Valley*, Newbury, Vt., Thursday, August 1, 1850, p. 3.]

**Census Pay.** – Each assistant is to be allowed at the rate of two cents for each person enumerated, and ten cents a mile for necessary travel. Also, for each farm fully returned, ten cents; for each establishment of productive industry, fifteen cents; for the local statistics, two per centum upon the amount allowed for the enumeration of population, and for each name of a deceased person, two cents.

*Submitted by Bob Murphy.*

**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT  
 FALL MEETING  
 OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 2011**

**VERMONT HISTORY CENTER, BARRE**

**FEATURED SPEAKERS:**

**PAUL G. ZELLER**

*“Williamstown, Vermont, in the Civil War”*

**SCOTT REILLY**

*of the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration*

*“Family History Resources in the Vermont State Archives”*

**RUSSELL BELDING**

*“The Hidden History of Barre, Vermont”*

**Lunch Catered by  
 Hilltop Restaurant of Barre Town**  
*meat or vegetarian lasagna, bread, salad and a dessert*

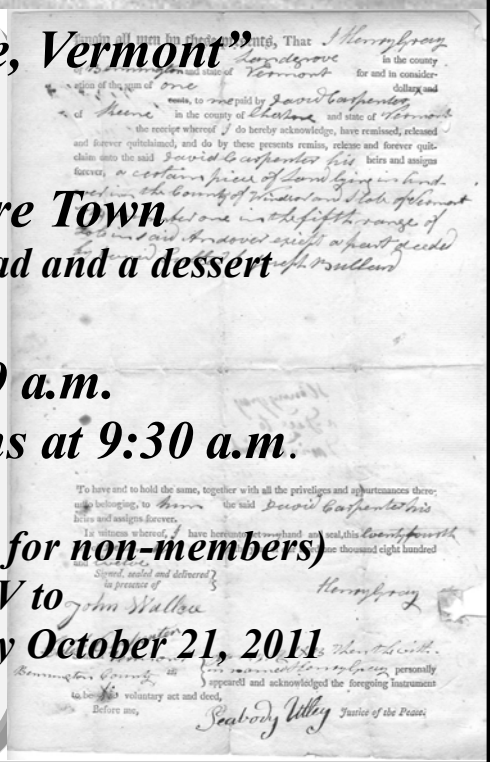
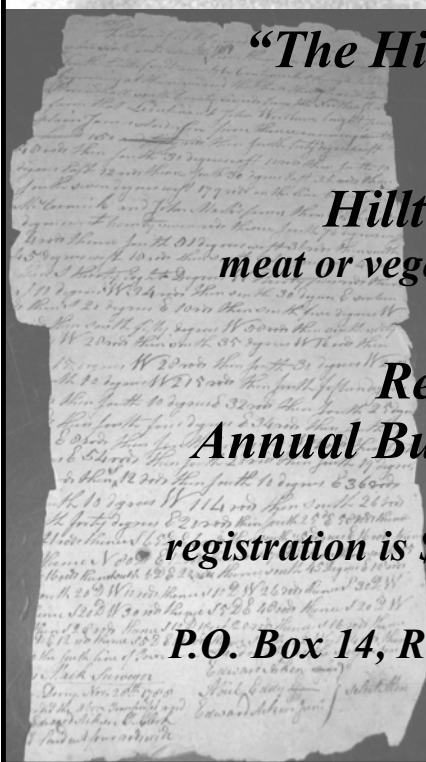
**Registration Begins at 9 a.m.**

**Annual Business Meeting Begins at 9:30 a.m.**

**registration is \$25 for GSV members (\$30 for non-members)**

**send checks payable to GSV to**

**P.O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014 by October 21, 2011**





## G S V P U B L I C A T I O N S

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

*(Continued on page 7)*

### Order Form

Item Number	Description	Quantity X	Price =	Subtotal
M 001	Membership: New or Renewal			
				*There is no tax on GSV material.  Membership fees are listed on the back cover.  Please include your membership number for renewals and member discounts.
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News, articles and comments for the newsletter should be mailed to:

Jonathan W. Stevens, President  
 P.O. Box 14,  
 Randolph, VT 05060-0014  
[stevens@vermontel.net](mailto:stevens@vermontel.net)

Newsletter deadlines are:  
 Dec 15 — February issue  
 Mar 15 — May issue  
 June 15 — August issue  
 Sept 15 — November issue

*Vermont Genealogy*, the GSV Journal contact information:

Scott Andrew Bartley, Editor  
 Vermont Genealogy  
 20 March Avenue  
 West Roxbury, MA 02132-2604  
[drew@yourgenealogist.com](mailto: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 PO Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014 along with the *exact* wording for the ad. *GSV offers no warranty on the services of advertisers.*

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and church records from 1773 to 1839. New to this edition 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.

***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, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.*** John A. Leppman, 2005, softbound. Item No. GSV 11; \$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 Scott Andrew Bartley's Genealogies Found in Vermont Histories (Vol. 10, No. 1 of Vermont Genealogy, also designated GSV publication number 10.).

***Vermont Genealogy Back Issues:***

Issues 1: 1-13: 4, are available for \$5.00 each, except special issues 10: 1 and 11: 1 & 2, which are available for \$10.00 each. Issues 14: 1 & 2, 14 : 3 & 4, 15: 1 and 15: 2, are available for \$10.00 each. There is a mailing fee of \$2.00 (\$3.00 to Canadian addresses) for each single issue, \$2.50 (\$3.50 to Canada) for each double issue (i.e., the \$10 issues). For multiple issue orders, please add \$1 for each additional 1 to 5 issues. Note: issues 1: 4, 3: 3, 3: 4 and 4: 4 are out of print.

## **Genealogical Society of Vermont**

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Dues are \$25.00 for US addresses.

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All other foreign addresses are \$35.00 in US funds.

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*, should be sent to

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

