



Genealogical Society of Vermont

Newsletter

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www.genealogyvermont.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GSV took part in the 18th New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) 2025: New Englanders Here, There, and Everywhere, on October 29 - November 1, 2025 in Manchester, N.H. At our booth in the Exhibit Hall [pictured at right], we sold copies of our publications, including back issues of *Vermont Genealogy* and some interesting used items from John Leppman's collection. It was great to talk to everybody who stopped by the booth. GSV's sponsored speaker was Michael Dwyer, FASG who gave an excellent presentation "French-Canadian Names Lost in Vermont."

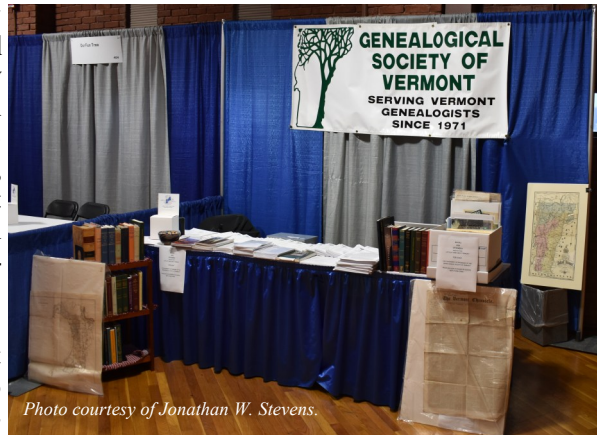


Photo courtesy of Jonathan W. Stevens.

DONATIONS

Vickie Storlie of
Clarks Grove, Minnesota

Daniel Horton of
Franksville, Wisconsin

Carleton J. Howard of
Boulder, Colorado

Joyce Newman of
Millersville, Maryland

Shelley Hilber of
Vienna, Virginia

House for Sale.

A Large, convenient and well finished dwelling House, suitable for two families, situated on School Street in this village. Apply to A. S. Campbell at his office, or to the Subscriber on the premises. W.M. C. WHITE. 6
Bellows Falls, February 1, 1854.

Argus and Patriot (Montpelier, Vt.),
issue 23 Feb. 1854, p. 3.

Planning is already well underway for the next conference. **NERGC 2027-Genealogy in the Age of AI: Innovation Meets Responsibility** is scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn Portland — By the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland Maine, April 14-17, 2027. This will be the first NERGC conference in Maine since 2005. The participating societies have been assigned their respective committees. GSV will produce the daily conference Newsletter, as we did for the three previous conferences. Plus the program is beginning to take shape. The featured speakers for NERGC 2027 are: Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D., a professional genealogist specializing in DNA evidence and Mark Thompson, a professional genealogist and public speaker specializing in the application of artificial intelligence to genealogy. Registration should be open by September. Look for additional information as we get closer to the conference in this Newsletter on the GSV website www.genealogyvermont.org and on NERGC website www.nergc.org.

GSV will hold our **Spring Membership Meeting** on May 23, 2026 at the **Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, VT 05101**. Bellows Falls is a village in the Town of Rockingham. Parking is available on the nearby streets and for directions see the library's website. <https://rockinghamlibrary.org/directions-parking/>. The meeting is still in the planning stages and we are planning to have three speakers. At this point we have confirmed Gail Golec who will talk on the Indigenous history of the Connecticut River Valley. In addition to the speakers, one of the library's staff will provide a brief introduction to their historical collections. The library is one of the four Carnegie libraries in Vermont. The others are: the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington, the Fair Haven Free Library in Fair Haven and the Morrystown Centennial Library in village of Morrystown, located in the town of Morrystown. In 1908, Andrew Carnegie gave \$15,000 to the town of Rockingham to build the library. Designed by

(President's Message, Continued on Page 4)

FamilySearch Announces Collaboration with America250

“Together, We Build America’s Story”

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (29 January 2026)—FamilySearch International today announced its collaboration with America250, the national, nonpartisan organization charged by Congress to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. FamilySearch <https://www.familysearch.org/en/campaign/page/america250> will support America250’s mission to celebrate unity, heritage, and progress by inviting individuals, families, and communities across the nation to remember, discover, and add their own stories to expand America’s collective narrative and connect us all.

FamilySearch’s theme for America’s 250th Anniversary—“Together, We Build America’s Story”—encourages people everywhere to “add what you know” to the free, collaborative FamilySearch Family Tree. This effort ensures that family memories, local histories, and ancestor stories contribute to the broad, diverse fabric of America’s national story.

America250 <https://america250.org/> encourages the nation to pause and reflect on its past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look to the future being built for the next generation. FamilySearch’s activities reinforce this spirit by helping individuals and families uncover ancestral resilience, migrations, sacrifices, and achievements that illuminate the American experience.

Collecting Stories that Reflect Our American History

America250 emphasizes that “the American story is woven from the unique and varied narratives of our people,” highlighting the importance of both well-known and unsung contributions to the nation’s development. FamilySearch’s role in helping individuals discover and preserve family histories directly supports this national focus, enabling Americans to document and celebrate the stories that shape their communities and heritage.

Rosie Rios, chair of America250, said, “When we know our story, we know America’s story—because it’s the people who came before us who built our country, and then we continue to build it.”

The America250 campaign aims to engage all 350 million Americans as part of the country’s 250th anniversary on 4 July 2026. FamilySearch complements this goal through its collaborative, free Family Tree, which thrives on millions of contributions from individuals seeking to tell, preserve, and connect their family’s story, which plays a part in America’s story.

FamilySearch America250 Activities in 2026

FamilySearch America250 is a new web page launched for the national celebration to help show how every family has contributed to the American story. Throughout 2026, select FamilySearch centers and affiliate libraries across the United States will offer America250-themed experiences, including:

- Assisted discovery of ancestors who lived through significant historical eras of American history
- Access to free genealogical records (immigration, military, census, local histories)
- Activities for youth groups, schools, and community organizations
- Hands-on help adding family stories, photos, and memories to the FamilySearch Family Tree
- Free personalized guidance from trained volunteers

More information is available at FamilySearch America250.

Why Family Stories Matter for America250

Family stories add depth, color, and humanity to the national narrative. By participating in FamilySearch’s “add what you know” invitation, individuals can help ensure America’s 250th anniversary reflects the experiences, memories, and family connections of people from every community, culture, and heritage background. Steve Rockwood, CEO, FamilySearch International, notes, “America’s story is built one family at a time. As we commemorate 250 years, we invite everyone to add what they know—names, memories, and photos—to help preserve the diverse experiences that shaped our communities and our nation. Together, we can make sure every voice is heard in America’s story.”—FamilySearch invites individuals, families, educators, youth organizations, and community groups to participate in the America250 effort by discovering ancestors and adding personal and family stories to the FamilySearch Family Tree. Every story contributed helps ensure that America’s story is more complete and better reflects the rich legacy of its people and heritage.



EDITOR WANTED



Vermont Genealogy, the semi-annual
genealogical journal of the
Genealogical Society of Vermont,
seeks a new editor. This is a paid job and is open to any qualified person.

Qualifications we will look for in an editor include the following:


- Thorough acquaintance with style and format of good genealogical writing, including standards of documentation and citation.
- A good comfort level with electronic means of producing and transmitting copy from authors to editor to printer, and electronic preservation of data.
- A good understanding of Vermont's genealogical resources.
- Skill in encouraging high quality submissions to *Vermont Genealogy*, including previously unpublished primary source material, compiled genealogy, and discussions of new approaches to problem solving.
- Organizational skill to keep the publication schedule reasonably on target for two issues per year.

The previous editor would be happy to help with the transition to the new editor.

If you think you have a reasonable supply of these assets, contact the Publications Chair:

John A. Leppman, 20 Thwing Lane Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101,

email: jleppman@sover.net

CLAYTON E. WILLIS,
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STAGE  **ROUTE.**

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Trinkets & commodities that are usually
kept in their line will be found at this
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Brass Clocks, and Time
pieces Repaired in a
workman like
manner
☞ All orders punctually attended to.
Bellows Falls, Dec. 24, 1827.

Vermont Intelligencer (Bellows, Falls,
Vt.), 10 March 1828, p. 4.

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

Boston architects McLean & Wright in Classical Revival style. The library officially opened on November 23, 1909, with a total construction cost of \$20,000. A children's annex was added to the building in 1929, and in 2003 a new entryway and elevator were added for improved accessibility. There will not be a charge for the program, only for the luncheon. If you plan on attending please send a note to GSV, 57 East Shore North, Grand Isle, VT 05458 or email GSV Treasurer, Diantha Howard at Diantha.Howard@uvm.edu so we can have a head count for food. Also let her know if you require a Gluten-Free option. The registration deadline is May 15, and more information on the Spring Meeting will be in the next Newsletter.

I recently was contacted by Dave Allen who runs Old Maps, a small business that was established in 1980 to republish historical maps. <https://old-maps.com>. The Old Maps online shop offers over 60,000 prints of historic town maps, state maps, birds eye views, nautical charts, etc. Many of you will remember the Old Maps booth in the Foral Hall at the Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge and at the NERGC Exhibit Hall at several of the past conferences. Dave is currently working on a project on Fort Dummer. He is trying to "reconstruct" what the fort looked like. If you would like to correspond with Dave about his Fort Dummer project he can be reached at: Old Maps, PO Box 54, West Chesterfield, NH 03466 or by email at daven@sover.net. It turns out that the commonly found images of the fort

OPENING OF NEW LIBRARY BUILDING.

A Red Letter Day in the History of the Town—Building and Grounds Cost Over \$20,000—Andrew Carnegie Gave \$15,000—A Detailed Description of the New Library Home.



The New Rockingham Free Public Library Building.

Vermont Journal
(Windsor, Vt.),
issue 26 Nov. 1909, p. 6.

are flawed in that they only show the second fort, not the first. For more information on the project see the website <https://www.vhist.com/fortdummer/>. In 2003 Old Maps published *Early Maps of Brattleboro*, a softcover booklet of maps with narrative. The information on the website is from this booklet. The website makes an interesting companion to Drew Bartley's *Vermont Genealogy*, Spring 2024 [29: 1] Special Issue No. 16, "The History of Fort Dummer and its Soldiers." Back issues of this issue are currently available. The Fort Dummer site is just a few minutes from downtown Brattleboro, but it is underwater now due to the Vernon Dam, built in 1909.

The most current issue of *Vermont Genealogy*, Fall 2024 [29: 2] will be arriving in members' mailboxes this spring. Thank you to member Ellen Forshaw for providing the index. It looks to have several interesting articles. Editor, Scott Andrew "Drew" Bartley, FASG is retiring from the position and this will be his final issue. Therefore, the Board is searching for a new editor for the journal. If you are interested in the position, and have a thorough acquaintance with style and format of good genealogical writing, including standards of documentation and citations see the ad on page 5 of this Newsletter. The contact is GSV Publications Chair John Leppman at jleppman@sover.net. Drew will be happy help the new editor through the transition process. If you have questions reach out to him at drew@yourgenealogist.com.

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

NEW MEMBERS

Rebecca Taplin Miller
19 Linwood Rd
Freeport, ME 04032
email: mainebecky@hotmail.com
researching: Taplin, Lovewell

Adam and Mary-Anne Boyce
1076 Rush Meadow Rd
Reading, VT 05062
researching: arbvtfiddler@gmail.com
researching: Colby, Carleton, Borden, Burdin



**19th New England Regional
Genealogical Conference:
Genealogy in the Age of AI:
Innovation Meets Responsibility
Holiday Inn, Portland – By the Bay
April 14 – 17, 2027
88 Spring St.,
Portland, Maine**



Blaine Bettinger

Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D., is a professional genealogist specializing in DNA evidence. In 2007 he started *The Genetic Genealogist* (www.thegeneticgenealogist.com), one of the earliest blogs on the topic. Blaine is the author of *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, and co-author with Debbie Parker Wayne of the award-winning *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, the world's first genetic genealogy workbook. He also coauthored "Genetics for Genealogy" with Judy Russell in 2018's *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards (ProGen PPS)* (Elizabeth Shown Mills, Author and Editor).

Blaine is or has been an instructor for genetic genealogy courses at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), and Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research. Blaine is a graduate of ProGen Study Group 21, a trustee for the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, and a member of the DNAngels Board of Directors since 2022 (President since January 2023). He is also the founder in 2017 of Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques, a very active Facebook group with approximately 90,000 members.



Mark Thompson

Mark Thompson's career journey includes higher education, high tech, and the corporate IT world. These experiences developed and honed his technical, analytical, and communication skills.

His career path set the perfect stage for helping others make their best family history, particularly in today's increasingly high-tech genealogy world.

Mark is passionate about staying up to date on the rapidly changing world of genealogy and using these changes to help his clients uncover, understand, and connect with their family mysteries.

Mark is equally dedicated to helping family history enthusiasts stay up to date on the best of these changes and show them how to use them in their own history-making efforts.

When he's not helping others, Mark can be found looking at the world through a camera lens, capturing moments that words alone can't.

Occasionally, he finds time to work on his own family history.



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)

Order Form

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			
				*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.
Name		Member #		
Address 1				
Address 2				
City		State	Zip	
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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				Order Total: _____ Shipping: _____ Total Due: _____

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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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 - 26: 2 are available for \$10.00 each. Issues 27: 1, 28: 2 - 29: 2 are available for \$15.00 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, 4: 4 and 9: 1 are out of print.

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

Address Service Requested

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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 Genealogical Society of Vermont at the address listed on page 6.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

**UNITED STATES
INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES
FOR 1869.**

COLLECTOR'S NOTICE,

NOTICE is hereby given that the Income, Special and other Annual Taxes assessed on the Annual List of 1869 for the Third Collection District of Vermont, are now due and payable, and that I will attend myself, or by Deputy, at the following times and places to receive the same, viz:

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

At the Welden House, St. Albans, on Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3rd, 4th and 5th 1869.

At Fassett's Hotel, Enosburgh Falls, on Thursday, May 6th, from 10 a. m. till 4 p. m.

At Warren's Hotel, Bakersfield, on Friday, May, 7th, until 12 m.

At the Valley Hotel, Fairfax, on Friday, May 7th, from 2 p. m. till 5 p. m.

At Jennison's Hotel, Swanton, on Saturday, May 8th.

Persons neglecting to pay their Taxes within the time above specified, will be required to pay *twenty cents* for notice, and after ten days *five per cent.* additional upon the amount of the tax, with interest and cost of Collection.

Taxes can be sent by other persons and receipts will be returned.

ANSON J. CRANE,
Collector 3d District Vermont.
Burlington, April 22nd, 1869. 289

Vermont Daily Transcript
(Saint Albans, Vt.),
issue 8 May 1869, p. 2.