



# Genealogical Society of Vermont

## Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 1, Whole No. 105

[www.genealogyvermont.org](http://www.genealogyvermont.org)

May 2020

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I regretfully write this message, we are in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic. This event has unfortunately altered our highly anticipated plans for GSV's Spring Membership meeting, to be held on Saturday, June 20, 2020, at the Chriss Monroe Chapel in the Pawlet Cemetery, in Pawlet, Vermont. The meeting was to feature renowned **Findagrave** contributor **Janet Muff**, giving a PowerPoint presentation on the conditions in cemeteries, endangered gravestones, and some unique stones by early carvers. After the luncheon, there was to be show and tell of her technique for photographing gravestones. The GSV Board feels that we are left with no other choice, but to cancel the meeting. As the majority of our members are part of the demographic that is most vulnerable to the pandemic, we do not want to put anyone at risk. While businesses are being allowed to open back up in a limited capacity, events such as ours are being canceled or postponed across the state. To hold a membership meeting, with a luncheon, would not be in adherence with government protocols and social distancing practices. The state is also discouraging people from coming to Vermont, as the surrounding states have a much higher number of cases. This is a regrettable, but necessary and sensible decision to protect our membership. The State of Vermont is currently maintaining a COVID-19 statistics website. This is updated daily, and breaks down the data by county. <https://vcgi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/6128a0bc9ae14e98a686b635001ef7a7>

There are several items that have updated, from previous **President's Messages**:

GSV has been offering the option of making donations and registering for meetings on our website via PayPal. We have now added the option of membership renewals via PayPal. <http://genealogyvermont.org/membform.htm> However, we ask that new members fill out the membership form and mail it in with a check, so we are provided with all of your information.

We noted the FamilySearch affiliate status of the **Vermont-Canadian Genealogical Society**. GSV member Jerry Carbone informed us that he assisted **Brooks Memorial Library** in Brattleboro with their application to become an affiliate in January 2019.

The GSV Board has negotiated an agreement to grant the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), of Boston, Mass., an exclusive license for online distribution of back issues of the society's scholarly journal *Vermont Genealogy* on **AmericanAncestors.org**. The database went live in March and provides access to the digitized run of the journal up to the past 5 years. A provision in the agreement was made to insure access for GSV members who are not NEHGS members, via the members-only section of our website. <http://genealogyvermont.org/loginform.php> Once you log-in, with membership number and surname, instructions are provided. Thank you to Diantha Howard, for working out the details of this with NEHGS.

When *Vermont Genealogy* Editor, Michael F. Dwyer, FASG, is finished with the spring issue, which should be in members mailboxes in mid-June, he will begin posting new content to the website, including more installments of Patricia Haslam's 1890 census reconstruction project.

*Jonathan W. Stevens, President*

### DONATIONS

Priscilla Partridge of  
Watsonville, California

Marilyn Labbe of  
Moosup, Connecticut

Forrest Newton of  
Stockbridge, Vermont

Roxana Salem of  
Williamstown, Vermont

Bonnie Waters of  
Victor, New York

Wanda Eubank of  
Andover, Vermont

Phyllis Day of  
East Falmouth, Massachusetts

*Sudbury, Vermont:*

*Genealogies, Vital Records, and Census Records*  
by Mary Ann Z. Wheeler

**Hardbound. Item No. GSV 8**

**Sale Price \$20**

*Georgia, Vermont*  
*Vital Records.*  
Peter S. Mallet, ed.,

**Hardbound. Item No. GSV 4**

**Sale Price \$15**

*Please Note: Shipping and handling on all GSV hardbound publications is \$4.50 for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item.*

**Back Issues of Branches and Twigs :**

*For the first time in several years, selected back issue of GSV's first publication are available for purchase at \$2.50 each, plus \$2.50 shipping for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy.*

*Issues Available:*

*Volume 18: 2 Spring 1989, Volume 18: 3 Summer 1989, Volume 19: 4 Autumn 1990.*

*Volume 20: 1 Winter 1991, Volume 20: 2 Spring 1991, Volume 20: 3 Summer 1991, Volume 20: 4 Autumn 1991.*

*Volume 21: 1 Winter 1992, Volume 21: 2 Spring 1992, Volume 21: 3 Summer 1992, Volume 21: 4 Autumn 1992.*

*Volume 24: 1 Winter 1995, Volume 24: 2 Spring 1995.*

**Riggs Family: From Baldersby to Vermont - via Stockton-on-Tees**

GSV was notified about an article entitled: "From Baldersby to Vermont - via Stockton-on-Tees," by John Rigg of Glasgow, UK [Johnrigg101@aol.com](mailto:Johnrigg101@aol.com), that our members might find interesting. The article was recently published in the April 2020 edition of the *Cleveland Family History Society Journal*. <https://clevelandfhs.org.uk/>

This is the third and final article published in the *CFHS Journal* on the descendants of Stephen and Henry Riggs (originally Rigg), who were born in North Yorkshire, England, and migrated to Vermont in the 1890s. The descendants of Stephen Riggs (1868-1951) (both brothers took on the extra 's' in the United States) and his wife Rose Burnett (1871-1952) (from Dishforth) were covered in the two-part article: "A North Yorkshire Couple in Vermont, USA" (January and April 2015). Stephen and Rose resided in Richmond and Waterbury, and are buried in the Waterbury Center Cemetery.

The current article, follows the path taken by Henry Riggs (1864-1924) and his wife Amelia Heath (1868-1958) (from Littlethorpe), who were married in Middlesbrough in 1893, They migrated to the United States in 1898 settling in Richmond, Vermont, where Henry was a farm labourer, After his death, Amelia, moved to the neighbouring town of Hinesburg. Both are buried in the Riverview Cemetery in Richmond.

One descendant, grandson Heath Kenyon Riggs (1918-2011), who graduated from UVM in Burlington, received a Doctorate from the University of Chicago and then had a long and distinguished career in the mathematics faculty of the UVM, where he was involved with the introduction of computers at the beginning of the 1960s.

**Windham County Genealogy Interest Group**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**Saturday, May 16, 10:00 am to 12 Noon**

The inaugural meeting of the Windham County Genealogical Interest Group will be held via Zoom on Saturday, May 16, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Genealogists Jerry Carbone of Whetstone Brook Genealogy, and Wayne Blanchard, Genealogy Volunteer at Rockingham Public Library, will facilitate the event sponsored by Brooks memorial Library in Brattleboro and Rockingham Public Library in Bellows Falls.

Future meetings of the group will meet bi-monthly alternating between Brooks and Rockingham Libraries, dates and times to be announced.

The program on May 16 will focus on a guided tour of the redesigned Vermont State Archives Website and using the online Vermont newspapers of record, which is available to any Vermont resident simply by registering at [Vermont.gov](http://Vermont.gov).

Part of the session will be devoted to answering genealogical research questions and planning topics for the next meeting.

The Zoom meeting is free and open to the public, but will be limited to the first 30 people to register. Please register at: <https://bit.ly/wcgenealogy>.

## New NEHGS Database: Brattleboro, VT: Wesselhoeft Water Cure, 1845-1848

This database provides an indexed listing of the many people who came to Brattleboro Vermont to take advantage of the therapeutic benefits of a spa run by Dr. Wesselhoeft. Notable people included author and abolitionist, Harriet Beecher Stowe (Uncle Tom's Cabin), poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Song of Hiawatha and Evangeline); and American historian, Francis Parkman Jr, to name a few.

There are over 600 pages of information about the Wesselhoeft Water Cure, lists of patients, and the kinds of conditions that were treated there. The patients came from most every state east of the Mississippi and includes over 1,000 records.

This database comes as a result of our partnership with Jerry Carbone and Whetstone Brook Genealogy and the Brooks Memorial Library who provided access to the Green Mountain Spring. The Wesselhoeft Water Cure is also featured as part of the Brattleboro Words Trail, a project of the Peoples, Places, and Words in Brattleboro, funded in part by the National Endowment of Humanities. More information on the Trail may be found at <http://brattleborowords.org/project/wesselhoeft-water-cure/>

The volumes in this database include:

- The Description of the Brattleboro Hydropathic Establishment – which is browseable, and provides a perspective on the institution
- The Green Mountain Spring from 1845 through 1848 – a regular publication of the Water Cure that describes treatments and include names and dates for patients who visited
- The pages from The Second Report of the Brattleboro Hydropathic Establishment which contain a full list of the patients who were treated there

This database can be searched with the following:

- First and last name – in many records the first name only contains initials. For best results use just the last name.
- Year
- Location – this is the home residence of the patient who came to the Water Cure

*NEHGS Press Release*

## Tracing London Convicts in Britain & Australia, 1780-1925

The Digital Panopticon website [www.digitalpanopticon.org](http://www.digitalpanopticon.org) has now been updated with datasets of the tattoos recorded on 58,000 convicts between 1793-1925, both those transported to Australia and those imprisoned in Britain. This rich body of evidence can be searched and visualised by tattoo design, subject, body parts, and other variables. For more information on these datasets, see this article in The Conversation. Our updated visualisation gallery provides several visualisations of the evidence. Other improvements to the site include the ability to search by convict occupations, the addition of a large number of additional penal outcomes, and the implementation of corrections to convict genders and ages.

Robert Shoemaker

Professor of Eighteenth-Century British History  
Co-director: The Digital Panopticon: Tracing London Convicts in Britain and Australia, 1785-1925  
Co-director, Old Bailey Online and related projects  
Department of History, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN

## SLEEPER BOOKS

Come check out our newly-revamped and more user-friendly website. Specializing in reprints of hard to find genealogy and history books on New England and New York.

[www.sleeperco.com](http://www.sleeperco.com)

## RootsTech London 2020 Postponed

**SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH (13 March 2020)** In consideration of the global COVID-19 virus, FamilySearch announced today that RootsTech London 2020 will be postponed until fall of 2021.

RootsTech Salt Lake 2021 is still scheduled for February 3-6, 2021.

“The health and safety of all RootsTech London attendees, exhibitors, and speakers is our highest priority,” said Steve Rockwood, CEO of FamilySearch International. FamilySearch and RootsTech seek to be good global citizens and believe the decision to postpone RootsTech London 2020 would be wise.

Rockwood said RootsTech looks forward to holding the event in 2021 and will continue to plan a world-class conference experience over the coming months.

Those who had already registered for the event have been issued refunds.

If you would like to receive announcements and other updates regarding RootsTech London, please fill out the form at [rootstech.org/london](http://rootstech.org/london).

*FamilySearch.org* Press Release

Whereas Polly my wife, has eloped from my Bed & Board; this is therefore to forbid all persons harbouring or trusting her on my account; as I will not pay any debts of her contracting after this date.  
ELISHA WARD.  
Chester Sept. 21, 1818.

*Vermont Intelligencer*  
(Bellows Falls, Vt.),  
issue 2 Nov. 1818, p. 3.

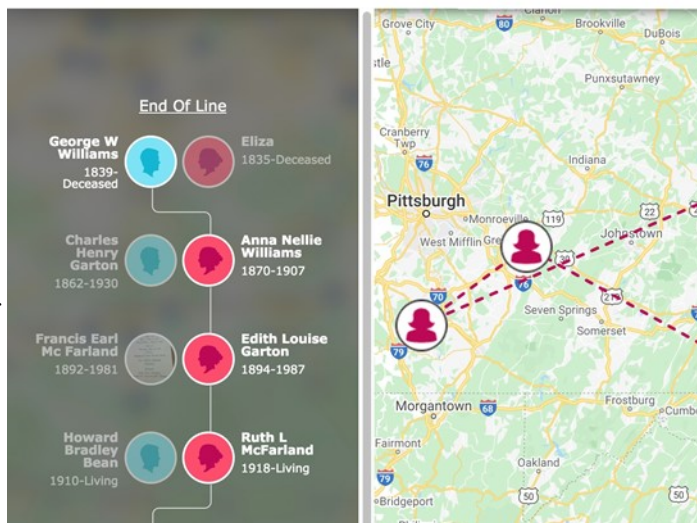
# NEW FAMILYSEARCH DISCOVERY ACTIVITY IS A FUN WAY TO EXPLORE YOUR HERITAGE

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (25 February 2020 )—FamilySearch released its new Where Am I From? interactive online activity this week. The experience is a fun way to explore your ancestral origins. Users can see emigration and immigration movements of their ancestors on a map, discover their countries of origin, and learn the heritage and traditions of their ancestors' homelands. To start having fun, users will need a free FamilySearch account.

The Where Am I From? experience is the newest addition to a series of FamilySearch discovery activities. Dan Call, the FamilySearch experience manager for the feature, said, "Users can learn fun facts from their family homelands, like the types of food they eat, popular recipes, and family and social dynamics, including common greetings, gestures, and other cultural attributes."

The feature contains heritage-specific data for 240 countries and provinces. Although it is not required, users with more genealogical information in FamilySearch's free Family Tree will have the richest, personalized discovery experiences. The discovery activity will take their family tree data and provide meaningful and visual representations that are fun to explore and share.

Where Am I From?



## WHERE AM I FROM? FOUR KEY EXPERIENCES

- **Generation.** Use an interactive, global map to pinpoint where your ancestors lived.
- **Family Lines.** View your family's movement over time by specific ancestral lines.
- **My Heritage.** Discover where your ancestors came from and explore the heritage of your homelands.
- **Timeline.** Learn where your ancestors were during major world events.

For those who are just beginning to build their family trees, Call says if they know any of their ancestral countries of origin, they will have a great time exploring the fun and fascinating information Where Am I From? offers for those countries.

The Where Am I From? experience is engaging for people of all ages and makes it easy for beginners to learn fun new facts about their personal and family histories.

While testing the new experience, Call said it was common to see new, teen-aged users getting totally enthralled in viewing their ancestors' photos and stories and other interesting facts about their ancestral origins.

Explore your heritage with the new Where Am I From? activity.

FamilySearch.org Press Release



Springing From the Past  
Into the Future

16<sup>th</sup> New England Regional  
Genealogical  
Conference  
14-17 April 2021,  
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Prices reasonable.

The Otter Creek Valley News  
(Bennington, Vt.), Issue, 22 Aug. 1879, p. 3



Vermont State House. Public Domain, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

### New Members

#### Mary Jane Russell

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Charlotte, VT 05445

email: [bentleytdx@gmavt.net](mailto:bentleytdx@gmavt.net)

researching: Stevens, McNally, Patterson, Gardner, Campbell

#### Roxana Salem

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researching: Goodall, Darling, Howard

#### Forrest Newton

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researching: Newton

#### Shelley Hilber

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## VERMONT GENEALOGY BACK ISSUES SEARCHABLE DATABASE AVAILABLE ON THE NEHGS WEBSITE AMERICANANCESTORS.ORG

We are very excited to announce a brand new database: *Vermont Genealogy*. This database is available through our partnership with the Genealogical Society of Vermont. The database includes volumes 1-19, for the years 1996 through 2014, and it provides over 108,000 searchable names. New volumes of *Vermont Genealogy* will be added annually.

The indexing for this database includes full names, **Publication year** (not the year of the record), and article titles and authors. The Vermont Genealogy database is part of the Journals & Periodicals category, and results are included in that **category search page**.

*Vermont Genealogy* made its debut as a quarterly journal in January 1996. In addition to featuring compiled genealogies, the journal often contains other material including: freeman's lists; church memberships and dismissals; newspaper vital record abstracts; probate abstracts, Cumberland County, New York, deeds; entries from the diary of Jabez Fitch; records from dis-incorporated towns, cemetery transcriptions, Bible records; Civil War journals; 1890 Census reconstructions; book reviews; and "Seen Elsewhere," a bibliography of other journal articles relevant to Vermont. Special issues have featured "Declarations of Aliens, Lower Canada, 1794-1811," "Name Changes in Vermont, 1778-1900," "Vital Records of Springfield, Vermont," and "Vital Records Recorded in the Peru, Vt. Town Records."

In 2009, *Vermont Genealogy* switched to semi-annual publication with spring and fall issues. Appointed editor in 2016, Michael F. Dwyer, FASG, has expanded the scope of coverage to include nineteenth-century immigrant studies, "Gems from the Vermont State Archives," and continuation of family sketches from "Vermont Families in 1791."

This update is made possible by the efforts of our volunteers: David Anderson, Kim Bonner, Ellen McCarthy, and Angela Napolitano.

If you have some time and would like to get involved in the database digitization and indexing process please contact Rachel Adams, Database Services Volunteer Coordinator via email at [rachel.adams@nehgs.org](mailto:rachel.adams@nehgs.org).

The entire run of Vermont Genealogy is available at our NEHGS Boston research library, call number **F48.V48 1996**.

### NEHGS Press Release

This database is also available to GSV members, who are not members of NEHGS via a link on members-only section of our website [genealogyvermont.org](http://genealogyvermont.org).



## 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; **Sale price \$10.** 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

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M 001	Membership: New or Renewal			
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For GSV publications return with a check payable in US funds to:  <b>Genealogical Society of Vermont</b> 2962 Vermont Route 12A Braintree, VT 05060-8779		Membership: New or Renewal return with a check payable in US funds to:  <b>GSV Membership Chairperson</b> 57 East Shore North Grand Isle, VT 05458		Order Total: _____  Shipping: _____  Total Due: _____

**WANT TO CONTACT US?**

Our website is at  
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

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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; \$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.

*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; \$45.00 members, \$50.00 non-members. 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; **Sale Price \$20.** 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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. John A. Leppman, 2005, softbound. Item No. GSV 11; \$9.00 members, \$10.00 non-members. (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 - 24: 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.

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Dues are \$25.00 for US addresses.

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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

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2962 Vermont Route 12A, Braintree, VT 05060-8779.**



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*The Otter Creek Valley News* (Bennington, Vt.), Issue, 1 Aug. 1879, p. 3