



GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF
VERMONT

NEWSLETTER

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HELP US OUT, FILL IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE JOIN A COMMITTEE

You will find inserted in this issue of the *Newsletter* a one-page questionnaire asking for your opinions about GSV, what it does and what it might do. Take a few minutes to write down some ideas, and don't be afraid to come up with crazy ones. We want as many responses as we have members. If you don't have anything to say to one question or another, answer those that do attract your attention.

Send completed questionnaires to **John A. Leppman, 29 Oak Hill Terrace, Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101**. We haven't provided a postpaid envelope, but we hope that you'll consider your opinions to be worth the expenditure of 32 cents for postage. Or you can bring the questionnaire along to the May 17 meeting in St. Johnsbury.

We need members for three GSV committees:

Publications Committee

Responsible for overseeing all GSV publications, including *Vermont Genealogy*, the *Newsletter*, and special publications such as vital records books, *Vermont Families in 1791*, and so forth. The committee's interests range from brainstorming ideas for new publications to the technical aspects of seeing publications to completion. The editors of *Vermont Genealogy* and the *Newsletter* are *ex officio* members. The committee has met a few times a year at a location central to members' homes; it can do some of its work by mail, phone, and e-mail. We are looking for a few members with interests in promoting high quality genealogical publication. Desirable but not absolutely necessary qualifications include knowledge of the genealogical literature and current standards of genealogical

publication, and understanding of technical aspects of book printing.

Publicity and Advancement Committee
Responsible for publicizing GSV and its activities, through newspapers and other media in Vermont and vicinity; print and electronic communications in the genealogical world; and a GSV brochure to be made available at as many outlets as possible. The goal is to maximize exposure to the public of our organization and its activities, and thereby increase membership, participation in meetings and other events, and sales of publications. Projects which need work include development of a data base of names of newspapers and genealogical publications for publicity articles and development of a list of suitable places in and out of Vermont to distribute our brochure. Although occasional face-to-face meetings will be needed, much of the committee's work can be done by mail if members have clear assigns to carry out.

Program Committee

Responsible for finding speakers helping with other plans for our twice-yearly meetings. Members should have knowledge of potential genealogical speakers. Much of the work can be done by telecommunications

Please note that residence in Vermont is by no means a prerequisite to participation on any of these committees. Members who live at too great a distance to participate at face-to-face meetings can nonetheless contribute expertise and effort.

We try to keep the committee structures of GSV to a reasonable minimum. A few more dedicated members will fill the slots we have and bring our committee strength to where it should be. Please contact John Leppman or any other officer if you would like to participate. Write to us on the back of the questionnaire. Or, if we contact you, try to do what you can.

John Leppman, President

BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY 224 MAIN STREET BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

The Genealogical and Local History rooms at the Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro are a wonderful, unknown resource, located on the mezzanine. Some of the items we have are listed below:

Large collection of the Massachusetts vital record books to 1850;
Many Massachusetts town histories;
Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War, and in the *Civil War*;
Many Vermont town histories;
Rutland Co., VT, cemetery books by Margaret Jenks;
Some Windham Co., VT cemetery listings;
Vermont War indexes;
Vermont State Papers;
Walton's *Vermont Registers*, 1812-1923;
Vermont Year Book 1931-1996;
Brattleboro Town Directories starting 1871-72 to 1984, when they were discontinued;
The Vermonter magazines;
Vermont Life magazines;
Vermont Historical Society Journals;
Vermont State Papers;
Early Brattleboro newspapers (many on microfilm-machine on first floor);

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a quarterly publication of the
Genealogical Society of Vermont

News, articles and comments
should be mailed to:

Mrs. Margaret R. Jenks
24 Mettowee Street
Granville, NY 12832-1037
(518) 642-1894

Deadlines for information are:
Dec. 15, Mar. 15, June 15 & Sept. 15
for the February, May, August & November issues of the *Newsletter*.

GSV *Branches & Twigs* (missing Vol. 9); 1790 census books for New England, plus 1800 for VT and NH, microfilms of Windham Co. censuses; Local History Scrapbooks; Some NH, CT, RI, ME, NY histories; *Connecticut Nutmegger*, Vol. 10-25; *American Canadian Genealogical Society Journals* from inception to present; *Western New York Genealogical Society Journals* for many years to present; *Boston Transcript* queries in notebooks (indexed 1902-1913 and 1930-1940); others not indexed; *Hartford Times* queries in notebooks, not indexed; *Mayflower Descendant* books, 1-26 with assorted loose copies; Vol. 1, 2, 3, *Mayflower Families to the Fifth Generation*; *New England Historical & Genealogical Registers* to date; indexes through Vol. 148; *Ship Passenger Lists* by P. William Filby through 1992; *American Genealogical Index* through at least Vol. 40; *DAR Lineage* books; Many genealogical research books, how to, etc.; Many genealogies, some are in manuscript form; File cabinets with folders regarding local history and local historical figures; Old Bibles; most printed in Brattleboro in the early 1800s; Books printed in Brattleboro and in Vermont; Much more.

If you are in Brattleboro, you should stop at the local library and check it out! We have recently started a Genealogical Interest Group (GIG) which meets once a month. We welcome anyone to attend when they are in the area. For further information as to when we will be meeting again, contact Joann Nichols, (802) 254-9554, or jnichols@sover.net

Our group is taking a collection each month to buy books which are of interest to us for the genealogical room. Thus far we have purchased the third edition of *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* and the second edition of *Collecting Vermont Ancestors* by Alice Eichholz.

Submitted by Joann Nichols

MEETINGS

SPRING VOCA MEETING

The spring meeting of the **Vermont Old Cemetery Association** will be held on Saturday May 3, 1997. They are planning to meet in Bridgewater, VT. Registration & coffee at 9:00, business meeting at 10:00, lunch; afternoon program, at 1:15. Contact: Elizabeth Beckwith, P.O. Box 105, Underhill Ctr., VT 05490 (802) 899-4640 for final details and to make lunch reservations.

UNLOCK YOUR HERITAGE

The Federation of Genealogical Societies & The Dallas Genealogical Society invite you to **UNLOCK YOUR HERITAGE...** with creative problem solving. September 3-6, 1997 in Dallas, TX. For program & Registration information contact The Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 830220, Richardson, TX 75083-0220

NEHGS PROGRAMS

at 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA

Free Lectures

Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

May 14, 1997: Seventeenth-Century New England Houses and Their Genealogical Significance, by Abbott Lowell Cummings. The ways in which distinctive building habits and even room nomenclature can serve the genealogist as clues to the background of the people who constructed and occupied these houses.

June 11, 1997: In Honor of Medicine Women, Warriors and Athletes: Case Studies in Native American Genealogy. Mark Choquet will discuss methods and sources for Native American genealogical research. He will also explore the notable contributions and achievements of Northeastern Indians since European and African immigration to this continent.

For brochures, more information, registration and fees call NEHGS Education Department toll-free 1-888-AT NEHGS [286-3447] or write 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116-3007

Saturday Seminar:

"Gravestones as a Genealogical Resource"

June 7, 1997, 12:00 p.m.

101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA

Laurel K. Gable, a noted author on the subject of gravestones will give a slide lecture on the evolution of gravestone styles and symbolism and ways to interpret the information one can glean from the stones. John Sterling, who is heading the program to document the older cemeteries in Rhode Island, will give a slide lecture on the information he has found. He will describe how his database program can be a model for others in transcription projects. Jonathan Fairbanks, curator of American Decorative Arts at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, will discuss how to put gravestones in the social context of other artifacts our ancestors made and used in the 17th and 18th centuries.

STREETER & RICH PAPERS

I have a collection of Streeter Papers, about 3 inches thick. They are unsorted and include mostly information about Lunenberg, Vermont families as well as other musings.

I also have a collection of 19 newsletters from the "Rich Family Association," dating from 1969 through 1980 (incomplete)

I will send them for the price of postage to the first person who contacts me. I cannot sort the Streeter/Lunenberg materials and will send it all as one group. Also, I will only send Rich Family Association materials as one group. Please contact Janet Induni, Genealogical Society of Vermont, PO Box 1553, St. Albans, VT 05478-1006.

KIMBALL & LUCE RECORDS

A small (4X6 inch) paper bound booklet of 10 pages begins with Andrew Kimball, born in 1726 in Old Amherst, MA. His son Jididiah Kimball was born in 1748 in Stowe, VT. Orange & Eunice Luce had a son Curtis O. Luce of Brandon, VT. If you are interested in obtaining the book, contact John M. Caspole, 52 Rosemary Lane, E. Falmouth, MA 02536-6186.

LA ROCQUE/LAROCQUES FAMILIES

An international effort is underway to link as many La Rocque/Larocques together as possible. The family is represented in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, France & Germany. Joan will also assist with information exchange in the Boston area. Please contact Joan LaRocque, P.O. Box 744, Reading, MA 01867 (617) 944-8120 or by e-mail at: <http://www.jlaroc@concentric.net>

FAMILY REUNIONS

The **Bidwell Family Association, Inc.**, will hold its 1997 Reunion Friday, June 27 through Sunday, June 19, in Niagara Falls, NY. For information and reservation forms contact: BFA Secretary, Faith B. Heath, 6586 Fields Ertel Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241-1367

The **Braley Family** will hold its 13th Annual Family Reunion Saturday, June 28, 1997 at the Thurston United Methodist Church, Thurston, OH. For more information, contact: Mrs. Doris Braley Wolfe, 2175 Canal Road, N.E., Baltimore, OH 43105 (614)862-4426.

The 48th Triennial reunion of the Descendants of **Salathie⁵ Bump** of Salisbury, Vermont (1760-1842) will be held on Saturday August 16th, 1997, 11 AM at Waterhouse's Beach & Marina on Lake Dunmore, Salisbury, VT. There will be an admission charge of \$1.50. All descendants of Edouad¹ Bumpasse of Plymouth Colony, 1621, are welcome. Please contact Audrey S. Pratt, 3 Piping Rock Circle, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 for details.

The Descendants of **Capt. Alonzo Nelson Colvin** of Danby and Wallingford, VT will hold their first Colvin Reunion on August 2-3, 1997 in Shelburne, VT. Contact Margery MacKay-Gordon, 2691 South Course Drive, #304, Pompano Beach, FL 33069-3971

The descendants of **Elias Hoffman** (1817-1896) and his wife **Elizabeth Saunders** are sought for a reunion at Fayston, VT August 2, 1997. They came from

Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland before 1860 to Fayston, VT. Allied families include: Corliss, Cutler, Durkee, Fisher, Neill, Reynolds, Seaver, Somerville, & Sullivan. Send SASE to Nancy Seaver Bussey, 9 Hawthorne Lane, York, ME 03909 (207)363-3725 or NLBussey@aol.com

The **Hildreth Family Association** will hold its annual reunion on September 11-25, 1997 in England. For information contact: Ron Hildreth, President, Hildreth Family Association, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 44th Floor, New York, NY 10112

The **Judkins Family Association** is planning a day of Genealogy and a Texas Bar-B-Que June 20-21, 1997. Send SASE for information to: Jo Ann Weaver, P.O. Box 459, China Springs, TX 76633.

The **Kimball Family Association** will hold its 29th annual reunion at Paugus Bay Plaza in Guilford, NH on September 26-28, 1997. Many events are planned including the KFA historical collection. Meet your cousins, enjoy Lake Winnepesaukee, & walk the Kimball Wildlife Trail. Contact Judith Kimball, 14 Monson Rd., Kittery, ME, 03904-5534.

The **Putnam Family Reunion** is always held on the last Sunday of July at 12:00 o'clock noon. Its a "pot-luck" picnic and each family brings their own table ware. Contact: Loraine and Louise Putnam, RR 2, Box 98, Bethel, VT 05032

Announcements of family reunions must be received by the editor no later than March 15 each year to be included in the *May Newsletter*. Be sure to include date, place, name & address of contact person.

ARE YOU MOVING?

Please advise the Society of your new address as soon as possible. If your mail is forwarded to your new address, GSV receives notification from the Post Office in the form of a Postage Due Notice and a photocopy of the cover copy of Vermont Genealogy that was forwarded to you. Each one costs us fifty cents. Please help us cut down these expenses by notifying the Society at PO Box 1553, St. Albans, VT, 05478. The money can be better spent elsewhere.

Janet Induni, Treasurer

DON'T BELIEVE ALL YOU READ
cont. from the February 1997 *Newsletter*
Excerpt from Preface to
The Early Hunt Families of Vermont
by Mitchell J. Hunt

The same types of problems exist with respect to locations in census and vital records. As Mrs. Hope Nash of Royalton once cited with respect to the home location of certain Hunts in Royalton, a certain person might be shown in various census and various VT VRs as a resident of four different towns, yet have lived his entire life on one farm: the reason--he lived in the wilderness near the intersection of four towns, was counted by different census takers of different towns, shopped in the village in one town, went to church in another town, and was buried in the cemetery in another town. Numerous instances of the above problems will be noted in the report to follow.

Aside from the problems which exist with the original records, there were no [state wide] "Vermont Vital Records" until into the 20th century when town clerks were required by law to provide on card files all the data they could find in town records on births, deaths, and marriages. (New Hampshire had a similar experience.) As if it was not hard enough (sometimes) to decipher the handwriting in the original record, the persons preparing the card files varied widely in their own ability to handle a pen. Many of the names in VT VRs are virtually unreadable and some, no matter how they are interpreted, have no relation whatever to the actual names evidenced by other records. Sometimes a corruption of the father's name is shown as the mother's name, and vice versa. Sometimes the father's name appears as the name of the groom (a different name) on a marriage record. Sometimes the name of a sister (a different name--perhaps a bridesmaid) appears as the name of a bride.

The many fables found in histories and some genealogical publications, especially those written in the 19th century, tend to be perpetuated. One would think impressive books, written much closer to the generations discussed, would be more correct than anything prepared in the late 20th century. However, just the opposite is true. Unfortunately, researchers may

easily find the older incorrect versions in the original (or republished) works and never pick up the corrections later discovered.

Family legends tend to get written into family records and become imbedded in the minds of descendants, hard to shake and spreading like cancer when they get written down in published works. How do they start? A scenario: a group of grandchildren of a theoretical Rev. Hunt of Virginia (1750-1810) meet at a family picnic in 1830 and start talking about their ancestors; one wonders if they descend from the pioneer Rev. Robert Hunt of Jamestown Colony; another tells another that they may descend from the Rev. Robert Hunt; it is then passed on that they do descend from the Rev. Robert Hunt; one thinks it is just wonderful that they descend from Rev. Robert Hunt and excitedly writes such a note in the family Bible; result--a descendant a hundred years later finds the Bible, reads the note and concludes it must be true because it is written in the family Bible.

Numerous legends of this nature are found in researching the early Hunt families (as will usually be the case in all families). Given the scarcity of records in various time periods and places, it is often necessary to make judgments from circumstantial evidence. Such judgements may or not be correct. In some records persons will be shown with a question mark and the words possibly or probably. Probably means a little stronger than possibly, but it doesn't mean certainty. What sometimes happens is that an original researcher may use the qualifying expression but the person who copies the information may drop it and thereby an expression of possibility gets translated as a fact.

[Mr. Hunt also added the following cautionary note with respect to his own publication: "The admonition not to believe all you read also applies, of course, to the present work. The data in the report ... were compiled over a period of ten to fifteen years by hurriedly copying into note books data on records in a variety of public offices and libraries, copying indistinct gravestones in cemeteries, often in snow or rain, copying (sometimes months and even years later) the data on a typewriter,

re-typing the data in preliminary drafts and revisions thereof. Aside from the fact that the data in the original source may be incorrect, it is quite possible--even probable--that errors exist in the present report. Those who might use the work in their own genealogies are well-advised to follow the fundamental advice: verify, see for yourself, and draw your own conclusions. That is good advice with respect to copying from any published report."]

UVM SUMMER CLASS 1997 GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY

Students interweave historical strands of personal, family and community identity by discovering, interpreting, and analyzing sources of genealogical information. Primary and secondary records are explored with individualized "hands-on" experience in research techniques and evaluation of evidence from needle work to old photos to public offices to libraries and microfilms. Data base management (with and without computer) is a critical skill, and the course incorporates an exercise in methodical documentation and how to put research results into coherent and interesting format. Enrollment Limit: 20. Please enroll by May 8. HST 95 / 601126 / 3XC Credits* / Robert Rodgers / Tue. & Thur, 5:45-9 P.M. / May 20-June 26 / L307 Lafayette.

*3XC credits means that the course carries 3 academic hours credit, with "XC" = "Extended Credit" for projects and papers to be completed after the course finally ends. (In other words, you don't have to have all the work done by June 26; sort of an up-front extension!). Students may take the course for credit (if they want units on their transcript for academic credit) or for audit only (which means they don't get unit credit, but also don't have to do required assignments). To register contact: University of Vermont, Continuing Education, 322 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05401-3505, telephone (802) 656-2085, or 1-800-639-3210; fax (802) 656-0306. GSV members who wish may make inquiries directly to Robert Rodgers, the instructor, may call his office (802) 656-4626; there is a message machine there.

Submitted by Robert Rodgers.

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW AND REIN- STATED MEMBERS:

2364

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**VERMONT FAMILIES IN 1791
Volume 1**

Edited by Scott A. Bartley

**VITAL RECORDS OF PUTNEY,
VERMONT TO THE YEAR 1900**
Compiled and edited by Ken Stevens

**GEORGIA, VERMONT
VITAL RECORDS**
Edited by Peter S. Mallett

**VITAL RECORDS OF
ROCKINGHAM, VERMONT AND
THE RECORDS OF THE FIRST
CHURCH OF ROCKINGHAM**

Each of these four books is \$30.00. Please add \$3.50 for postage for the first book, \$1.00 for each additional book in the same order to the same address. Please add the Vermont Sales Tax of 5% (\$1.50/book) for books mailed to a Vermont addresses. Mail your checks, payable to GSV, to:

**Genealogical Society of Vermont,
PO Box 1553
Saint Albans, VT 05478-1006**

PAID ADVERTISING

The *Newsletter* is now accepting paid advertising at the rate of \$3.00 per column inch. All advertising must relate to genealogy, preferably Vermont genealogy and must be received before the deadline of the issue the ad is to appear in. Checks must be made out to GSV but sent to the Newsletter editor along with the exact wording for the ad. GSV offers no warranty on the services of the advertisers.

A Complete Listing of Gravestones in Putney, Vermont, By Ken Stevens, 1994
\$16.50 post-paid, NY residents add sales tax
Order from & checks to: Margaret R. Jenks,
24 Mettowee St., Granville, NY 12832

A REMINDER

Please look at your address label. Your membership expires on the date shown on the label. Send your check in US funds to:

**Genealogical Society of Vermont,
PO Box 1553
Saint Albans, VT 05478-1006**

**Dues are \$20 for US addresses
Canadian & Mexico \$25, foreign \$30**

**A REMINDER
GSV SPRING MEETING**

Its time to send in your reservations if you have not done so previously. Reservations must be mailed by **May 10, 1997** if you are planning to attend the meeting on Saturday, May 17, 1997 in the North Congregational Church, 72 Main Street, St. Johnsbury, VT. The cost of the Meeting, morning coffee and the luncheon will be \$9.00 for members, \$11.00 for non-members. Please mail your check, marked "spring meeting" to: Genealogical Society of Vermont, PO Box 1553, Saint Albans, VT 05478-1006

For the latest information on the Spring Meeting and GSV, please visit us on our Internet home-page at:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/induni_n_j.

ROOTED IN THE GREEN MOUNTAINS

A quarterly newsletter dedicated to genealogical and historical research in & around Rutland County, VT.

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B & T BACK ISSUES

Each issue is \$2 (including postage). Currently available are: Volumes 12:4; 13:2-3; 14:1-4; 15:1-3; 16:1-2, 18:1-4; 19:4; 20:1-4; 21:1-4; 22:2-4; 24:1-4.

VG BACK ISSUES

Each issue is \$5 (including postage). Currently available: Volume 1:1-4

Your checks should be payable to GSV and sent to: GSV Back Issues, PO Box 1553, St. Albans, VT 05478

Desire information on parents of
MARY WRIGHT, b. 1804, VT; m.
IRA S. BARBER, also b. 1804.
In 1829 of Bridport, VT, later Canton, NY.
Marjorie Cope
113 Ridgerock Dr., Antioch, CA 94509

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