



Genealogical Society of Vermont

Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 13th New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) held at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, on April 15-18, 2015, was a stellar success. An unfortunate family medical issue forced a last minute cancelation of GSV's sponsored speaker Jane Williamson: **Telling it Like it Was: The Underground Railroad in Vt.** Her replacement was Cheryll Toney Holley: **Counting Quows & Sifting Storms: African-Americans in Vermont.** Cheryll did an excellent job and GSV certainly appreciated her stepping in at the last minute. Thank you to everyone that provided volunteer time at the conference including: Carolyn Adams, Judy Goss, John Leppman, and Bob Murphy. Also congratulations to Kathy Sobetzer of Rumney, N.H., who won GSV's door prize drawing, a copy of: *The Vermont Difference: Perspectives from the Green Mountain State.*

The Board is currently planning GSV's fall meeting, which will be held at the Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh. This is a beautiful and historic location and very easy to get to, just off Route 7. According to the museum's website: <http://rokeby.org/> "from 1793 to 1961, Rokeby was home to four generations of Robinsons—a remarkable family of Quakers, farmers, abolitionists, artists, and authors. Today, the Robinson family's home is a National Historic Landmark, designated for its exceptional Underground Railroad history." For those of you wondering about the name, the Robinson family named the house after *Rokeby* (1813), a narrative poem by Sir Walter Scott, set in Teesdale during the English Civil War. Due to the museum's schedule, plus various conflicts, the meeting will held on 31 October 2015. The above mentioned Jane Williamson, Executive Director,

(President's Message, Continued on page 2)

Farm for Sale.

TO be sold at Public Auction, on the last Thursday in October, (unless previously disposed of at private sale) a valuable Farm, lying about one mile and a quarter south west of the Meeting House in Grafton. It contains about 180 acres of land of a good soil, and well watered; 50 acres under improvement, with a young orchard, containing 40 trees; a house, about 20 by 30 feet, and a barn 40 by 30.—Sale to be on the premises, where the conditions will be made known. THOMAS WOOLEY.
Grafton, Sept. 21.

Green Mountain Palladium (Chester, Vt.), issue, 28 Sept. 1807, p. 4.

DONATIONS

Leon Harris of
Rush, New York

W.D. "Sandy" Sanford of
San Marcos, California

MYSTERY PHOTO DEMYSTIFIED

The March 2015 GSV *Newsletter* included a “Mystery Photo” of four women and a baby. Their names were written on the back of the original photograph, and we asked readers to figure out more about who the people were, how they were related to each other (if at all), and where the original photograph ought to go. (It had turned up in a shipment of material from an antiquarian book and paper dealer.)

We are pleased to report that publication of the photograph and names got more than one person searching records and finding more information. We got in touch with descendants of the family involved, who now have the original photograph back. John and Sue Roberts made a particularly thorough effort, pursuing their hobby of finding just such old photographs as this and identifying people, place and time. Some information for our “mystery” group of people was not hard to find in vital records, census records, obituaries, and so forth. Some was a bit more elusive.

The child in the forefront of our “Mystery Photo” was Thelma Merline Dunham, born at Corinth, Vermont, 21 December 1911, daughter of William Cleveland Dunham and Beulah (Hutton) Dunham. The photograph therefore can be dated as probably 1912. William Cleveland Dunham was the son of Benjamin Hinkley Dunham and Abbie Sarah (or Sarah Abbie) (Colby) Dunham; Abbie later married James R. Woodcock, and thus is Abbie Woodcock, on the upper left in the picture. Abbie was the daughter of Joseph A. and Albina Colby; Albina would be the “Mrs. Colby” seated in front of her daughter on the left side of the picture.

Beulah (Hutton) Dunham would survive the date of this picture by only a few years and die at the age of 28 of pneumonia related to influenza in the 1918 epidemic. Her parents were Fred and Lilla (Childs) Hutton. Lilla (or Lillia), who appears on the upper right of this picture, was the daughter of Rodney and Mary Childs. These people all are found in vital and census records in Corinth, Vermont, and Lilla’s brother Carroll Childs was a professional photographer, so getting the baby together with her two grandmothers and two great-grandmothers for a genealogically meaningful picture would have been a fairly easy task.

Little Thelma went on to marry Leo F. Taylor and to have a number of descendants, and we have been able to have contact with a family member and return the original photograph to its family of origin.

As John and Sue Roberts can tell us, photographs like this one are common. Some of them are not as well equipped with names as this one was. This is a reminder: If you have photographs in the attic that are labeled as “Grandma” or “Uncle Bubba,” get them properly labeled before everybody forgets who they are. Just before writing this, I got an e-mail from a distant cousin telling me that she suspects that a certain person in a group photograph in her possession was my great-grandmother, of whom I have never before seen a photograph. Unfortunately, no one bothered to label the photograph, and to all intents and purposes, everyone who ever saw my great-grandmother is now deceased.

John A. Leppman

INDEX TO BRANCHES & TWIGS, 1972—1995 by Robert M. Murphy, ed. 2000, 572 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 7.

Special Sale Price \$30

Plus \$3.50 shipping and handling for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy.

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

(Continued from page 1)

of Rokeby will give her cancelled NERGC talk, plus there will be two additional speakers and a catered lunch. Look for future developments in the September *GSV Newsletter* and online at www.genealogyvermont.org.

I received information from Bob Murphy that the hours for the Vt. State Library have been severely curtailed due to budget issues. The new hours will be Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed Fridays). For anyone doing newspaper research, in non-digitized papers, this could be an issue. On the positive side, they will be open on Mondays, whereas other repositories like Vermont Historical Society (VHS) and Vermont State Archives & Records Administration (VSARA) are closed then. (*See page 3 for additional information*).

Work is progressing on the Fall 2014 [19: 2] and Spring 2015 [20: 1] issues of *Vermont Genealogy*. Look for the former by early fall and latter by the end of the year. Some of the articles to be included are: part two of Londonderry Vital Records, Peru Vital Records, and a section of transcribed Bible/family register records, compiled genealogies, Seen Elsewhere, Jabez Fitch, and book reviews etc.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President

VERMONT DIGITAL NEWSPAPER PROJECT PHASE III

Orleans County Monitor (1913-1922)*
Rutland Weekly Herald (1861-1873)*
Brattleboro Reformer family (1879-1922)
Londonderry Sifter (1884-1921)
Manchester Journal (1861-1922)
Herald and News (1888-1910) (West Randolph, Orange Co.)
Barre Daily Times (1903-1922)
Bellows Falls Times (1856-1903)

* indicates a continuation of a previously digitized title run

The following is from the Vermont Digital Newspaper Project blog. “The above titles will add at least another 100,000 pages of Vermont newspapers to Chronicling America <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>; this work will be completed by the middle of summer 2016. By the end of this phase, an estimated total of 370,000 pages and 73 titles from Vermont newspapers will be available online, for free, and searchable worldwide. This remarkable amount of Vermont historic newspapers online would not be possible without the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library of Congress and our state partners: Ilesley Public Library, Vermont Historical Society, Vermont Department of Libraries, and the University of Vermont. We are indebted, too, to those involved in our Advisory Council and Project Management Group.”

source: <http://library.uvm.edu/vtnp/>

VERMONT STATE LIBRARY ANNOUNCES: REDUCED LIBRARY HOURS AND END OF LEGAL REFERENCE SERVICES

Montpelier – As a result of a reduction in their FY16 budget passed by the Legislature in May, the Department of Libraries will reduce hours of operation and phase out Law Library services at the Vermont State Library, located in the Pavilion Building in Montpelier, beginning July 1.

“We have worked very hard to maintain as many of our Department’s services and programs as possible given the budget challenges facing the state,” said State Librarian Martha Reid. “We will continue to work to sustain the high level of service our patrons have come to expect. But the reality is that we must make difficult choices and look for ways to live within our budget and meet as best we can the information needs of Vermonters.”

The Department of Libraries has developed a plan for moving forward with a reduction of over \$400,000 in state general funds. The first major change comes with trimming State Library hours, library staff, library collection purchases, and ending legal reference service. Beginning July 1, the State Library will be open Monday through Thursday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, and closed on Fridays. The Library will retain its current print, state documents, and Vermont newspaper microfilm collections, but will not maintain the law collection.

The Department’s FY16 budget includes a new appropriation of \$67,000 which will be used as a grant to the Vermont Law School in South Royalton. Librarians at the Law School’s Julien and Virginia Cornell Library will provide access to legal resources and reference assistance to the general public and the legal community, beginning this fall. For more information, contact the Vermont State Library at (802)828-3268 during their scheduled business hours, or the Law School’s library at (802)831-1441. Until July 1, the State Library will be open Monday-Friday, 7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Source: <http://libraries.vermont.gov/>

WRITING HOME TO VERMONT DURING THE CIVIL WAR
by James R. Miller

Civil War envelopes and letters sent home by Vermont soldiers let us glimpse their wartime experience and handwriting, and may provide details that are unavailable elsewhere. Old envelopes in postal history collections are a largely untapped source of genealogical information. This paper presents six envelopes, including five with letters, found in philatelic auction catalogs and a postal history reference book, with basic genealogical data on the senders and recipients to introduce the philatelic genealogy website and database *Philgen.org* <http://philgen.org/>.

Philgen.org was launched in March 2009 to show genealogists old envelopes and postcards held by postal historians and postcard collectors. The site now has 1,600 digital images of envelopes and postcards, used with their owner's permission, accompanied by U.S. census or similar details on the senders and recipients. As with any source of genealogical information, postcards and envelopes must be studied in combination with other sources before reaching a conclusion.

Mrs. Julia B. Graves of Vernon received an envelope and letter from Richmond, Virginia via Louisville, Kentucky where it was postmarked on 7 August 1861. [Figure 1] Julia and Albert L. Graves, apparently mother and son, are in Vernon in the 1860 U.S. census.^[1] Albert L. Graves served as a private with the 2nd Vermont Infantry that fought at the Battle of Bull Run.^[2] He was captured by Confederate cavalry after “the terrible battle of Manassas” when he fell behind the retreating Union army to help a wounded soldier.^[3] He wrote the enclosed letter on 24 July 1861, three days after the battle, at the Confederate military prison in Liggon’s tobacco warehouse in Richmond, where he remained for five months and fourteen days.^[4] Albert L. Graves deserted in September 1862, married Augusta L. Severance in Rutland in 1870, and lived until 1903.^[5] This envelope and Figures 3 and 6 are from philatelic auction catalogs from which *Philgen.org* has permission to use photographs.^[6]



Figure 1 (1861) envelope from Liggon's tobacco warehouse in Richmond, Virginia via Louisville, Kentucky to Vernon, Vermont (Photo courtesy of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 988, Lot 90)



Figure 2A (1862) envelope from Washington, D.C. to East Braintree with illustration of a mounted soldier and “1st Vermont Cavalry” (Photo courtesy of James W. Milgram, M.D., *Federal Civil War Postal History*, p. 63);

illustrated with a soldier on a horse, and the writing paper with a group of mounted soldiers. William N. Buck survived the war, married, and lived until 1929.^[9] This envelope and letter, as well as Figures 4 and 5, are from a book of postal history from which *Philgen.org* has permission to use photographs.^[10]

Miss Martha A. Buck of East Braintree received an envelope and letter written 11 March 1862 in Washington, D.C. [Figures 2A and 2B] Martha and William Buck, apparently sister and brother, are in Braintree in the 1860 U.S. census.^[7] William N. Buck served as a private with the 1st Vermont Cavalry and this regiment was in Washington, D.C. in early March 1862.^[8] The envelope is il-

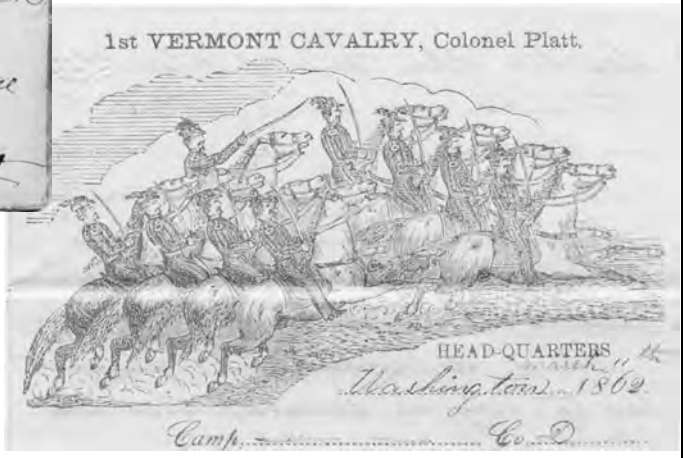


Figure 2B (1862) letter paper from Washington, D.C. to East Braintree with illustration of mounted soldiers and “1st Vermont Cavalry” (Photo courtesy of James W. Milgram, M.D.,

Harriet Wood of East Franklin received a homemade envelope and letter that was sealed with postage stamps and postmarked in New Orleans, Louisiana on 27 April, 1863.[Figure 3] Harriet (apparently Mrs. Xenophon) Wood is in Franklin in the 1860 U.S. census.^[11] Xenophon Wood served as a corporal and later sergeant with the 8th Vermont Infantry, and this regiment was in Louisiana in April 1863.^[12] The enclosed letter speaks of a recent battle where “the Rebs admit a loss on their side of 50 men killed 200 wounded and 500 prisoners and 4 gun boats.”^[13] Xenophon Wood survived the war and lived until 1900.^[14]



Figure 3 (1863) homemade envelope sealed with stamps from New Orleans, Louisiana to East Franklin, Vermont (Photo courtesy of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 980, Lot 2441)

To be Continued in the September 2015 GSV Newsletter

Notes

- 1860 U.S. Census, Vernon, Windham Co., Vt., M653-1325 p. 4 (penned), dwelling 1,392, family 1,540, head of household: Julia Graves.
- National Park Service (NPS), Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSSS) (<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>: accessed 23 June 2015), “Soldiers,” Albert L. Graves, served Vermont; and “Regiments,” 2nd Vermont Infantry.
- Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries (<http://www.siegelauctions.com/>: accessed 23 June 2015), “Power Search,” enter 988 as Sale # and 90 as Lot #.
- Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 988, Lot 90; A.H. Washburn and Lucinda W.B. Washburn, *Vernon*, “Soldiers of Vernon in the War of 1861-65, Three years men,” digital image, (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vtwindha/vhg5/vernon.htm>: accessed 23 June 2015), citing *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, Vol. 5, “The Towns of Windham County.”
- Historical Data Systems, compiler, “American Civil War Soldiers,” [on *Ancestry.com*], Albert Graves, served Vermont; Vermont Vital Records Card Index to 1870, (m. at Rutland, Albert J. Graves [*sic*] to Augusta L. Severance, 10 Jan. 1870); “A Butterfield Family Tree,” owner Robinsky6, source cited is online family trees, [on *Ancestry.com*].
- Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries. Civil War postal history is featured in the catalogs for Sales 795, 801, 815, 822, 823, 834, 840, 841, 845, 850, 860, 870, 874, 875, 907, 933, 950, 954, 966, 980, 981, 988, 1,002, and 1,016.
- 1860 U.S. Census, Braintree Orange Co., Vt., M653-1323 p. 318 (penned), dwelling 2,521, family 2,705, head of household: Chester Buck.
- NPS, CWSSS, “Soldiers,” William N. Buck, served Vermont; and “Regiments,” 1st Vermont Cavalry.
- “Civil War and later veterans pension index,” [on *fold3.com*], entry for William N. Buck, 1st Vermont Cavalry, invalid pension granted 16 June 1879; “New Hampshire, death records, 1654-1947,” [on *FamilySearch.org*], entry for William N. Buck, d. Deerfield, N.H., 18 Feb. 1929, widowed.
- James W. Milgram, M.D., *Federal Civil War Postal History* (Northbrook, Illinois: Northbrook Publishing Company, 2007).
- 1860 U.S. Census, Franklin, Franklin Co., Vt., M653-1321 p. 13 (penned), dwelling 108, family 95, head of household: Xenophon Wood.
- NPS, CWSSS, “Soldiers,” Xenophon W. Wood, served Vermont; and “Regiments,” 8th Vermont Infantry.
- Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 980, Lot 2441.
- “Vermont in the Civil War,” database (<http://vermontcivilwar.org/>: accessed 23 June 2015), entry for Xenophon W. Wood, includes a photograph of his burial marker.

James R. (Jim) Miller is a genealogist and postal historian and is the founder of Philgen.org. He lives in Caroga Lake, New York and Haguenau, France, and can be contacted at jim@philgen.org. The author thanks Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries and James W. Milgram, M.D. for the use of photographs, the genealogists who posted online family trees and responded to email and message board queries, and Lisa Birsinger for database and website support.



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 \$3.50 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, P.O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014

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.

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; 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 indispensable index of nearly 1,000 names. *out of print.*

Georgia, Vermont Vital Records. Peter S. Mallet, ed., 1995, hardbound. Item No. GSV 4; \$27.00 members, \$30.00 non-members. This volume presents all births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials recorded in the town. All the civil books

(Continued on page 7)

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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:

Vermont Genealogy Editorial Board
 P.O. Box 14,
 Randolph, VT 05060-0014
stevens@vermontel.net

Send copies of relevant books for journal review to:

John A. Leppman
 Book Review Editor
 20 Thwing Lane
 Bellows Falls, VT 05101-1640

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Please inform GSV if you move.

Send notices to:
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 57 East Shore North
 Grand Isle, VT 05458

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The 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 PO Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014 along with the *exact* wording for the ad. *GSV offers no warranty on the services of advertisers.*

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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; \$58.50 members, \$65.00 nonmembers. 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 nonmembers. 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; \$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 - 18: 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. Note: issues 1: 4, 3: 3, 3: 4 and 4: 4 are out of print.

***GSV Special Publication
Number 13*****VITAL RECORDS OF SPRINGFIELD, VT.**

by Scott Andrew Bartley

Back Issues available:

For \$15, plus \$3.50 shipping for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy

Genealogical Society of Vermont

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