



Genealogical Society of Vermont

Newsletter

Volume 28, Issue 1, Whole No. 109

www.genealogyvermont.org

Spring 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Vermont has now passed 24,300 cases of COVID-19, resulting in 256 deaths. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel. The daily positivity rates are down (many days into the single digits) and 96% of the cases have fully recovered. Governor Scott announced that the state's pandemic restrictions can be lifted ahead of the Vermont Forward target date of July 4th — if the state vaccination rate reaches 80% of eligible Vermonters. As of this writing, the state is just 8,000 vaccinations shy of that goal. Therefore, after not holding a membership meeting in 2020 due the pandemic, GSV is planning an in-person meeting in the fall of 2021. The details will be in the next Newsletter and on the GSV website for the location and speakers, etc. It will nice to see many familiar faces after an absence of two years.

The 16th New England Regional Genealogical Conference (Virtual NERGC 2021), was held over the course of 61 days in April and May. The conference was a success, due to the hard work of the countless volunteers from the member societies of the consortium. I served as the chair of the Newsletter Committee, which was responsible for the creation and distribution of the 10 weekly NERGC Newsletters. Plans are already underway for next NERGC, which may include some hybrid aspects. The next conference will be held May 4-6, 2023 at the MassMutal Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. This location provides space for at least 7 lectures at a time, in addition to a Exhibit Hall, and an area for dining events. More information will be available as we approach the 2023 conference.

This Newsletter includes a belated obituary of Barbara Mae (Bullock) Jones, who died in Burlington, on December 25, 2020. Barbara was a longtime member of GSV and a former resident of Charlestown, N.H. Her obituary was not available at the time of the publication of the last Newsletter, so we are including it now. [see page 4 for the complete obituary] We must also note the passing of Mary Choppa of Nashua, N.H., on April 26, 2021. Mary was the TIARA [The Irish Ancestral Research Association] delegate to NERGC and served as the NERGC Volunteer Chair for the 2015, 2017, and 2021 conferences. She was a NERGC Conference Chair in 2019. Based on her many contributions to both TIARA and NERGC, she was the recipient of NERGC's Donna Holt Siemiakoski (DHS) Volunteer Award in 2019. Both of these ladies will be certainly be missed by the genealogical community.

DONATIONS

William E. Sherman of Kittery, Maine

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GSV is offering several of our hardcover publications: *Vital Records of Rockingham, Vermont and the Records of the First Church of Rockingham*; *Georgia, Vermont Vital Records*; *Vermont Families 1791: Volume 2*; *Index to Branches & Twigs, 1972—1995*; and *Sudbury, Vermont: Genealogies, Vital Records, and Census Records* at special sale prices. [see page 5 for the prices and shipping rates] We are also putting our softcover publication: *A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy, 2nd edition* on sale. [see page 4 for sale price and shipping rates] This is a great resource, that every Vermont genealogist should have in their library. Please note that the GSV membership discount does not apply to already discounted items. We are also running a buy-one-get-one-of-equal-or-lesser-value-free sale on back issues of *Vermont Genealogy* Volume 1: 1 through Volume 25: 2. [see page 5 for sale prices and shipping rates] This is a great opportunity for newer members to add to their collections of GSV publications. For orders greater than 6 copies contact me stevens@vermontel.net for the postage, which will be based on the weight of the order. Remember, the more you purchase in one order the more you can save. Members should see *Vermont Genealogy* Volume 26: 1 arriving in their mailboxes this summer.

Lettering
ON GRAVE-STONES, executed
with accuracy and dispatch, by
JOHN SIMONDS.
Windsor, Dec. 9, 1816. 13

Vermont Republican and American Journal. Windham, Windsor and Orange County Advertiser (Windsor, Vt.), issue 23 Dec. 1816, p. 1.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President

State Vital Records Registry

Since 1779, town clerks have been mandated to record all births, deaths, and marriages that occurred in their towns; however, vital events were not recorded at the state level until 1857.

1857: Annual reporting by town clerks

Act No. 63 of 1856 created the Vermont Vital Registry System, which required town clerks to compile lists of the vital events that occurred in their respective towns during the course of a year starting in 1857.

Lists of town vital events were initially submitted to the Vermont Secretary of State on an annual basis and bound by year and town. To understand what was initially recorded for births, marriages, and deaths, see Instructions concerning Registrations in the State of Vermont that were issued by Secretary of State Benjamin W. Dean in 1859.

1898: Divorces added to state registry

In 1896, the Vermont legislature passed Act No. 56, which required county clerks to submit the number of divorces granted, and their cause, to the State Board of Health for statistical purposes only. Returns of divorces were eventually added to the State Vital Registry by Act No. 59 of 1898.

1902: Semi-annual reporting starts and State Board of Health starts maintaining statistics

Act No. 114 of 1902 required town clerks to transmit returns of births, marriages, and deaths to the State Board of Health semi-annually (in March and September). The State Board of Health was charged with preparing and publishing tables (vital statistics) and transmitting the returns from the town clerks to the Office of the Secretary of State for "indexing, binding and preservation."

In 1904, the Vermont legislature passed Act No. 140: An Act Related to the Registration of Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths. Through this act, town clerks were responsible for transmitting returns of births, marriages, and deaths to the State Board of Health every six months (in January and June). Relative to divorces, county clerks were responsible for submitting returns of divorces to the State Board of Health every six months. Returns were submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State.

1908: Monthly reporting for births, deaths and marriages only; card index created

Four years later, in 1908, Act 78 was passed. This legislative act required all town clerks to submit certified copies of

all births, marriages and deaths to the State Board of Health on a *monthly* basis. These returns continued to be transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State for "indexing, binding and preservation."

Through Resolution No. 425 of 1908, the Secretary of State was authorized to create a card index for any records in the custody of the Secretary. This included the annual lists of vital events had been submitted to the Secretary by town clerks and the vital returns. Unfortunately, relative to the Vital Registry, not all towns complied with the above laws and the registry within the Office of the Secretary of State was considered incomplete.

1919: Town clerks required to transcribe all vital events recorded in their respective towns

As a result, in 1919, the Vermont Legislature passed Act No. 92, which required all town clerks to transcribe, in full, records of births, marriages, and deaths in the possession of the town and churches. In addition, inscriptions of gravestones for all individuals who died prior to 1870 needed to be transcribed as well. The town select boards were responsible for paying transcribers five (5) cents per card and transmitting all cards to the Office of the Secretary of State by January 1, 1920.

The requirement to transcribe records and transmit the copies to the Office of the Secretary of State was reintroduced again in 1921 by Act No. 89. Towns who had failed to transcribe their records and transmit them to the Office of the Secretary of State by July 1, 1921 risked having their records "procured" by the Office of the Secretary of State at the expense of the town. Legislative acts concerning amendments to vital records (i.e. to correct errors in spelling or add additional information) did not get introduced until the late 1930s.

1980: Act to Modernize and Improve Laws Relating to Vital Records is passed

Several changes to the forms, filing and transmittal requirements between town and county clerks and the State Board of Health and, later, Department of Health were enacted between the 1930s and 1980. In 1980, Act 142 (*An Act to Modernize and Improve Laws Relating to Vital Records*) was passed. Subsequent to this act, the vital records within the Office of the Secretary of State were physically removed and divided between the Vermont Department of Health and former Department of Public Records, which operated the State Records Center.

2008: Vermont State Archives and Records Administration created

This arrangement remained in place until July 1, 2008 when the now Division of Public Records (within the Department of Buildings and General Services) merged with the Ver-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

mont State Archives to create the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, which is a division of the Office of the Secretary of State. At that time, all vital records in the state registry dating from 1909 and later stored in the State Records Center returned under the legal control of the Vermont Department of Health and recording volumes of vital events reported to the Secretary of State between the years 1857 and 1968 were accessioned into the Vermont State Archives.

2019: Vermont Statewide Registry System

Pursuant to Act 46 of 2017 and effective July 1, 2019, all birth and death records dating January 1, 1909 and later are only available through the Department of Health's Statewide Registry System. Original source records for these events in the offices of the town clerks and the state registry are available for informational research purposes; however, the Statewide Registry System is the official system of record and certified and noncertified copies of birth and death records can only be issued through this system.

The Department of Health, all town clerks and the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration are authorized by law to issue certified and noncertified copies from the Department of Health's Statewide Registry System.

Source: <https://sos.vermont.gov/vsara/learn/state-vital-records-registry/>



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia.org.

Charles Wesley Willard, Vermont Secretary of State 1855-1857



State of Vermont.
 SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,
 Montpelier, October 12, A. D. 1857.

TO TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERKS:
 As it is very desirable that there should be the greatest degree of uniformity in the Registration Returns from the different towns in this State, the attention of those persons who are officially charged with carrying out its provisions, is particularly directed to the Registration Act, here republished, and to the few brief instructions which follow:

AN ACT RELATING TO THE REGISTRY AND RETURNS OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS, PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF VERMONT, OCTOBER SESSION, 1856, AND AMENDED OCTOBER SESSION 1857.

SECTION

1. Clerk of towns to return to secretary of state, annually, a copy of record of Births, Ac. Form of returns.
2. Clerks of each district to make returns of births, &c. to town Clerks. Penalty for neglecting so to do.
3. Justices of the peace and Ministers make report thereof to town Clerk. Penalty for neglect.
4. Compensation of town Clerk for keeping such record.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows:

Sec. 1. The clerks of the several towns in this state shall annually, in the month of June, transmit to the secretary of state a certified copy of their record of Births, marriages and deaths, which have occurred in their respective towns during the year next preceding the first day of January. The births shall be numbered and recorded in the order in which they are received by the clerk. The record of births shall state in separate columns the date of the birth, the name of the child (if it have any), the sex of the child, the place of birth, name and surname of one or both the parents, residence of the parents, occupation of the father, and the time when the record was made. The marriages shall be numbered and recorded in the order in which they are received by the clerk. The record of marriages shall state in separate columns the date and place of marriage, the names and surnames of groom and bride, the residence of each at time of marriage, the age of each, occupation of the man, and time when the record was made. The deaths shall be numbered and recorded in the order in which they are received by the clerk. The record of deaths shall state in separate columns the date of the death, the name and surname of the deceased, the sex, condition, (whether married or single) age in years, months and days, the place of death, the disease or apparent cause of death, the occupation if a male over fifteen years of age, the place of birth, the name of the parents, and time when the record was made.

Sec. 2. The clerks in the several school districts in each town shall annually in the month of February ascertain from actual inquiry or otherwise all the births and deaths which have happened in their respective districts during the year next preceding the first of January, together with such facts concerning said births and deaths as are required by the first section of this act, and shall make an accurate return thereof to the clerk of the town in which such school district is situated, on or before the first day of March, and the said district clerk or other person or persons authorized to perform his duties and make such returns, shall be entitled to receive from the treasury of such town five cents for each and every birth and death so returned. And every person aforesaid, who shall neglect or refuse to make the return required by this section, shall be liable to a fine of not less than three dollars for each neglect or refusal.

Sec. 3. Every justice of the peace or minister shall make a record of each marriage solemnized before him, together with all the facts relating to marriages, required by the first section of this act, and such justice or minister shall annually, in the month of February, or from time to time, return a copy of the record for the year next preceding the first day of January, to the clerk of the town in which the marriage was solemnized, and every person as aforesaid, who shall neglect or refuse to make the returns required by this section, shall be liable to a fine of not less than ten dollars for each neglect or refusal.

Sec. 4. The clerk of each town shall be entitled to receive from the treasury of the town five cents for recording each birth, death and marriage, provided said clerk shall comply with the provisions of this act in all respects.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the clerks of the several towns to make such distribution of the blank forms of returns, as shall be designated by the secretary of state.

Sec. 6. The secretary of state shall prepare and furnish to the clerks of the several towns in this state, blank forms of suitable quality and size, to be used as books of records, according to the provision of this act, and also blank forms of returns, as herein before specified, and shall accompany the same with such instructions and explanations as may be necessary and useful.

Sec. 7. Every physician who shall attend any deceased person shall leave with the town clerk a certificate containing the name of the disease or cause (if known) of the said death, within fifteen days after the interment of the deceased. Any such medical attendants who shall neglect or refuse to give the certificate required by this section, shall, for such offence, pay a fine of three dollars for the use of the town where such offence shall be committed.

Sec. 8. It shall be the duty of the secretary of state to receive the returns made in pursuance of the first section of this act, and with such assistance as may be voluntarily rendered by any authorized committee appointed by the Vermont medical society for that purpose, prepared therefrom such tabular results as will render them of practical utility, and make a report thereof annually to the legislature, and generally shall do whatever may be required to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

Sec. 9. All acts or sections of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Approved, November 17, 1856.

INSTRUCTIONS.

In the preceding Act, the Secretary of State is charged with the executive duty of providing for the collection of the vital and mortality statistics of the State of Vermont, and by the official aid of the Medical Profession, of arranging and publishing such statistics, in a manner which shall best subservise the benevolent purposes designed by the Statute.

In fulfilling the requirements of this law, the people of Vermont are only following a few years behind the best regulated governments in Europe, and in many States of our Union; which, without exception, have been constantly stimulated to increased efforts for the improvement and faithful execution of Registration Laws; by the great and unexpected advantages already derived from them.

The additional duties of the officials named in this act, therefore appeal to their public interest, as well as fidelity, in taking the first steps in an important public and philanthropic measure. Vigilance in looking up all the required statistical facts which occur in each sphere of duty; an accurate and truthful record of them, and punctuality in returning the forms to the superior executives, *only*, will accomplish the intentions of the law.

Town clerks will be expected to exercise a general supervision of Registration in their several towns; by giving a general notice of the law by reading it in the next annual town meeting, by explaining the statute and instructions if necessary, to the district clerks, by calling the attention of clerks, clergymen and physicians to omissions, inaccuracies or delinquencies of their returns, and enforcing their penalties.

The Town Clerks are particularly desired to see that the district clerks in their several towns are seasonably supplied each year with the blanks for school district returns.

To Clerks of School Districts, especially in populous towns and a changing population, it is suggested that much vigilance will be necessary to ascertain all the births and deaths and requisite circumstances, occurring in their precincts; and they are directed to begin their investigations at the commencement of the year, and to make their record each month consecutively; and when practicable to state "the apparent cause of death" upon information derived personally from the physician who may have attended the deceased.

Clergymen and physicians occupy a position in society to diffuse information in regard to the subject of Registration and the advantages which it proposes; and it is confidently expected that they will cheerfully contribute their influence to promote an enterprise which in its commencement, especially calls for their professional spirit in the advancement of the moral and sanitary improvements contemplated in the Statute.

Exact and punctual record and returns according to the Act and the blank forms distributed as in other communities and States, will result in the desired success of the law, and as the necessary delays in distributing the blank forms will render the first return to the Secretary of State less perfect, it is required to be made for the current year (1857) on the first day of June, 1858.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 6, requiring that the Secretary of State shall prepare and transmit to the Clerks of the several towns, printed blanks, to ensure uniformity,—blanks have been prepared and forwarded. If more blanks may be required at any time, for the use of either Town or School District Clerks, they will be forwarded on application to the Secretary of State.

CHARLES W. WILLARD, Sec. of State.

Above: The text of Act No. 63: *An Act Relating to the Registry and Returns of Births, Marriages, and Deaths*, approved on November 17, 1856, and amended with Act No. 33, approved on October 30, 1857. Followed by the instructions to Vermont town clerks by Charles W. Willard, *Secretary of State*. This could be found on the inside of the front cover of the oversized volumes that were supplied to towns in 1857. Originally the covers of these volumes were a greenish-blue cardboard with brown leather binding strip, and the pages printed on blue paper. In 1859, a more detailed set of instructions was published in pamphlet form by Benjamin W. Dean, *Secretary of State*, entitled: *Instructions Relative to the Registry and Return of Births, Marriages and Deaths, in Vermont*. (Middlebury: Register Book and Job Office, 1859). At left: the front wrapper of the pamphlet. The full title appears on the inner title page. A PDF of the can be found online at: https://sos.vermont.gov/media/b2ii3ju/instructions_concerning_registrations_1859.pdf

DEATHS.

☞ Marriages and Deaths inserted FREE.

Barbara Mae (Bullock) Jones 1934 – 2020



Barbara Mae Jones passed away peacefully on Christmas Day in Burlington, Vt., at the age of 86.

She was born in 1934 in Springfield, Mass., to Lt. Col. Charles L. Bullock (USA Ret.) and Mae Ende Bullock. She resided in Springfield until graduating college, except for a short time when the family lived in Washington, D.C., during World War II.

She obtained a B.S. in Home Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and accepted a teaching position at Auburn (Mass.) High School soon after graduating. While working, she earned a M.S. in Education from the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

While at UMass, Barbara represented the Student Christian Association at a national meeting at the University of Kansas, where she met her future husband, who was representing the University of New Hampshire. Barbara married Col. Warner Jones, M.D. (USAFRES Ret.), in 1960 and they moved to Charlestown, N.H., in 1968. She began a second career managing doctors' offices for physicians practicing at Springfield (Vt.) Hospital.

She had a significant impact on the town of Charlestown during her 35 years as a resident. Active in the community, she was a founding member of the Charlestown Women's Club (part of the GFWC of NH), Trustee of Old Fort at No. 4 Associates, Historian of Fort at No. 4 and Trustee of the (Charlestown) Trust Fund. She was active in numerous associations and groups, including Crown Point Road Association and Society, in addition to serving on school committees and volunteering as a Cub Scout and Wel-belos leader. In 1985, she was recognized as one of New Hampshire's Outstanding Volunteers.

Barbara participated actively in genealogy and historical societies and wrote a historical column for The Walpole (N.H.) Gazette.

When time permitted, she enjoyed traveling in Europe, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia and Canada.

Barbara took great pride in her three sons: Charles, Warner and William, and loved interacting with her nine grandchildren: Ethan, Caleb, Sadie, Zachary, Connor, Delaney, Maxwell, Emily and Timothy.

Other beloved people in her life were Dora Sudarsky, Joanna Stanton Jones, Lissa Ellsworth Jones, Amy Caldicott and Barbara Comeau.

To the end, she was sharp as a tack, although declining health restricted her ability to continue reading, writing, researching and sharing her knowledge of history. She will be remembered lovingly by her family, friends and caregivers.

A private ceremony will be held in the spring for her internment at the N.H. Veterans Cemetery, and -- pandemic permitting -- a memorial service will be planned in Charlestown, N.H., to celebrate her life.

Published in the *Union Leader* on January 17, 2021.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/unionleader/obituary.aspx?n=barbara-mae-jones&pid=197495958>



Tyson, Vt. Echo Lake, looking South.

A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy,
2nd edition
by John A. Leppman, softbound. Item No. GSV 11.

Special Sale Price \$5

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by Peter S. Mallet, ed.
Hardbound. Item No. GSV 4
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Vermont Families 1791: Volume 2

by Scott Andrew Bartley
Hardbound. Item No. GSV 5
Sale Price \$10

Index to Branches & Twigs, 1972—1995

by Robert M. Murphy
This is the every-name index for 96 issues.
The 180,000 entries include every genealogically
important name mentioned in every issue.
Hardbound. Item No. GSV 7
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Sudbury, Vermont: Genealogies, Vital Records, and Census Records

by Mary Ann Z. Wheeler
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Vermont Genealogy Back Issues 1:1-25:2

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Issues 1: 4, 3: 3, 3: 4 and 4: 4 are out of print, however GSV from time to time receives clean copies for our stock from former members collections.

Please contact stevens@vermontel.net for availability.

For orders greater than 6 copies contact
stevens@vermontel.net for the postage, which will be based on the weight of the order.



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 \$4.50 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, 2962 Vermont Route 12A, Braintree, VT 05060-8779

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; **Sale price \$10.** 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)

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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:
 Michael F. Dwyer, FASG, Editor
 389 Orchard Hill,
 Pittsford, VT 05763
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Send copies of relevant books for journal review to:
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 Grand Isle, VT 05458

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A Quarterly Publication of the
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT
 ISSN 1087-4550
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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; \$45.00 members, \$50.00 non-members. 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; **Sale Price \$20.** 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 \$2.50 for postage and handling, not the \$4.50 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, plus \$1.50 shipping for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy. An index to J[ohn] C. Williams, History and Map of Danby, Vermont (Rutland, Vt., 1869; reprinted S.L. Griffith Library, 1976). **Limited Number Available.**

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