



Genealogical Society of Vermont

Newsletter

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Spring 2025

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DONATIONS

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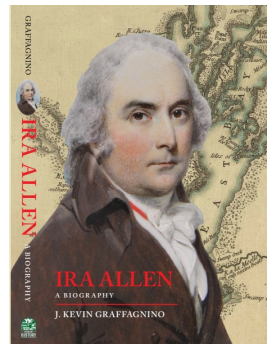
Carleton Howard of
Boulder, Colorado

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GSV will hold its Spring Membership Meeting on Saturday May 3rd 2025 at the **Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center St., Rutland, VT 05701**. The society is located in the former Nickwackett Firehouse, built in 1860 [pictured at right]. The morning program will consist of two speakers: **J. Kevin Graffagnino** and **Michael Dwyer**. Registration, which begins at 9:30 a.m. includes the program, morning "coffee," and a luncheon of consisting grinders from Gill's Delicatessen <https://gillsdeli.com>, beverage, and chips, is \$25 for GSV members and \$30 for non-members. The afternoon program will consist of a tour of the society's archives.



J. Kevin Graffagnino will speak on "**Ira Allen of Vermont: A Hard Founding Father to Love.**" Land speculator, revolutionary, pamphleteer, politician, and empire-builder, Ira Allen was a key figure on the late eighteenth-century Green Mountain frontier. Based on his new book *Ira Allen: A Biography*, J. Kevin Graffagnino's lively talk evaluates Allen's checkered career and makes the case for including him in our picture of Vermont's formative decades. Kevin is a former Curator



of Vermont History at the University of Vermont Library, and former Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society. He is the author or editor of 25 books on Vermont and American history, book collecting, antiquarian maps and prints, related subjects. He has recently published *Ira Allen: A Biography*.



Michael Dwyer will speak on "**French-Canadian Names Lost in Vermont.**" 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

(President's Message, Continued on Page 4)

Alden M. Rollins (1946-2024) Our dignified, erudite, and long-time former library colleague, Alden M. Rollins, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 20, surrounded by his family. Alden was himself an institution at the Consortium Library, serving as reference librarian and head of government documents for 35 years. His steady demeanor and droll sense of humor were legendary. Alden loved being an Alaskan and was a proud member of the Pioneers of Alaska. The group will be adding a plaque in his name to their wall next year on Memorial Day, May 26, 2025.

After earning his MLS from the University of Rhode Island, Alden joined the brand new Consortium Library when it opened in 1973. Throughout his career, he served on many university and library committees, and from 1992-1997, he was head of reference, and served as the Interim Library Director until the current Library Dean was hired. Alden retired from UAA in 1999, when he was awarded Professor

Emeritus of Library Science, only the second library faculty member to be so honored. He continued to work on various library-related projects until he fully retired in 2008.

But at heart, Alden was a scholar. In addition to two published books on Roman history, his passion was genealogy. He was active in the Cook Inlet Historical Society and the Anchorage Genealogical Society, and being a proud New Englander, worked closely with genealogical repositories and archives in that part of the country as well. He authored or contributed to numerous indexes, catalogs, and reference guides relevant to both Vermont and Alaska.

Alden, we were privileged to know you. You will be missed. From Daria O. Carle, Nancy Lesh, Arlene Schmuland and Steve Rollins.

<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/news/archive/2024/09/alden-rollins.cshtml>

David Rencher, FamilySearch CGO, Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

SALT LAKE CITY, UT—FamilySearch International's Chief Genealogical Officer, David Rencher, received the Italian Heraldic Genealogical Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award at the 36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences (ICGHS). The award ceremony was held at the international congress's annual conference on September 27, 2024, in Boston, Massachusetts—marking the first time the ICGHS was held in the United States—and recognized Rencher's life-long work and influence in advancing the field of genealogy.

The Italian Heraldic Genealogical Institute's award is the highest distinction offered by the ICGHS and is presented to institutions or individuals recognized for their extraordinary, valuable, and selfless work in favor of the Documentary Sciences of History. The award was presented by Dr. Pier Felice degli Uberti, president of the Istituto Araldico Genealogico Italiano (Italian Heraldic Genealogical Institute).

The distinguishing award was a complete surprise to Rencher. "I am humbled and honored. I was not expecting this," remarked Rencher. "I appreciate all the great work the (ICGHS) society does and the window it gives us into a field (Heraldry) with which many genealogists are unfamiliar. And they always produce the highest quality content."

The theme of the ICGHS 2024 event was "Origins, Journeys, Destinations." Content focused on how heritage and identity (cultural identities) are often shaped by the journeys people make—from overseas migrations and movement of ethnic groups across Europe to the formation of modern metropolises today. Two overlapping areas of focus were heraldry and genealogy—heraldry being the study of the design, ranks, and meanings of coats of arms, and associated genealogies of families entitled to them.

"Genealogy can benefit from and add to the family groups that heraldic symbols represent. Heraldry was very much a part of European history, and even earlier in other areas of the world. Symbols showed rank and honor," Rencher explained.

Rencher is part of the ICGHS's genealogy subcommittee and arranged genealogical education sessions for its conference. "Heraldry exists in many forms: It can be the designs on shields and other attire worn by knights, flags, royal emblems, family crests, the tartans of Scottish clans, and so forth."

Rencher pointed out that people don't think much about heraldry in the United States but said it does still have a presence here. For example, nearly all cities, towns, and states have some sort of heraldic shield or coat of arms to symbolize their identity. "Collegiate coats of arms are very much embedded in the Ivy League universities such as Yale—but other universities also have some sort of similar symbol," he added.

DEATHS.

 Marriages and Deaths inserted FREE.



LEBANON, N.H. – Robert Charles Anderson, 80, “a monumental figure” in the field of American genealogy, as described by his colleagues, whose “influence ... is vast – perhaps incalculable,” died on Feb. 17, 2025, at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., as a result of complications from a heart attack.

Anderson earned degrees from Harvard College (B.A.); the California Institute of Technology (M.A.); and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (M.A.). He “attempted three careers (one of them successfully),” he reported in 1990 to the members of the Class of 1965, with whom he had entered Harvard. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1965, “joining the Army Security Agency, and spending nearly two years in Monterey, [Calif.,] learning Russian,” he wrote. “The next two years I was in West Berlin, listening to Russians in East Germany, the most exciting event of this period being the invasion of Czechoslovakia on Aug. 20, 1968, which I witnessed (and heard) from an unusual perspective.”

After his 1969 Army discharge, he returned to Harvard to complete his degree in biochemistry in 1971. He earned his master’s degree at Caltech, also in biochemistry, two years later. “I found the study of molecular biology and genetics intellectually satisfying,” he later recalled, “and might have remained in the field, but I learned that I was not made to work in a laboratory.”

During his years at Caltech, Anderson became interested in the ancestry of his father’s mother, Katherine Gay Anderson, who was born in Prince Edward Island, and was a descendant of John Gay, who had migrated from England to Dedham, Mass., by 1634. “This led me to the study of genealogy, which, to my total surprise, is exactly what my mind was intended to do.” During the 1970s and 1980s, he quickly established a reputation as a meticulous, rigorous genealogical researcher and scholar, whose goal, as he told his Harvard classmates, was “the elevation of genealogy as a serious academic discipline.” In 1978, he was elected as a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, of which he later served as president. He was also a coeditor of the *American Genealogist*, and editorial consultant to the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*.

“As early as 1976,” he wrote in 1995, “I began making notes about a project which initially had the name ‘Genealogical Dictionary of the Great Migration.’” In 1988, he developed a formal proposal for what he called the “Great Migration Study Project,” the goal of which has been to produce brief biographical sketches, based on the most recent scholarship, of all European, primarily English, immigrants to New England during the years 1620-1640. The New England Historic Genealogical Society (since 2024 officially known as American Ancestors) in 1988 agreed to sponsor the project, naming Anderson its director, a position he held until his recent death.

“Bob’s legacy lives on in his prolific work – 15 ‘Great Migration’ books, 25 volumes of *The Great Migration Newsletter*, and his methodology book, ‘*Elements of Genealogical Analysis*,’” wrote Ryan Woods, president and CEO of American Ancestors, in a recent message to the organization’s staff and officials. “Beyond his publications, he was a gifted teacher,” Woods added. “His lectures and online courses attracted thousands, and the heritage tours he led by land and sea through England, the Netherlands, and Massachusetts were rich with historical insight and filled with joy, discovery, and lifelong friendships.”

Anderson’s other books include “*Puritan Pedigrees: The Deep Roots of the Great Migration to New England*” (2018), and “*Directions of a Town: A History of Harvard, Massachusetts*” (1976). His interests extended into many fields and disciplines, including philosophy, linguistics, baseball, genetics, model railroading, and history, about which he amassed a personal library comprising, by his estimate, more than 20,000 books.

A resident of Jaffrey, N.H., in recent years, Anderson was born in Bellows Falls, Vt., on May 24, 1944. He was the oldest of seven children of Albert Ernest Anderson and Frances Ellen (Hennessey) Anderson. He is survived by five siblings Larry Anderson, of Little Compton, R.I.; Christine O’Donnell, of South Burlington, Vt.; Albert E. Anderson Jr., of Hinesburg, Vt.; Betsy Fowler, of South Sutton, N.H.; and Barbara Brammer, of Cambridge, Mass. Bob is survived as well by 11 beloved nieces and nephews. His youngest brother Bruce J. Anderson predeceased him.

Bob also nurtured an extensive network of friends and acquaintances in genealogical circles, among his college roommates, and beyond.

Plans for a memorial event will be made available at the website of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home

Donations in Anderson’s memory can be made to American Ancestors, 97 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116-3007; or The Bruce J. Anderson Foundation, c/o The Boston Foundation, 75 Arlington Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02116.

Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, is assisting with arrangements.

<https://vermontjournal.com/obituaries/robert-c-anderson-2025/>

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

show, "Historically Speaking" on Rutland Regional Television.



In the afternoon GSV attendees will have the chance to peruse the **Rutland Historical Society's** exhibits. The mission of the Rutland Historical Society is to collect, hold, preserve and interpret historical material

relating to the original Town of Rutland which today includes: Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town and West Rutland, VT. The Society has a vast amount of materials consisting of city directories, genealogies, municipal records, newspapers, special collections and yearbooks from local high school, most of these materials are viewable on-line at <https://rutlandhistory.com>. Along with several display cases

showcasing local memorabilia there are also the following items to view including a Federal cherry inlaid tall case grandfather clock by Goddard Lord as well as a Goddard grandfather clock, James Hope painting of the West Rutland quarry, stained glass windows from Memorial Hall, Ambrose



and Isabella Brown portraits, Harriet and Moses Strong paintings by Franklin Mason.

To register please send a check by April 25, 2025 to: **Genealogical Society of Vermont, 57 East Shore North, Grand Isle, VT 05458**. Please include a note with your check if you require a gluten-free option. You can also register online via PayPal at <https://genealogyvermont.org/upcoming.htm>. A special thank you to GSV Newsletter Distribution / Publicity Chair Randy Brown, who is also the Rutland Historical Society's Treasurer, all of this would not have been possible without his help.

Vermont Genealogy, editor, Drew Bartley has almost completed the Spring 2024 [29: 1] issue. This is a special issue commemorating the 300th anniversary of Fort Dummer, the first permanent European settlement in Vermont, and will be published later this spring. A special thank you to John Leppman and *Vermont History* editor, Michael Sherman for proofing this issue.

The 18th New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) 2025: New Englanders Here, There, and Everywhere will be here before we know it. Held on October 29 through November 1, 2025 in Manchester, N.H. Be sure to look for updates on the conference in the GSV Newsletter,

NEW MEMBERS

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on the GSV website www.genealogyvermont.org and on the NERGC website www.nergc.org as we get closer to the date of the conference. GSV will be producing the daily conference Newsletter and will have booth in the Exhibit Hall.

This issue of the Newsletter contains the obituaries of two important figures in the genealogical community. Alden M. Rollins, CGRS, a former member of the GSV Publications Committee and author of three important Vermont genealogical publications: *Vermont Warnings Out. Volume 1: Northern Vermont* (Camden, Me: Picton Press, 1995), *Vermont Warnings Out. Volume 2: Southern Vermont* (Camden, Me: Picton Press, 1997), and *Vermont Religious Certificates* (Rockport, Me: Picton Press, 2003). All of which are currently out of print [see obituary on page 2]. The second is Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, who was the preeminent Great Migration genealogist [see obituary on Page 3].

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

Jonathan W. Stevens, President

18th New England Regional Genealogical Conference: New Englanders Here, There, and Everywhere October 29-November 1, 2025 Manchester, New Hampshire

The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC) invites you to join us at our eighteenth conference, New Englanders-Here, There and Everywhere. The conference will be live and in-person only at the DoubleTree Hotel in Manchester, New Hampshire, October 29 through November 1, 2025. The Conference Committee is planning special tracks and other events on Wednesday and regular conference presentations on Thursday through Saturday. In addition, there will be time to explore the Exhibit Hall and make new connections at the Ancestors Research Consultants, Society Fair, Special Interest Groups, and other events. Registration for NERGC 2025 hasn't begun yet. The program and conference brochure are scheduled to be ready for distribution in April. However, you can start making plans now. Continue to follow our E-zines and website, www.NERGC.org to keep up to date on the planning and the excitement of this conference.

WEDNESDAY EVENTS

Join us early for additional camaraderie and networking for our pre-conference activities on Wednesday!

Choice of two Bus Tours from 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Tour One – Manchester: will include stops at: The American-Canadian Genealogical Society, The Millyard Museum (about the history of manufacturing in the Manchester region), Dutch-treat lunch at the Millyard Museum Cafeteria, then the Manchester Historic Association Research Center and, if time, also the Manchester City Library.

Tour Two – Concord: will include the New Hampshire State Library (Concord), Dutch-treat lunch at the Concord State House Cafeteria (across the street from the library), then the New Hampshire State Archives (Concord) and, if time, also the New Hampshire Historical Association (across the street from the NH State Library).

Choice of four Mini-Institute Tracks from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

We reached out to people who speak at various genealogical institutes around the country and asked them to bring four of the talks from their institute program to NERGC as a pre-conference track. We hope this will give you a taste of what it's like to attend a genealogical institute as well as provide you with an in-depth exploration of a topic and exposure to additional national speakers.

Learn about Women & Children First from Judy Russell; Military Research at NARA with Michael Strauss; Transportation Nation with Pamela Vittorio; or Advanced Study of Death with Gena Philibert-Ortega

Choice of five workshops from 4:30-6:30 p.m., one of which is Cracking Tough Cases with the Genealogical Proof Standard from the Board of Certified Genealogists Education Fund.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Yes, we'll be back at the DoubleTree, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH for NERGC 2025, "New Englanders, Here, There and Everywhere." This is the same location as for several previous conferences but is perhaps a new name since your last visit.

NERGC 2025 has arranged for a block of rooms covering Tuesday, October 28 through Saturday, November 1, but you can have the conference rate for three days before or after as well. Rooms include complimentary wireless internet. The cost for the rooms during our stay is \$179.00 per night. Parking for guests is \$14 per day if validated in the registration area. The reservation deadline is September 28. We will explore options at other hotels as our block of rooms fills up. The hotel is accepting room reservations at the conference rate. You can call the hotel directly to reserve your rooms, 603-625-1000 or use the link below. If you use the link, make sure to edit the reservation for the exact days you want to stay, as it will automatically reserve the room from Tuesday, October 28 through Wednesday, October 29 (leaving on Wednesday). If you have any questions, email us at 2025- trichairs@nergc.org.

Booking Link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=MHTMNDT&arrivalDate=2025-10-28&departureDate=2025-10-29&groupCode=CDT92G&room1NumAdults=1&displayCurrency=USD>

This group rate will be available until there are no more rooms left in the group block or until one month prior to the event, September 28, 2025. After this date, if there are rooms left in the block, they will be released back into the general inventory for resale.



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.
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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
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:
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 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 2962 Vermont Route 12A, Braintree, VT 05060-8779 along with the *exact* wording for the ad. *GSV offers no warranty on the services of advertisers.*

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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). **Limited Number Available.**

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
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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:



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57 East Shore North
Grand Isle, VT 05458**