



Genealogical Society of Vermont

Newsletter

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www.genealogyvermont.org

May 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Eleventh New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) held in Springfield, Massachusetts was a huge success, with reports of over 830 attendees. The GSV booth in the Exhibit Hall did quite well and signed up several new members. Thank you to all of those who volunteered on GSV's behalf at NERGC, including: Jane Belcher, Bob Clark, Judy Goss, John Leppman, Bob Murphy and Joann Nichols. A personal thank you to Mary Pat Brigham for covering the GSV booth, for me during David Allen's excellent, interesting and very informative talk entitled "Mapping Vermont in the 1850s." (See the pictures from NERGC on page 4.) All who attended his talk learned something about the maps and the men behind them. As an exhibitor at NERGC, GSV contributed to the door prize raffle and we congratulate, GSV member, Judy Smuda of Marlborough, Connecticut who was our winner, of a copy *Freedom and Unity: A History of Vermont*. The door prize was generously

donated by Joann Nichols, and had been signed by one of the authors, Michael Sherman. We just happened to draw a member as the winner. GSV also provided a quart of 2011 maple syrup for the volunteer raffle. Finally, NERGC will be returning to Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Manchester, New Hampshire, on April 17-21, 2013. So be sure to mark your calendars.

Thank you to both Randy Brown, GSV newsletter coordinator, and his wife for their continued efforts in labeling and mailing this newsletter and ensuring delivery to our members. Also a thank you to Tom Record, GSV sales person, for mailing publication orders. It is all the volunteers that help the wheels of GSV continue to turn.

A major development in the members section of GSV website www.genealogyvermont.org is the directory of member interests of the surnames being researched by other members. This is a major advancement, over the now very much out

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LAND RECORD RESEARCH IN VERMONT

Vermont is one of only a handful of states in which deeds are recorded at the town rather than the county level. Land records are a rich resource in genealogy, many times sorting out relationships. They can provide insight into earlier residences and dates of departure. It was quite common to own multiple parcels of land, including pastures, wood lots, etc. Land was also purchased purely for investment purposes. There are also several terms that genealogists need to be familiar with working on any land record project. These are as follows:

Warranty Deed: *The grantor guarantees that he or she holds a clear title to a piece of real estate and has a right to sell it to the grantee. The grantee is not limited to the time the grantor owned the property, but extending back to the property's origins.*

Mortgage Deed: *The pledging to a lender as a security for a loan. Most mortgages were between the parties involved in the accompanying warranty deed or many times a local "money man." These were payable for the most part in promissory notes due at set times and including interest.*

Assignment of Mortgage: *When the holder of a mortgage assigns the mortgage to another party.*

Quit-claim Deed: *The grantor disclaims any interest and passes it to the grantee. These can be very important from the genealogical standpoint as many times they can indicate where siblings removed to.*

(Land Record Research, continued on page 2)

(President's Message, continued from page 1)

of date membership directory from back in 1998. Thank you to Diantha Howard, our web mistress for this and all the improvements to the GSV website. If you have not visited our website recently it may be time to again.

The Spring 2011 issue of *Vermont Genealogy*, will be in members' mailboxes very soon. This issue has been designated as Special Publication No. 13 and consists of the early vital records of Springfield, transcribed by VG editor Scott Andrew Bartley. Owing to the special nature of this issue, it is much larger than usual, amounting to 260 pages as compared to the customary double issue size of 96 pages. These transcriptions were proofed line to line, by my mother and me against the original records in the town office vault.

If you have not visited www.familysearch.org recently give this site another look. One of many recent additions to

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(Land Record Research, continued from page 1)

Tax Collector Deed: *A deed that is issued when a piece of land is sold to the highest bidder at tax sale. The property can be redeemed up to a year after the sale.*

Administrator's Deed: *A deed conveying property of one who died intestate (without a will). The administrator is appointed by the probate court.*

Executor's Deed: *A deed conveying property of one who died testate (with a will). The executor is usually named in the will.*

License to Sell Real Estate: *Authorizes and empowers the executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased, to sell the real estate either at public auction or private sale.*

Indenture: *An indenture is a legal contract between two parties. In the early deeds such as the Cumberland County New York Deeds, indentures were actually warranty deeds. Later indentures tend to be leases. When selectmen leased land the deed was done as an indenture.*

Lease Land: *Public land that a town leases to an individual or individuals on which an annual rent is paid. Public lots were set aside according to the charter of the school and religious purposes.*

Life Lease: *A mortgage that binds an individual, usually the child, to take care of his or her parents, according to their station in life. A life lease many times describes items such as food, medicine, livestock, medical care and a proper Christian Burial. This was financial planning, avoiding probate court, as the lease is preceded by a warranty deed.*

(Land Record Research, continued on page 5)

DONATIONS

Emily S. Palmer, of Arvada, CO
National Society Sons of Colonial New England

1761 Sestercentennial 2011

The following Vermont towns were chartered by New Hampshire Provincial Governor Benning Wentworth in the summer and fall of 1761 and will be celebrating their sestercentennial anniversaries in 2011. Copies of the printed versions of the charters can be found in the following publication: Albert Stillman Batchellor, ed., *The New Hampshire Grants: Being Transcripts of the Charters of the Townships and Minor Grants of Lands Made by the Provincial Government of New Hampshire, Within the Present Boundaries of the State of Vermont, from 1749 to 1764* (Concord, N.H., 1895), being Vol. XXVI of the New Hampshire State Papers series.

Addison, Addison Co., Oct. 14th
Andover, Windsor Co., Oct. 13th (included part of Weston)
Arlington, Bennington Co., July 28th
Barnard, Windsor Co., July 17th
Brandon, Rutland Co., Nov. 3rd (as Neshobe, name changed in 1784)
Bridgewater, Windsor Co., July 10th
Bridport, Addison Co., Oct. 9th
Brunswick, Essex Co., Oct. 13th
Castleton, Rutland Co., Sept. 22nd
Cavendish, Windsor Co., Oct. 12th (included Baltimore)
Chester, Windsor Co., Nov. 3rd (as New Flamstead, chartered as Chester by New York on July 14th 1766)
Clarendon, Rutland Co., Sept. 5th
Cornwall, Addison Co., Nov. 3rd
Danby, Rutland Co., Aug. 27th
Dorset, Bennington Co., Aug. 20th (as Dorsett)
Fairlee, Orange Co., Sept. 9th (included West Fairlee)
Ferdinand, Essex Co., Sept. 9th
Glastenbury, Bennington Co., Aug. 20th (as Glossenbury, disenfranchised in 1937)
Granby, Essex Co., Oct. 10th
Guildhall, Essex Co., Oct. 10th
Hartford, Windsor Co., July 4th
Hartland, Windsor Co., July 10th (as Hertford, name changed in 1782)
Killington, Rutland Co., July 7th
Leicester, Addison Co., Oct. 20th
Ludlow, Windsor Co., Sept. 16th (included part of Mount Holly)
Maidstone, Essex Co., Oct. 12th
Manchester, Bennington Co., Aug. 11th
Middlebury, Addison Co., Nov. 2nd
Mount Tabor, Rutland Co., June 28th (as Harwich, name changed in 1803)

(Sestercentennial Anniversary Dates, continued on page 4)

NEW MEMBERS

Betty Kluttz

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email: kgsearcher@aol.com
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(President's Message, continued from page 2)

the ever expanding databases on the website is the name index with images of the state vital record index cards of transcriptions of births, marriages and deaths, 1760-1954. This collection is complete with images for the years 1871-1908, though many images of earlier material have been posted, it is not complete as of this date. According to the website "as more data is received, the remaining year ranges will be incrementally updated." While this is a great asset to genealogists, especially those outside Vermont, who cannot always get to the original material. I have noticed that some of the cards are quite hard to read and consequently the information has been indexed incorrectly. In several cases the dates and (or) names have been misread, resulting in some spellings and dates which were clearly in error. However, for the most part this can be a very helpful database to use.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President

The New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC), was held on April 6-10, 2011 in Springfield, Massachusetts. *(below left)* David Allen, of Old Maps, GSV's sponsored speaker, giving his presentation, "Mapping Vermont in the 1850s" in the Worthy Room at the Sheraton on April 9, 2011. *(below right)* The Springfield skyline, showing both the Marriott Springfield and Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place, where NERGC event took place.



Photos Courtesy of John A. Leppman.

(Sestercentennial Anniversary Dates, continued from page 2)

New Haven, Addison Co., Nov. 2nd
Norwich, Windsor Co., July 4th
Panton, Addison Co., Nov. 3rd
Pawlet, Rutland Co., Aug. 26th
Peru, Bennington Co., Oct. 13th (as Bromley, written as Brumley in charter, name changed in 1804)
Pittsford, Rutland Co., Oct. 12th (included part of Proctor)
Plymouth, Windsor Co., July 6th (as Saltash, name changed in 1797)
Pomfret, Windsor Co., July 8th
Poultney, Rutland Co., Sept. 21st
Reading, Windsor Co., June 6th
Rupert, Bennington Co., Aug. 20th
Rutland, Rutland Co., Sept. 7th (the original town of Rutland consisted of what today is Rutland City, Rutland Town, West Rutland and part of Proctor)
Salisbury, Addison Co., Nov. 3rd
Sandgate, Bennington Co., Aug. 11th
Shaftsbury, Bennington Co., Aug. 20th
Sharon, Windsor Co., Aug. 17th
Shoreham, Addison Co., Oct. 8th
Shrewsbury, Rutland Co., Sept. 4th
Somerset, Windham Co., Sept. 9th (disenfranchised in 1937)
Springfield, Windsor Co., Aug. 20th
Stockbridge, Windsor Co., July 21st
Strafford, Orange Co., Aug. 12th
Stratton, Windham Co., July 30th
Sunderland, Bennington Co., July 29th
Thetford, Orange Co., Aug. 12th
Tinmouth, Rutland Co., Sept. 15th
Tunbridge, Orange Co., Sept. 3rd
Wallingford, Rutland Co., Nov. 27th (included part of Mount Holly)
Weathersfield, Windsor Co., Aug. 20th
Wells, Rutland Co., Sept. 15th
Wenlock, Essex Co., Oct. 13th (divided in 1853 between Brighton and Ferdinand)
Weybridge, Addison Co., Nov. 3rd
Winhall, Bennington Co., Sept. 15th
Windsor, Windsor Co., July 6th (included West Windsor)
Woodstock, Windsor Co., July 10th



(Land Record Research, continued from page 2)

Public Vendue: A public sale of land to the highest bidder that was held to raise money for items such as the building of roads and bridges. If a tax levied by the General Assembly was not paid those lots would go up for sale. It is important to note that deeds were not always recorded for items purchased at vendue, therefore vendue tables in the land records can be helpful. Deeds are signed by the constable or the tax collector.

State Prison Tax (1807-1808). In order to raise money to build the state prison in Windsor, a tax was levied at one cent per acre on all land in Vermont (excepting public land). Most towns have these lists recorded in their land records. It arranges the property by the lotting system, the acreage per parcel, the amount and who paid the tax. This was followed by vendue sale of the parcels that had not been redeemed.

Highway Allowance: Five acres per hundred acres were allotted as allowance for highways. This is why 100 acre lots appear as 95 acres on the State Prison Tax List.

Proprietors' Records: The proprietors, are the original grantees of the town who divided up the land into lots and divisions. Many times these records will have to be referred to when a deed simply states that a parcel is the right of a certain proprietor.

While most modern deeds refer to measurements in feet, this is fairly recent trend. Early deeds use stake and stones as corner markers and the measurements are in rods, links and chains.

Link: 7.92 inches

Foot: 12 inches

Yard: 3 feet or 36 inches

Rod: 16 ½ feet, 5 ½ yards or 25 links

Chain: 100 links, 4 rods or 66 feet

Mile: 80 chains, 320 rods or 5,280 feet

Acre: 160 square rods, 4,840 square yards or 43,560 square feet. An easy equation to figure out acreage of square parcels is to multiply two sides and divide by 160. For example if a parcel is 10 rods by 16 rods the total would be 160 square rods and that is divided by 160. The total amount of the parcel would then be 1 acre.

Final Thoughts: Vermont is seldom flat and few things are square, but hopefully these terms and tips will better help to identify the dwelling and business places of your ancestors.

GSV Treasurer's Report

1 Oct. 2010 - 31 March 2011

Income

Interest \$339.12
 Dues \$5,615.00
 Meeting Income Fall 2010 \$565 (\$345 in FY 10)
 Donations \$195
 Publications Sales \$133.25
 Miscellaneous \$40 (replacement check and bank fee)

Total Income \$6,887.37

Expenses

Vermont Genealogy
 Printing 1 double issue \$1,333.17
 Delivery 1 double issue \$526.22
 Editing 1 double issue \$2,250
 GSV Newsletter
 Printing 2 issues \$590.81
 Delivery 2 issues \$184.87
 Miscellaneous \$340 (NERGC Registration Gift for Mary Pat Brigham and Robert Murphy \$220 (\$110 each); Vermont Secretary of State Biennial Non-Profit Corporation Report \$120)
 Meeting Expense Fall 2010 \$830.00
 Postage, Office Supplies \$208.49
 Bank Charges \$40
 Website \$86.35
 NERGC 2011 \$300 (Luncheon Sponsorship)
 Post Office Box Rental \$72
 Bulk Mailing Permit \$185
 Memberships:
 Federation of Genealogical Societies \$85
 Vermont Municipal Clerk's and Treasurer's Association \$50

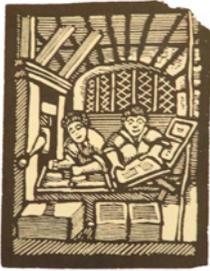
Total Expenses \$7,081.91

Balances as of 31 March 2011:
 Checking \$11,853.98
 Emergency CD \$22,216.93
 Permanent CD \$13,882.15
 Publications CD \$20,393.58

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



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; \$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

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Order Form

| Item Number | Description | Quantity X | Price = | Subtotal |
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| M 001 | Membership: New or Renewal | | | |
| | | | | <p>*There is no tax on GSV material.</p> <p>Membership fees are listed on the back cover.</p> <p>Please include your membership number for renewals and member discounts.</p> |
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WANT TO CONTACT US?

Our website is at

<http://www.genealogyvermont.org/>

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

Jonathan W. Stevens, President
PO Box 14,
Randolph, VT 05060-0014
stevens@vermontel.net

Newsletter deadlines are:

Dec 15 — February issue

Mar 15 — May issue

June 15 — August issue

Sept 15 — November issue

Vermont Genealogy, the GSV Journal contact information:

Scott Andrew Bartley, Editor
Vermont Genealogy
20 March Avenue

West Roxbury, MA 02132-2604
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 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.*

A Quarterly Publication of the
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and church records from 1773 to 1839. New is an indispensable index of nearly 1,000 names.

Georgia, Vermont Vital Records. Peter S. Mallet, ed., 1995, hardbound. Item No. GSV 4; \$27.00 members, \$30.00 nonmembers. This volume presents all births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials recorded in the town. All the civil books were transcribed as well as the records from the Georgia Plains Baptist Church, Congregational Church, and Methodist Church of Georgia and North Fairfax.

Windsor County, Vermont Probate Index, 1778-1899. Scott Andrew Bartley and Marjorie-J. Bartley, compilers, 2000, 560 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 6; \$45.00 members, \$50.00 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: Transcription of Vital Records and Genealogies of Residents. Mary Ann Z. Wheeler, 2000, 416 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 9; \$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.).

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 and 15: 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.

Genealogical Society of Vermont

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Canada and Mexico are \$30.00
All other foreign addresses are \$35.00 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 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, P. O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014.



FOR SALE,
A FARM, lying a few rods North of the Meeting-House in Andover, Vt. on the main road from Manchester to Bellows' Falls, containing 100 acres of excellent land, well proportioned for mowing, pasturing, tillage and woodland, with a beautiful young orchard from which cider has been made the two years past; a small house, an excellent well of water, and a good barn thereon, with running water in the yard, and otherwise conveniently watered. Likewise 50 acres of good woodland one mile from the farm; to be sold together, or separate—terms made easy. Enquire of the subscriber on the premises.

JONATHAN PUTNAM.
August 10, 1807. *4w96