



Calkins Family Association Reunion

The Calkins Family Association will hold their Fifth Tri-annual Reunion in Syracuse, New York on April 30, May 1, and May 2, 2009.

All descendants of the original ancestors of Hugh and Ann Calkins, who landed in Massachusetts in 1638, are invited to attend. There will be an informal Thursday evening "get acquainted." Friday will be an all day bus tour of interesting places. Saturday will begin with a morning workshop followed by an afternoon business meeting and an evening banquet. The featured speaker at the banquet is Gary Boyd Roberts, a world class genealogist affiliated with the New England Historic Genealogical

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President's Message *Bob Murphy*

Fall is here, and the colors are spectacular. Those of us lucky enough to be living in Vermont are witness to this annual show, and never fail to be awed by it, as much, I am sure, as were our ancestors. Their lives were harder than most of ours, and they must have appreciated nature's glorious display as payment or reward of a sort for the difficulties they faced each year. Nature was more of an opponent for them, trying to eke a living off the land; it is little more than annoyance to the majority of us when weather is difficult.

As I write this, the scanning of all 24 years worth of *Branches & Twigs* is complete. They should all be available on the GSV website soon. That should prove to be a great benefit to members, most of

whom have not had the luxury of having a complete run of that publication. Soon to follow will be a topical index to the series. That will allow one to quickly determine, for instance, where there are articles or references to a particular geographic area, e.g., Reading, Vt., or Wisconsin State.

Now that the complete run is available to members, it might be an appropriate time for you to consider purchasing an index to the entire collection. An index was published in 2000, and we still have many copies on hand for a reduced price to members of \$40 postpaid. Why should you spend good money on an index, when all of the information on the website is already indexed? Well, the website contains 24 individual indexes, one for each year. That

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Access to Historic Immigration and Naturalization records

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services provide access to "historical immigration and Naturalization records" through its genealogy web page.

Available records are identified as

- Naturalization Certificate Files from September 27, 1906 through April 1, 1956 (C-files).
- Alien Registration forms from August 1, 1940 to March 31, 1944.
- Visa Files from July 1, 1924 through March 31, 1944.
- Registry Files between March 2, 1929 and March 31, 1944.
- Alien Files numbered below eight million and documents in the file dated before May 1, 1951 (A-files).

There are two ways to access the files. The first is request an Index Search. This search is based on biographical information provided by the

researcher. The Citizenship and Naturalization Services staff will search the indices for relevant citations for the specific individual and report this back to the researcher. Along with the record citations information is sent describing how the researcher may request the material from USCIS or the National Archives and Records Administration. USCIS charges a \$20.00 fee for the index search.

The second way to access the records is to request a specific item using the USCIS file number uncovered in the index search or through the researchers own effort. Fees for the copy of the records range from \$20.00 to \$35.00, depending on the type of record requested.

The website may be accessed by following this link <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>, and then selecting *Services and Benefits*, and then *Genealogy*.

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means 24 individual lookups for information on a given family. A comprehensive index simply makes finding the information you want that much simpler and quicker. Why don't we simply place the comprehensive index on the website? The answer is that it would take an enormous amount of time to open a file that large (the index comprises nearly 600 pages, containing about 180,000 entries)!

And speaking of the GSV website, I encourage those of you who have Vermont-related genealogical information to share it with your fellow GSV members. Cemetery listings, vital records, deeds, bible records, family genealogies and more are welcome on our website and may be just the information other members are looking for. Send your submissions to our webmistress Diantha Howard at diantha.howard@uvm.edu.

I am happy to announce that Randy Brown of Rutland has volunteered to be the point person in the quarterly assembly and mailing of the GSV Newsletter. That will allow for more efficient and speedy delivery of future issues of the Newsletter to our members. Our hats are off to Randy for agreeing to do this; it is much appreciated.

The 10th New England Regional Genealogical Conference, which has become a biennial event, is scheduled for 22-26 Apr 2009 at Manchester, N.H. This has traditionally been an excellent not-to-be-missed event for genealogists with New England roots, and the 2009 event promises to be as good as ever. As in the past, your soci-

ety is one of the sponsors, and our sponsored speaker will be Howard Coffin, eminent Civil War historian and author. Check out the details now at <http://www.nergc.org/>, and make your hotel reservations early.

You will recall that some of my early messages in this newsletter were a bit on the dreary side relative to GSV finances. Because of some changes we have made in our conferences and in the Newsletter production, we are on a much more sustainable footing. We are not about to go the way of Lehman Brothers and A.I.G. I want to thank Board members, and especially our treasurer, Jane Belcher, for keeping us on the right track and pointing us toward ways to reduce our expenses without sacrificing value for members. Member input from last year's questionnaire was especially valuable to us as we made those changes. So thanks to all of you as well.

Jonathan Stevens, your Vice President, is hard at work preparing the third volume of Vermont Families in 1791. I hope that those who have submissions will send them in to Jonathan. He is always looking for more quality contributions, as some of the material previously submitted (years ago, in most cases) is not up to current genealogical standards and needs to be greatly edited or completely redone. Guidelines for submissions may be found on our website (<http://www.genealogyvermont.org/>) or obtained by mail from Jonathan (227 Fletcher Hill Rd., Chester, VT 05143-8639).

Bob Murphy
rmm@sover.net

New and Note Worthy

Footnote.com has announced a new project—plans to make the Civil War Widows Pension Files available online. According to Footnote the files have never been microfilmed, so making the images available will be the first time they have been widely accessible. The first batch of records has already been released.

Footnote is strong in the area of military and pension records, especially Revolutionary War rolls and pension files and Civil War material for both the Union and Confederacy. As part of the website's free access area you can view the Brady Collection of Civil War photographs. The Passport Applications database from 1795-1905 is another useful database.

The **Godfrey Memorial Library** (www.Godfrey.org) has announced that it will not renew the contract to provide access to the American Genealogical-Biographical Index through Ancestry.com. In 2009 access will only be available through the Godfrey Library and through Family Link which will post the AGBI on the World Vital Records website.

The Godfrey offers four membership levels: red, blue, green and gold. All levels include access to the "premium" databases which include American County Histories to 1900; 19th Century Newspapers; Black

Thought and Culture; British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries; In the First Person, an index to letters diaries, oral histories and personal narratives; North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries, and Oral Histories; The American Civil War: Letters and Diaries; the London Times Digital Archives; 19th Century newspapers, African American newspapers and state histories; Early American newspapers from NewsBank; WorldCat; and American Civil War Research Database.

The Blue level of membership adds access to NewspaperArchive.com and the Green level offers only access to World Vital Records. The Gold level includes the premium material plus both NewspaperArchive.com and World Vital records. Subscription rates are Red—\$35; Blue—\$65; Green—\$85; and Gold—\$110.

Perhaps not new but still noteworthy is a digital camera mount used to photograph images from several models of microfilm readers. The mount attaches to readers that carry the film on top and is designed to photograph the projected image. Called the DCM-1 **Microfilm Camera Mount**, it provides a steady platform to eliminate camera shake over the long exposure times. More information is available from GSC Associates at www.gscassociates.com/dcm.html.

GSV FY 2009 Budget Estimate

The estimated Genealogical Society of Vermont budget for fiscal year 2009 (1 Oct. 2008 - 30 Sept. 2009) is:

Income:

Interest Income (CD maturing 6-2-09)	\$350.00
Fall Meeting 2008 [Same for spring meeting if one is held but this is not included in total]	\$500.00
Donations	\$550.00
Dues (450 members paying dues in FY 2009)	\$11,250.00
Publications Sales	\$1500.00
Newsletter ads	\$30.00
NERGC	\$1000.00
Total	\$15,170.00

Expenses

Vermont Genealogy (550 copies Oct 2008; 500 copies Jan, April, and July 2009)	\$13,500.00
Newsletter	\$2000.00
Meeting Expense [Same for spring meeting if one is held but this is not included in total]	\$500.00
Postage and copying	\$300.00
Post Office Box Randolph	\$72.00
Post Office Bulk Permit Fee, Rutland (payable January 2009)	\$175.00
Brochure	\$120.00
Website	\$100.00
Vermont History Expo	\$50.00
Memberships (VHS, FGS, VMCTA, VOCA)	\$165.00
NERGC (speaker's expenses)	\$1000.00
Vermont Families 3	\$100.00
Total	\$18,072.00

Projected deficit \$2,902.00

2008 Meeting Announcements

November 3-4: *2008 Irish Studies Symposium*. Ottawa, Ontario, sponsored by Library and Archives Canada. More information at www.collectionscanada.gc.ca.

November 7: Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board Special Event. Tucson, AZ. John Philip Colletta will present *How to Assemble and Write a Genealogical Work That is Both a Reliable Document and a Readable Story*. More information at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~asgs/.

November 7-8: ICAPGen Family History Conference. Provo, UT. *Becoming an Excellent Genealogist*. More information: www.icapgen.org.

November 8: Bennington Museum, Bennington, VT. *Looking to Your Past Genealogy Workshop*. Online Genealogy with Bill Budde and the Research Library with Tyler Resch. 10:00 a.m.—noon. More information: bbudde@benningtonmuseum.org.

November 8: San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society. San Antonio, TX. *49th Annual Fall Seminar*. Features Dick Eastman. More Information: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsaghs2.

November 8: Arizona State Genealogical Society *Winter 2008 Seminar*. Tucson, AZ. John Philip Colletta. More information: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~asgs/.

November 11: Essex Society of Genealogists. Lynnfield, MA. *Farmers, Soldiers & Sailors in Government Publications*. Afternoon program. More information: email pfurbush@rcn.com.

November 15: Ontario Genealogical Society. Toronto, Ontario. *Hands-on Early Ontario Land Records*. Two hour seminar. More Information: www.torontofamilyhistory.org

November 15: New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) Portsmouth, NH. *Getting Started in Genealogy*. More information: www.newenglandancestors.org.

November 22: NEHGS. 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA. *Uncovering Your Family history in Federal Documents & Publications*. More information: www.newenglandancestors.org.

December 20: Essex Society of Genealogists. Lynnfield, MA. *Genealogical Writing and Publishing in MS Word*. Michael J. Leclerc. Afternoon program. More information: email pfurbush@rcn.com.

Winter Hours Begin

From November 1st until May 31st the Bennington Museum Library be open for winter hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



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 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

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Membership fees are listed on the back cover.

Please include your membership number for renewals and member discounts.

Want To Contact Us?

Our website is at

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

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

Bill Budde
142A Munn Terrace
Arlington, VT 05250-8573
(802) 375-9296
E-mail: bbudde@verizon.net

Newsletter deadlines are
Dec 15 for the February issue
March 15 for the May issue
June 15 for the August Issue
September 15 for the November issue.

If you would like to **contact our journal, *Vermont Genealogy***, write:

Scott Andrew Bartley, Editor
Vermont Genealogy
20 March Avenue
West Roxbury, MA 02132-2604
E-mail: YourGenealogist@aol.com

Copies of relevant **books for journal review** can be sent to:

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

Contact Bob Murphy, President at
PO Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014
rmm@sover.net

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 the newsletter editor along with the exact wording for the ad. *GSV offers no warranty on the services of advertisers.*

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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 10, \$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 Drew Bartley's *Genealogies Found in Vermont Histories* (Vol. 10, no. 1 of *Vermont Genealogy*, also designated GSV publication number 10.).

NY Genealogical & Biographical Library Donated to NY Public Library

In a joint press release the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYGBL) and the New York Public Library (NYPL) announced that the NYGBL has donated its collection to the NY Public Library.

The collection, estimated to contain "75,000 published works, 30,000 manuscripts, 22,000 microfilms, 1,300 periodicals and digital computer media," will be integrated into the NYPL collection over the next two years. The donated items will be inventoried before becoming part of the Manuscripts and Archives Division or the Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States His-

tory, Local History, and Genealogy.

The NYGBL material is strong in New York material from the 17th to 18th century while the NYPL is strong in the 18th to 20th century period. For further information go to:

www.nypl.org/press/releases/?article_id=165.

Thanks, and Welcome

Thanks for donations go out to:

Bill Vilbert, Connecticut.
Claire Prechtel-Kluskens, Virginia.
Robert J. Burke, Massachusetts.

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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* and items for the *Newsletter*, should be sent to Genealogical Society of Vermont, P. O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014.

Saving Family Heirlooms , part 2

In the last issue I provided a list of sources for archival materials. In this issue I will provide information on the basic preservation guidelines. In most cases the following general rules will help extend the life of your family heirlooms.

Avoid light, high humidity, high temperatures, folds (if possible), acid or base storage material, wood, air tight storage, and minimize handling. Avoiding air tight storage may sound counter intuitive—we want to keep out that nasty air pollution, pollen and insects, don't we? We do want to minimize damage from insects and pollution, but air tight storage will encourage the growth of mold, and the plastic will give off damaging gases.

The best storage advice to minimize light exposure, extremes of temperature and humidity is to store your heirlooms in a closet or under a bed. As a rule our living space is kept in a range of stable temperatures which will minimize damage from extremes of heat, cold, and humidity.

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Society. Details are available from Minnie M. Frese, 509 Rusagonis Road, New Brunswick, CA E3B 8Z3; email—minmin@nbnet.nb.ca or mimin@nbnet.nb.ca.