

Genealogical Society of Vermont

Newsletter

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December 2017

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DONATIONS

Ken Mix of Carthage, New York

Robert M. Murphy of Barre, Vermont

A RARE CHANCE!

A Good Mercantile Business for Sale.

More Mercatille business in the village of Weston, Vt. To any one wishing to engage in such business we offer them a spicatile opportunity, located in a feorishing village surrounded by a prosperous farming community. Good reasons for selling. Correspondence solicited.

SPEAGUE & BICHARDSON,

The Londonderry Sifter, issue 21 June. 1888, p. 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter is now upon us with a vengeance. The landscape is beautiful, with snow-covered fields and mountain tops. The temperatures have been decidedly frigid.

Page four contains a submission about the changes and the updated appearance of website *findagrave.com*. While it is certainly a valuable resource, there are some problems that it has created for researchers. Does a picture of a gravestone mean that it is listed in the correct cemetery? For example the majority of the graves in Middletown Cemetery in Andover are said to be located in Greenbush Cemetery in Weathersfield. Likewise many of the graves in the Forefathers Cemetery (formerly the Old Village Cemetery) in Weston are said to be in the above mentioned Middletown Cemetery. As you can imagine, this misinformation is not helpful to non-local researchers and can cause considerable confusion. In the cases of pre-1870 gravestones it is advisable to check the cards that were made by town clerks in accordance with Act No. 92 of 1919. These cards are included in the Vermont Vital Record Card Index, and are also held at the local level. (Note that some towns will have this information recorded in book form). For burials starting in 1903, it is advisable to check the burial permits, which are recorded at the local level and are not included in the Vermont Vital Record Card Index. Another error seems to be the misunderstanding of winter entombment. Daisy J. Turner, of Grafton died at the Springfield Convalescent Center at the age of 104 on 8 Feb. 1988. Her death certificate can be found in the Vermont Vital Record Card Index and in the vital records of both the towns of Springfield [Springfield, Vt., Vital Records (Deaths & Burial Permits), 93: 34] and a resident copy filed in Grafton [Grafton, Vt., Vital Records (Deaths & Burial Permits), 43: 43]. A copy of her death certificate has been posted on *findagrave.com* as proof that she is buried in Brookside Cemetery in Chester, which is given as her place of entombment. She was

(President's Message, continued on page 5)

NEW MEMBER

Terence S. Fitzgerald

184 Rowayton Woods Drive Norwalk, CT 06854

email: <u>ts-jhfitz@aol.com</u> researching: Aher, Fitzgerald

NEW SOCIETY ADDRESS:

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT

2962 VERMONT ROUTE 12A BRAINTREE, VT 05060-8779 INDEX TO BRANCHES & TWIGS, 1972—1995 by Robert M. Murphy, ed. 2000, 572 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 7.

Special Winter Sale Price \$20

Plus \$4.50 shipping and handling for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy.

Regular price \$58.50 members, \$65.00 nonmembers.

Windsor District Probate Docket Book "Error"

In the name of God Umin. I Pamiel Color of though hid in the leave of window & that of win northing weath in body his of sound & pull in the leave of window with the of the month of pale for the save; Clo make & pull is the my last each of the manner & form following that it is any that saved of the mater in presence & form following that it is any that saved of the man form following that it is any that I gave and hap weath who the hour of form I man people together with one half the hour, it had the touth hat I one half the little, & Room in the Barn for her part of the hour of the few now on the hand of John Seek, & the fraintely, of a how one of the neward.

I do also give & bequeath unto silve Hooke the wife of John Hooker my least to the family further the famous melodion.

I do also give & bequeath unto blive Baron the wife of Mores Baron the summer fuffer, and coldon to be fail with Olive Baron the wife of Mores Baron the summer fuffer, and the cold of the fail with Olive Baron the wife of those Whitney my Paughter, and coldon to be fail with the Whotney the wife of trace Whitney my Paughter, and the part with the land of the part of the wife of the save the fail whitney the wife of the save the fail whitney the fail of the save the last with the save of the hour whitney they have a close to the fail of the save of the fail of the save to the fail of the save to the fail of the save of the fail of the save to the fail of the s

was no Abigail listed in Daniel's estate. There was another document in the file signed by Amos Hartwell, Asa Edson and Isaac Whitney as heirs of the estate. On closer examination of the original will, I found the problem, "Mable" was actually

In researching the family of **Daniel Edson** (1741-1816) of Bridgewater, Mass., and later of Rockingham and Springfield, Vt., I ran across the following transcription error in the recorded version of his estate, an error which has been perpetuated by the published genealogy of the surname, Carroll Andrew Edson ed., Edson Family History and Genealogy: Descendants of Samuel Edson of Salem and Bridgewater Mass. 2 vols. (Ann Arbor, Mich.: Edwards Bros., 1969), 2: 623. That publication has been digitized and is online on Ancestry.com, therefore this error continues to appear countless other times online. The recorded will of Daniel Edson of Springfield, dated 4 Jan. 1813, contains the following statement: "I do also give & bequeath unto Mable [sic] the wife of Isaac Whitney my Daughter, one Dollar." [Windsor Vt. District Probate (Estates), 7: 274] [page at left] The will is also recorded in the Springfield Land Records. [Springfield, Vt., Land Records, 5: 123-125] A transcription of the recorded version of the will is included in the above mentioned Edson Genealogy. The problem that I encountered was I could not find a "Mable" or Mabel who married an Isaac Whitney. There was an Isaac Whitney who resided in Springfield, but he was

clearly not the correct man. However there was a clue in a note [at right] written on the back of a page of

A Shigair Whiting wife of Amos Hartwee Asa Edvan

the administrator's account in the probate file of the estate of Daniel Edson's second wife and widow **Eleanor (Richards) Edson** (1748-1826), that listed the three heirs of her estate: "Abigail Whitney wife, Lurana Hartwell wife of Amos Hartwell, Asa Edson." However there

Mr. Same Whitney of Proshline County of Windham & Migh. Abiqued Reservoy 1406 - By Amor Healer for Percent.

old heffer a Boundle Color I do also give some begyeth to wathe whitney flowing of Sanghton one Julion name of God amen & Daniel Edson I Springfield In the county windson no State of Vermont being weak go I also five and vegenthe unite and he my found and to Jon all my head and Sidy but of found and peoplet minda pringer for son and what is before mentioned which good and order and sold to the ford heard within fine months he yestive lighted within fine months memory blessed be admighty god for the fame to make and publish this may Last will and testament gor manner and form to lowing that Is to say friest of five and bequeits unto my beloved wife hespective togated with in Jese min sever after my secure of further give and sever to only fail goungest for as a coson a final terminent of fand Laying and being gor frafitain to lather with Cleanor Edson one Cow worth go Dollars farm I now projet to father with one and being go graphown to father spetter the above to his heins and afrigars for average with and testement and hereby graphing all formed wills by me made go with your med and feat the Day of January for the year of our Lord 1815 half he house It being the South pode and one haff the Seller and known for the Ban for hur part of the hay an stock to cat the same also one other low now In the hands of John Lock and the privileg of a house to use when needed I do al so give and begreathant Sound of lity Cent, if also five and seguets but show hooher he wife of for the present of and testement Joseph of the present of as who made that and the present of the from worker my of est Daughter the sent of one Dellar of angliter the ento of most Bailes the wife of most Bailes the Sum of publish Dollars to be paid go, a con I do alex as witness in the presence of the testator John Boynton Daniel Martin a low I to also fine and requell until Lurarne Edson my Daughter Richard Thoyo

"Nabbe," which is a diminutive of Abigail. [at left, "nabbe whitney" appears in second line of the second page] This was simply a case of a transcription error. There is a marriage of Isaac Whitney of Brookline to Abigail Edson of Springfield in Chester in Dec. 1806. [Chester, Vt., Town Records, C: 240(250)][above] I had initially suspected that this might have been a cousin of "Mable," who had married Isaac first and had died.

Isaac and Abigail (Edson) Whitney had two known children, a son Daniel E. Whitney (1811-1899) and a daughter Eleanor E. (Whitney) Peters (1814-1861). It appears that Abigail (Edson) Whitney had died prior to Isaac's marriage to Sarah Chapin in Putney, on 4 Dec. 1817. [Putney, Vt., Town Records, 2: 293] Isaac and Sarah also resided in Townshend, Weston and Londonderry. Abigail being deceased explains why Isaac signed as an heir of his mother inlaw's estate. The lesson here is go back to the original source whenever possible.

Jonathan W. Stevens



RIPLEY CAMP No. 4 * DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

You are interested in Vermont genealogy. Are you also descended from a Union Veteran of the Civil War?

Dear Patron of the Genealogical Society of Vermont:

You may already know that Vermont played an outsized role in the Civil War, sending over 34,000 men to fight. After the war, the surviving veterans organized local chapters of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), which was a major force in Vermont and national politics into the 20th century. Vermont's last Union veteran died in 1944.

The legal successor to the GAR is the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). Vermont's SUVCW was founded in 1883 and today has four local camps. All of them are in need of new members to continue their mission: to perpetuate the work and memory of Union Veterans, conduct historical research on the Vermont Civil War experience, register and photograph Civil War veterans' graves, and evaluate the condition of Vermont's Civil War monuments.

It is very possible that you have a Civil War veteran ancestor. If you are a male descendant of a Union veteran of the Civil War, please consider bolstering the ranks of the SUVCW and taking part in their meaningful work. *Associate membership is available in the SUVCW for those without a Union veteran ancestor but who are interested in preserving the history of the Civil War.

For more information and an application, please contact Bruce Amsden, state secretary, at memphre@gmx.com or (802) 334-2808, and visit suvcw.org.

Respectfully yours, Seth Hopkins on behalf of Vermont SUVCW

Changes to Find-A-Grave

by Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

Findagrave.com has announced changes to the website. Some changes are cosmetic, while others are functional. A map feature has been added.

The home page, formerly just a list of over thirty choices, will become a photograph with a few menu selections across the top. That page will be dominated by the search panel, which will function largely as it has in the past and with the same options for every search box except those related to location.

The current search panel specifies location via pull-down lists for country, state, and county. The new search panel offers a single box for location, in which you are supposed to type the name of a place. As you begin to type a city, county, state, or country that box auto-fills with suggested place names which you can select with a mouse click. Use the American English equivalent of a country name; *Germany* works but *Deutschland* doesn't.

The new home page's menu bar goes across the top of the screen. Clicking *CEMETERIES* takes you to a page that lets you hunt cemeteries in either of two ways. Near the top left of the page is a search box where you can type a cemetery name. This auto-fill box works as above. When you select a name, you see a hit list of cemeteries with that name. Each entry on the hit list displays some facts about that cemetery, and a link to its information page. That page contains a search box that you can use to hunt for a person's name.

Instead of using that cemetery-name search box, you can use the cemetery-place search box to its right. Clicking a place name produces a map of cemeteries near that place. You can zoom the map in or out, and can pan it in any direction. (If the map doesn't display any marker pins, zoom in.) After a name is in that search box, clicking *Search* leads to a hit list of cemeteries near that place. Use this hit list the same way you use the other cemetery search box.

Go to https://www.findagrave.com/ to see and experiment with all the changes.

Winter Half Price Sale \$7.50

GSV Special Publication Number 13

VITAL RECORDS OF SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT

by Scott Andrew Bartley

Back Issues available: for \$7.50, plus \$3.50 shipping for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy

The Transcribed Vital Records From the Following Books of Springfield Town Records:

Simon Stevens Marriage Records [marriages, 1767-1790]
Births & Deaths, Vol. 3 [births and deaths, 1730-1854]
Town Acts, Vol. 1 [births, marriages, and deaths 1757-1812]
Town Acts, Vol. 2 [births, marriages, and deaths 1790-1820]
Town Acts, Vol. 3 [marriages 1817-1843]
Births & Deaths, Vol. 4 [births and deaths, 1764-1870]

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by Margaret R. Jenks

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Winter Half Price Sale \$15

GSV Special Publication Number 4

Georgia, Vermont Vital Records

plus \$4.50 shipping for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy

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.

State uf Vermont.

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

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 per ons 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:

As Acr unavisor to the Registration Act, here republished, and to the few brief instructions which follow:

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INSTRUCTIONS.

In the preceding Act, the Secretary of State is charged with the executive duty of providing for the collection of the vital and mortuary 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 subserve the benevolent purposes designed

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 panetu ality in returning the forms to the superior executives, only, will accomplish the intentions of the law.

Town cler's 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, in accuracies or delinquencies of their returns, and enforcing their penalties.

omissions, in necuracies 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 Echool 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, occuring 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" up an 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 penetual 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.

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

entombed in the Brookside Cemetery Tomb in Chester, on 10 Feb. 1988, and remained there until 19 May 1988, when she was interred in the Houghtonville Cemetery in Grafton. It was only "temporary storage" in Chester, the term that was checked off on burial-transit permit. [Chester, Vt., Vital Records, (Deaths & Burial Permits) 1986-1988: 128] The actual burial permit was filed in Grafton [Grafton, Vt., Vital Records (Deaths & Burial Permits), 43: 40]. Daisy Turner is a famous figure in Vermont's history, a native of Grafton and the daughter of former slaves who moved there after the Civil War. She was also a gifted storyteller and rights activist. Several people in Chester, claim she is buried in Brookside Cemetery, as a result of the misinformation posted on *findagrave.com*. The majority of small towns throughout the state do not have their own tombs for winter storage, and subsequently bodies are stored in the tombs of the neighboring larger towns. As with all genealogical research, it very important to look at all the data and to make a informed decision.

GSV's Spring Membership Meeting will be held at the Middletown Springs Historical Society on 19 May 2018. We have not had a meeting in this area of Rutland County for several years. We are currently deciding on the speakers. A special thank you to our secretary, Alice Marsh, for making the contact and setting this up. Look in the next Newsletter and at our website www.genealogyvermont.org for more details. We look forward to seeing you there.

Congratulations to Scott Andrew Bartley on the his Early Vermont Settlers to 1771, Volume 1 Southern Windsor County recently published by NEHGS.

According to *Vermont Genealogy*, editor Michael F. Dyer, FASG, VG, 22: 2 [Fall 2017] should be arriving in members mailboxes in about a month or so. Great work Michael.

I wish all of you a very productive 2018 in your genealogical endeavors.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President

Act. No. 63. of 1856. An Act Relating to the Registry and Returns of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Passed by the Legislature of Vermont October session, 1856, and amended with Act. No. 33. of the October session 1857, with Instructions.



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; \$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. *out of print.*

Vital Records of Rockingham, Vermont and the Records of the First Church of Rockingham. Reprinted from the 1902 and 1908 first editions, newly indexed by Christopher T. Norris and Scott A. Bartley, 323 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 3; \$27.00 members, \$30.00 non-members. Reprinted from the first editions of 1908 and 1902, this is an important source of one of Vermont's oldest towns. The town records extend to 1845 and church records from 1773 to 1839. New to this edition is an index of nearly 1,000 names. out of print.

Georgia, Vermont Vital Records. Peter S. Mallet, ed., 1995, hardbound. Item No. GSV 4; \$15.00 fall sale price through Dec. 1, 2017. This volume presents all births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials recorded in the town. All the civil

(Continued on page 7)

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WANT TO CONTACT US?

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

Genealogical Society of Vermont 2962 Vermont Route 12A

Braintree, VT 05060-8779

stevens@vermontel.net

Newsletter deadlines are:

Jan. 15 — March issue

April 15 — June issue

July 15 — September issue

Oct. 15 — December issue

Vermont Genealogy, the GSV Journal contact information:
Michael F. Dwyer, FASG, Editor
389 Orchard Hill,
Pittsford, VT 05763

michaelftdwyer@comcast.net

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 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.

A Quarterly Publication of the GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT

ISSN 1087-4550 © 2017 Genealogical Society of Vermont books were transcribed as well as the records from the Georgia Plains Baptist Church, Congregational Church, and Methodist Church of Georgia and North Fairfax.

Windsor County, Vermont Probate Index, 1778-1899. Scott Andrew Bartley and Marjorie-J. Bartley, compilers, 2000, 560 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 6; \$45.00 members, \$50.00 nonmembers. This is a comprehensive index of all files in the Windsor County Probate Court Districts —Windsor and Hartford. The records cover the period from the earliest 1778 records through the end of the nineteenth century, more than 20,000 probate files. The files are indexed by the name of the major party in the case, place of residence, probate district, type of record, year, and probate record volume.

Index to Branches & Twigs, 1972—1995. Robert M. Murphy, ed. 2000, 572 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 7; \$20.00 fall sale price through Apr. 1, 2018. 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; \$44.55 members, 49.50 non-members. 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, soft-bound. Item No. GSV 11; \$9.00 members, \$10.00 nonmembers. (Mail orders should add \$1.50 for postage and handling, not the \$3.50 normally charged.) This is a new edition of A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy was released in April 2005. It includes more listings than the first edition, most published since 2000. It is keyed to Scott Andrew Bartley's Genealogies Found in Vermont Histories (Vol. 10, No. 1 of Vermont Genealogy, also designated GSV publication number 10.).

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.**

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 - 22: 2, are available for \$10.00 each. There is a mailing fee of \$2.00 (\$3.00 to Canadian addresses) for each single issue, \$2.50 (\$3.50 to Canada) for each double issue (i.e., the \$10 issues). For multiple issue orders, please add \$1 for each additional 1 to 5 issues.

GSV Special Publication Number 14

VITAL RECORDS RECORDED IN THE PERU, VT. TOWN RECORDS

by Jonathan W. Stevens

Back Issues available: for \$10, plus \$2.50 shipping for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy Genealogical Society of Vermont 2962 Vermont Route 12A Braintree, VT 05060-8779

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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.

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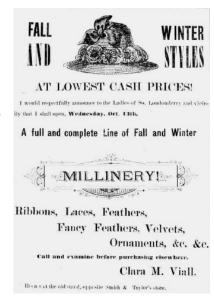
Membership includes our journal *Vermont Genealogy* and four issues of our newsletter. These publications will keep you abreast of genealogical news and present current articles on genealogical source material, conferences and meetings, techniques and queries. If you would like to receive a membership card, please include a self addressed stamped envelop with your dues.

Send membership dues and applications to:

GSV Membership Chairperson 57 East Shore North Grand Isle, VT 05458

All other correspondence, except for submissions and queries to *Vermont Genealogy*, should be sent to

Genealogical Society of Vermont, 2962 Vermont Route 12A, Braintree, VT 05060-8779.



The Londonderry Sifter, issue 21 October. 1886, p. 2