



Genealogical Society of Vermont

Newsletter

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www.genealogyvermont.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 18th New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) 2025: **New Englanders Here, There, and Everywhere** is now almost upon us. After months of planning, by a dedicated team of volunteers, the conference will be held October 29 through November 1, 2025 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 700 Elm St., Manchester, N.H. Even though both online and mail-in registration deadlines have passed, the conference will accept walk-ins. For more information see page 5 of this Newsletter and the NERGC website www.nergc.org. A copy of the most current version of the conference brochure is available for download at: www.nergc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Brochure-for-2025-Conference.pdf. GSV will produce the daily conference Newsletter, as we did for the two previous NERGC conferences.

GSV's sponsored speaker at the conference will be Michael F. Dwyer, FASG, who will speak on "**French-Canadian Names Lost in Vermont**" [F-204]. Michael's presentation will be on Friday October 31st at 9:45 a.m. In the 1990 U.S. Census, 29% of Vermonters disclosed French-Canadian or French as an ethnicity. Early immigrants to Vermont often lost their original first and last names in the process of assimilation. As a result, research to ancestors born in Canada faced a brick wall. The presentation illustrates dozens of case studies and the steps taken to discover hidden identities. It draws upon vital records, cemetery records, newspaper accounts, and extensively from the published church repertoires of the Vermont French Canadian Society which often provide the key to discovering the immigrant's original name. Michael Dwyer is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, a longtime member of the Genealogical Society of Vermont and past editor of *Vermont Genealogy*. He has published many articles in journals including the *Register*, *American Ancestors*, *Vermont Genealogy*, *The Maine Genealogist* among others. Named Vermont Teacher of the Year in 2004, he retired from teaching in 2018 and now serves as the Pastor of the Pittsford Congregational Church. He also hosts a monthly television show, "Historically Speaking" on Rutland Regional Television. If you have French-Canadian ancestry or even if you don't, but just have an interest in genealogy, this is a fascinating subject.

Another presentation with Vermont content will be my own entitled: "**Land Records: An Underutilized Genealogical Resource**" [S-301]. This will be on Saturday November 1st at 8 a.m. This presentation will discuss various definitions of measurement, original lotting plans, and the different types of deeds that can be found in land records. It will also provide examples of genealogical clues gleaned from deeds. This can greatly help genealogists in their research, as the land records maybe the only source for this information. the majority of the examples are from Vermont deeds. I am a professional genealogist, President of GSV, a Director of NERGC, a NERGC 2027 Tri-Chair, and have published several genealogical articles, including GSV's Special Publication No. 14, *Vital Records Recorded in the Peru, Vt. Town Records*. I am also the Assistant Town Clerk, Lister/Assessor (*Vermont Property Assessor I*), Clerk/Secretary of the Zoning Board of Adjustment / Planning Commission of Andover, Vermont. Please note

(President's Message, Continued on Page 3)

DONATIONS

Julia Teplis of
Marietta, Georgia

Phyllis Day of
East Falmouth, Massachusetts

NEW MEMBER

Norman Hart
110 Woodway Dr
Lynchburg, VA 24501
email: piperhil@sover.net

READY MADE COFFINS,



at the store formerly occupied by Aldrich & Underwood, Railroad Street, St Johnsbury
34tf R. UNDERWOOD.

The St. Johnsbury Caledonian (St.
Johnsbury, Vt.),
issue 17 July 1863, p. 3.

FAMILYSEARCH'S ROOTSTECH 2026 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (September 24, 2025)—RootsTech by FamilySearch announced today that registration for RootsTech 2026, the world's largest family discovery event, is now open. The event will be held March 5-7, 2026, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and online at RootsTech.org. Select content will be available in multiple languages. Register now for the in-person or online experience and plan to enjoy this one-of-a-kind global family connection and discovery event. For additional information and registration see: www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech.

RootsTech 2026 will offer a dynamic mix of in-person and virtual experiences designed to educate and inspire individuals at every stage of their family history journey. Last year's conference drew millions of participants from over 200 countries and territories.

"Every year, we look forward to welcoming millions of RootsTech participants from around the world," said FamilySearch director of events, Jonathan Wing. "We are committed to providing a world-class experience that will inspire and empower our attendees to make meaningful discoveries."

What to Expect at RootsTech 2026

- **Hundreds of Classes:** Choose from online and in-person classes led by content specialists, addressing topics for curiosity seekers to advanced researchers.
- **Expo Hall:** Explore this interactive showcase of the latest innovations in family discovery and connection products, services, and technologies. The experience is available to both in-person and online participants.
- **Main Stage Presentations:** Enjoy inspiring presentations, insights, and performances from celebrities, influencers, and specialists who will share their personal family stories.

Family Discovery Day:

Experience this free, family-focused event on Saturday, 7 March 2026. It will be filled with fun activities, games, and discovery ideas for the entire family.

RootsTech 2026 Registration Details

- **In-Person Conference:** Early bird registration is available for a limited time.
\$99 US 3-Day Pass / ~~\$129~~ Standard Price
\$69 US 1-Day Pass / ~~\$79~~ Standard Price
- **Online Conference:** Receive free access to all virtual sessions and events on RootsTech.org.
FREE

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with your relatives and family history enthusiasts worldwide and discover new ways to explore your family's story. Register today at: www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech.

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

the change in day and time from the printed version of the brochure and daily sheets at the conference, for both Michael and my talks. We switched speaking times, after the brochures were printed.

GSV will hold our annual business meeting at NERGC, as the conference coincides with date we would generally hold a Fall Membership Meeting. The business meeting will be about 15 minutes in length and will be held after the regular sessions on Saturday, November 1st at 5:30 p.m. in the **Dartmouth Room** on the mezzanine level at the conference center. The reason for doing this is to be compliance with our by-laws. If you are attending the conference you are welcome to attend.

The conference is still in need of volunteers and you can sign up at nergc.org/volunteers. Remember to state you are a GSV member, so your volunteer time can be allotted to the society. This will help us meet our requirement of volunteer hours. GSV will make our usual donation of pure Vermont maple syrup for the volunteer raffle. The sweet stuff is a product of Red Roof Maple, LLC of Newport Center, Vermont. A huge thank you to our secretary Judy Goss, who is the NERGC Volunteer Chair.

GSV will have booth #402 in the NERGC Exhibit

Hall. This is located near the front entrance of the hall. We will have for sale copies of our book publications, and *Vermont Genealogy* back issues, including the special spiral bound reprint of the *Vermont Research Guide*. Plus, we will have an array of used books mostly with a Vermont and/or a genealogical connection. Hope to see you in Manchester.

Planning is already well underway for the next conference. **NERGC 2027—Genealogy in the Age of AI: Innovation Meets Responsibility** scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn Portland by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland Maine. April 14-17, 2027. Look for additional information on the conference in the future. This will be the first conference in Maine since 2005.

Congratulations to *Vermont Genealogy* Editor, Scott Andrew Bartley of Tunbridge, Vermont who was among the three genealogists named as Fellows of the American Society of Genealogists (FASG), at the American Society of Genealogists annual meeting on October 4, 2025. Drew is currently hard at work on *Vermont Genealogy*, Fall 2024 [29: 2].

As always thank you to all GSV members, for your support through your memberships, purchases and donations. Without your support we would not be able to keep the society running.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President

To Returned Soldiers and others wanting Farms.

THE subscriber offers for sale about
**5000 acres of good Farming
Land**

in the town of Westmore in Orleans County, Vt.,
at from \$3 to \$5 per acre.

Also, three good FARMS, one of which, known
as the Carr farm, on the shore of Willoughby
Lake—contains 180 acres of excellent land, 100
acres under improvement, and has upon it a good
house, woodshed and large barn.

Also, the TAVERN STAND known
as the

WILLOUGHBY HOUSE,
on the east shore of the Lake, with 130
acres of good land.

GEO. B. CHANDLER.

Island Pond, Aug. 9, 1865.

11-

North Star (Danville, Vt.), issue 13 Oct. 1866, p. 4.

Wanted!

Do you have the expertise to provide assistance to help *Vermont Genealogy* Editor, Scott Andrew Bartley, FASG, in the preparation of *Genealogical Society of Vermont's* scholarly journal? GSV is looking for an individual or individuals who have proficient skills in proof reading and/or indexing to assist the editor in the production of the society's publication. Please contact Drew at: drew@yourgenealogist.com if interested.

Notice

I S hereby given that I this day release and give to my
son Peter Minor, Jr., an infant under the age of twen-
ty years, his time during the remainder of his minority
and will claim no part of his earnings after this date.

his
PETER ✕ MINOR.

mark.

*3w43

Attest, J. S. ROYCE,
Richford, Sept. 3, '61.

St. Albans Daily Messenger (St. Albans, Vt.)
issue 13 Sept. 1861, p. 4.

FIRE IN VILLAGE OF ROCKINGHAM

**Caused Loss of \$25,000 Early
Tuesday Morning.**

HAMLET ALMOST DESTROYED

**A Dozen or More Buildings Were
Burned to Ground in Less Than
Three Hours—Cause of Conflagration
Unknown—Many Thrilling Incidents.**

The village of Rockingham, one of the oldest settlements in the state, and once the center of the town, was practically wiped out by fire early Tuesday morning. A dozen or more buildings were destroyed in less than three hours, including the only hotel, the general store and the post-office, entailing a loss of between \$25,000 and \$30,000, with insurance of less than half. That any of the structures will be rebuilt is impossible, as already families burned out are moving what few things they were able to save to other localities, and there will be nothing to induce re-building.

Rockingham is located four miles north of Bellows Falls and of late years has consisted of about 20 buildings. A half century ago it was the center of activity in the town and was a flourishing village, but when the town offices and business were moved to Bellows Falls, Rockingham became a little country community, the inhabitants being descendants of the first settlers and occupying the original ancestral homes. A general store, which has been conducted by the Divoll family for years, supplied the wants of the inhabitants, but beyond this there was little business done.

Barking of dogs gave the first warning of the fire which destroyed the entire village with the exception of 12 buildings and the famous old church, which although in the path of the flames was saved with difficulty. John Harris, who lived in one of the houses destroyed, was awakened by the sounds, and found his room full of smoke. He ran outside, expecting to see his own place ablaze, but found clouds of smoke pouring from the windows of the store, two buildings above. He ran through the streets, crying the alarm and rousing all the inhabitants. By this time the store was a roaring furnace. Clouds of burning brands flew in every direction, carried by the wind. There was nothing to check the fire, as the only apparatus consisted of a few hand chemical extinguishers. Sheets of flame and great clouds of smoke filled the only street. While a few men formed a bucket brigade, others, with desperate calmness, worked to save household goods.

The Rockingham Village Fire April 14, 1908



The hotel and hall occupied by the grange adjoined the store, and from these buildings a considerable amount of furniture was saved, men, women and children entering the blazing structures until driven out, snatching up everything possible, while burning timbers fell around them. In the hotel, Mrs. D. A. Ryder, an aged invalid, who is the step-mother of H. D. Ryder of Bellows Falls, made her home. She was removed with difficulty, being unwilling to leave her room. Charles Proctor, who owned one of the largest dwellings burned, is also an invalid, and had to be carried to safety.

An empty house across the road, owned by W. H. Griswold of Bellows Falls, was one of the first to go down, the flames leaping across and setting the shingles on fire. A large barn, nearby, was saved by hard work. The Divoll place, more than 100 years old and located near the store, then caught fire and in quick succession the Proctor place, two houses owned by Nat L. Divoll, several large barns, the hotel, hall, stables and outhouses were ignited. The old church, famous throughout New England and one of the landmarks of this state, is located on an elevation. The grass in the yard blazed up frequently, but was extinguished each time. Two hours and a half after the fire started it was checked, when the wind died down.

There were numerous thrilling incidents. A tank containing 250 gallons of kerosene oil in the store, exploded, sending flames to a great height and throwing the burning oil in all directions. A barrel of oil in a house caused a second explosion. Considerable livestock perished and large piles of lumber were destroyed. A flock of 100 sheep and some valuable horses were saved from N. A. Divoll's barn, but his hens were killed. The grange members saved their piano and charter, but lost all other property. Help was summoned from Bellows Falls, but when the apparatus arrived the devastation was complete.

The cause of the fire is not known, but it is thought to have started from an overheated stove. The Rockingham post-office will probably be discontinued, as the section on all sides is covered by rural delivery from Bellows Falls.

It is estimated that the total losses amount to about \$27,000, with insurance of \$18,000. The losses are divided as follows:—

Hotel, owned by Mrs. Lewis C. Lovell and occupied by Mrs. Lovell, her daughter, Mrs. Maria Pollard, and granddaughter, Miss Madeline Pollard; Hope L. Lovell and Mrs. D. Ryder; loss to all, \$5,000; no insurance.

Store and postoffice, \$8,000; insurance, \$5,000.

J. L. Divoll's house, over 100 years old, \$4,000; covered by insurance.

W. L. Divoll's houses and barn, \$3,500; insurance, \$2,200.

Lumber, owned by N. L. Divoll, \$600. John Harris, \$1,000; partially insured. Charles H. Proctor, \$3,000; covered by insurance.

Pleasant Valley grange, \$3000; insured. Bowker company, \$100.

W. H. Griswold, \$500.

The Brattleboro Reformer
(Brattleboro, Vt.),
issue 17 April 1908, p. 2.

*Photo: picture postcard postmarked at
Bellows Falls, Vt., 9 June 1908.*

*Courtesy of the Ruth Sawyer Collection,
Pioneer Memorial Society, Andover, Vt.*



18th New England Regional Genealogical Conference:
New Englanders Here, There, and Everywhere
October 29 - November 1, 2025
DoubleTree by Hilton, 700 Elm Street



Missed the deadline?

No problem—on-site registration is available with flexible ticket options: \$90 for one day, \$160 for two, or \$230 for the full three-day experience.

Meals, Mingling & Meaningful Moments

NERGC's meal events are more than just food—they're a chance to connect and learn from top speakers in a relaxed setting. From engaging luncheons to the festive Friday banquet (costumes encouraged!), these gatherings are a highlight of the conference. Reserve your seat now—meal purchase is required for entry.

Navigating Manchester & the Venue

- Parking: \$8/day with validation at the DoubleTree garage.
- EV Charging: Limited stations at the hotel and nearby malls.
- Accessibility: Wheelchair-friendly entrances, Braille signage, and an attended Accessibility Station onsite.
- Local Eats: From gluten-free treats at Dishon Bakery to comfort food at Diz's Café, E-zine 11 lists great options for every palate.

What's New & Noteworthy

- Program Update: Pamela J. Vittorio will present "Tracing Italian Ancestors through the Port of NY" (Session F-231).
- WHOVA App: Your go-to for real-time updates, networking, and daily schedules.
- Don't miss the Thursday morning "Tips & Tricks" session.
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs): Dive into informal discussions on topics like Irish research, AI in genealogy, and DAR connections.
- Ancestors Research Consultations: Book your free 20-minute session with a professional genealogist—slots are filling fast!

Free & Public Events

Even if you're not registered, you can still enjoy:

- The Exhibit Hall (open to the public)
- Society Fair (Thursday 5:30–7:30 p.m.)
- Libraries, Archives & Museums Showcase (Friday & Saturday 10 a.m.–3 p.m.)

Volunteers Still Needed!

Want a front-row seat and a chance to meet speakers? Consider volunteering as a session host—scripts provided, no research required! Other roles include registration, hospitality, and Exhibit Hall support. Sign up at nergc.org/volunteers. Remember to state you are a GSV member so your time can be allotted to our required total.



GSV PUBLICATIONS

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 \$5.50 for the first item (*except where noted*) 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, 57 East Shore North, Grand Isle, VT 05458

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.

(Continued on page 7)

Item Number	Description	Quantity X	Price =	Subtotal
M 001	Digital Membership: New or Renewal \$25			
M 002	Print Membership: Please Refer to Last Page for Price			
Surnames Researching (for New Members):				
D 001	Donation			
Name				*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.
Member #				
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Address 2				
City		State	Zip	
Phone		E-mail		Order Total: _____ Shipping: _____ Total Due: _____
For GSV publications and Membership: New or Renewal return with a check payable in US funds to: Genealogical Society of Vermont 57 East Shore North Grand Isle, VT 05458				

WANT TO CONTACT US?

Our website is at
<http://www.genealogyvermont.org/>

News, articles and comments for the newsletter should be mailed to:

Genealogical Society of Vermont
 57 East Shore North
 Grand Isle, VT 05458

stevens@vermontel.net

Newsletter deadlines are:
 April 15 — Spring issue
 July 15 — Summer issue
 Oct. 15 — Fall issue
 Dec. 15 — Winter issue

Vermont Genealogy, the GSV Journal
 contact information:

Scott Andrew Bartley, FASG
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 GSV 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 57 East Shore North, Grand Isle, VT 05458 along with the exact wording for the ad. *GSV offers no warranty on the services of advertisers.*

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 VERMONT**
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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; **Sale Price \$20.** 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 and church records from 1773 to 1839. New to this edition is an index of nearly 1,000 names.

Georgia, Vermont Vital Records. Peter S. Mallet, ed., 1995, hardbound. Item No. GSV 4; **Sale Price \$15.** 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; **is out of print.** 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 non-members. (Mail orders should add \$7.50 for postage and handling, not the \$5.50 normally charged.) 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: Genealogies, Vital Records, and Census Records. Mary Ann Z. Wheeler, 2000, 416 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 8; **Sale Price \$20.** 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*, 2nd edition.** John A. Leppman, 2005, softbound. Item No. GSV 11; **Sale Price \$5.** (Mail orders should add \$3.50 for postage and handling, not the \$5.50 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.).

***Index to the History and Map of Danby, Vermont*, Compiled by Joann H. Nichols.** (1998), softbound, Item No. D1; \$3.50; **is out of print.** An index to J[ohn] C. Williams, History and Map of Danby, Vermont (Rutland, Vt., 1869; reprinted S.L. Griffith Library, 1976).

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 - 27: 1, 28: 2, are available for \$10.00 each. There is a mailing fee of \$3.50 (\$5.50 to Canadian addresses). For multiple issue orders, please add \$1 for each additional 1 to 5 issues. 27:2/28:1 "Vermont Research Guide" Spiral Bound, \$35 non-members, \$30 GSV Members, postage \$7.00.

Note: issues 1: 4, 3: 3, 3: 4 and 4: 4 are out of print.

**Genealogical Society of Vermont
57 East Shore North
Grand Isle, VT 05458**

Address Service Requested

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Dues Notice!

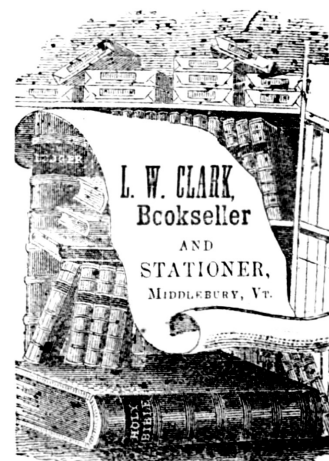
Please look at your address label for your membership expiration date. Your membership expires on the date shown on the top line of the address label.

Dues are \$30.00 for US addresses.

Canada and Mexico are \$40.00

All other foreign addresses are \$55.00 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 envelope with your dues. Send membership dues and applications to Genealogical Society of Vermont at the address listed on page 6.



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OF ALL KINDS,
CHILDREN'S BOOKS, &C.,

To which is invited the attention of country
merchants, Committees of Libraries, Teachers
and purchasers generally. Also for sale
the new edition of

WEBSTER'S LARGE DICTIONARY,

In one Vol. Crown Quarto,

PRICE REDUCED TO \$5.

*Middlebury Register and
Addison County Journal*
(Middlebury, Vt.), issue 7 May 1856, p. 3.