



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Coming Events

- **May 9, 1998** -- Vermont Historical Society Local Historical Societies Day at Norwich, Vermont, 9:00 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m. [Not in Northfield as reported in the last *Newsletter*.] Subject: "Doing Family History: Researching, Interpreting, and Preserving Vermont's Families." Speakers will include Carol Kammen, author of *On Doing Family History*, speaking on "Beyond Family Trees." Several workshops. Contact Vermont Historical Society, 109 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05609-0901 for details. E-mail: [vhs@state.vt.us/vhs](mailto:vhs@state.vt.us/vhs)
- **May 16, 1998** -- Genealogical Society of Vermont spring meeting, Brandon Inn, Brandon, Vt., 9:30 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m. \$13 for members, \$15 non-members, including coffee break when you arrive in the morning and lunch. Watch for a post card mailing with details about speakers.
- **September 12-13, 1998** -- Phineas Gage 150th Anniversary Commemoration, Cavendish, Vermont. The accidental injury sustained by Phineas Gage in Cavendish on September 13, 1848 rewrote the book on neurology and neurosurgery.
- **September 19, 1998** -- Genealogical Society of Vermont fall meeting, scheduled to coincide with the annual meeting of the Vermont Historical Society. Watch for details on location and program.
- **October 22-25, 1998** -- New England Regional Genealogical Conference, Holiday Inn By the Bay, Portland, Maine. See announcement elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

### GSV Grant program

An information sheet can be obtained from GSV at P.O. Box 1553, St. Albans,

Vermont 05478, or from any GSV officer, detailing application procedure and requirements for GSV grants of up to \$750 for costs of preserving and disseminating records of family history interest. Examples would be local civil records, church records, etc. This is not expected to be a program for preservation or publication of individual family histories or records unless they have extraordinarily broad interest to Vermont genealogy.

### Town Clerk of the Year award

We hope to make an award in the fall of 1998 and encourage nominations of Vermont town clerks who have provided exceptional assistance to family history researchers. Contact any GSV officer.

### Branches & Twigs Index

Thanks to the members who have communicated their interest in working on this project. Under the direction of the Publications Committee, details for setting up the project are moving ahead, and we will stay in touch with you. More volunteers can still be accommodated.

### Other good news

GSV is the beneficiary of a generous bequest from a former member, which will be added to the Society's Permanent Fund. Interest from this fund will benefit our programs to preserve and disseminate Vermont records.

## GOOD NEWS FROM VHS

The Vermont Historical Society Library hours will be expanded to include the second Saturday of the month during the summer: June 13, July 11, August 8, and September 12; and Mondays between Labor Day and Columbus Day: September 13, 21, 28, and October 5. Researchers who were disappointed by the Saturday closings should be pleased that there has been partial resolution of that problem.

John A. Leppman

## HELP OUT GSV!

### MAKE A LITTLE MONEY FOR YOURSELF! GET RID OF UNWANTED OLD BOOKS!

The GSV booth at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference in Portland, Maine in October 1998 will have for sale a selection of used books of interest to Vermont genealogical researchers. If you have books of this sort which you would like to sell, here's how it will work:

- 1. Select books or pamphlets which have (a) some interest to Vermont history, people, or lore; (b) interest to family history and genealogy; or (c) both. Please don't consign books which don't fit into one or the other of these categories, such as Reader's Digest condensed books, Harlequin Romances, old chemistry textbooks, and so on.
- 2. For each book you consign, make up a 3x5 card or similar piece of paper with the following: (1) Author (2) Title (3) Publication place and date (4) Anything you want to say about why the book is important (5) What you consider a fair price for someone to pay for the book. Do not place your name on the card. It is probably also wise not to

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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  
e-mail: [mjenks@capital.net](mailto:mjenks@capital.net)

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

have your name on the book, although removing it may be more trouble than you want to go to.

- 3. Pamphlets should be placed in the sort of plastic bag or similar container which book dealers use for such material. The 3x5 card should be placed so that it can be read through the plastic bag. Books not placed in bags should have the card inside the front cover.
- 4. Bring books to the Fall 1998 GSV meeting or make arrangements with Janet Induni or John Leppman to get them to us.
- 5. We will assign a number to each consignor and put the number on the card for each book you consign. This will identify you if the book is sold.
- 6. The selling price of the book will be the amount you deem appropriate and put on the card unless we have a serious disagreement about it, in which case the amount will be negotiated before the book is placed for sale.
- 7. If the book sells, you get 50% of the sale price and GSV gets 50%. We cannot negotiate special considerations for this.

We expect to retain consigned books for sale at future GSV meetings and conventions; obviously, we don't expect to sell everything at one conference. If you want your items back, we will get them to you; in order to facilitate this, you should keep a list of the things you consign.

### B & T BACK ISSUES

Each issue is \$2 (including postage). Currently available are: Volumes 12:5; 14:1-4; 15:3; 16:1-2, 18:1,2,3; 19:4; 20:1-4; 21:1-4; 22:2,3,4; 24:1-4.

### VG BACK ISSUES

Each issue is \$5 (including postage). Currently available are: Volumes 1:1-4; 2:1-4

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

### BOOK REVIEW POLICY

Books for review should be sent to John A. Leppman, 29 Oak Hill Terrace, Belows Falls, VT 05101

## Who was Phineas Gage?

The Cavendish Vermont Chamber of Commerce is preparing for the 150th Anniversary Commemoration of Phineas Gage's accident just outside of Cavendish for the weekend of September 12-13, 1998.

An unusual and fascinating commemoration of an event in Vermont medical, local, and family history. Phineas's skull will be on display. For information contact Cavendish Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 625, Cavendish, Vermont 05142-0625.

Phineas Gage was a railroad foreman on a construction gang who accidentally had his tampering iron blown through his skull, and lived to tell the tale. The crowbar-like tool was 3', 7" long, tapering from 1" to a diameter of 1/4" at the other end. As it passed through his skull, it destroyed most of his left frontal lobe and as a result his personality was dramatically altered. From an individual known for his well-balanced mind and shrewd business sense, he changed into one who was fitful, irreverent and grossly profane, a person unable to understand the consequences of his actions. The personality changes that occurred eventually had a profound influence on the science of localization of brain function.

We would appreciate any documentation GSV members might be able to shed on the following points. The information will be useful for our historical exhibit and a book about Phineas Gage which is in its final stages of preparation.

- Any report about the weather in Cavendish on Sept. 13, 1848
- The dates and places of the birth and death of Jesse Eaton Gage (Phineas' father) The birth was probably in Enfield, New Hampshire in April of 1798, and the death possibly in New York State or California.
- The date and place of the marriage of Jesse Eaton Gage and Hanna(h) Trussell Sweetland (probably East Lebanon, NH, April 27, 1823)
- The date and place of Phineas' birth (probably July 9, 1823 Lebanon, NH)

- The date and place of the marriage of Phineas' sister, Phebe Jane, to David Shattuck of Meriden, NH probably about 1850 to 1853, possibly in Meriden, Lebanon or Enfield, New Hampshire or even San Francisco.
- Dates and mode of transportation of members of the Gage/Shattuck families from New England to California, probably in August 1852, and of Phineas to Sough America about the same time.
- Any diaries, letters, or other first hand or newspaper accounts from people who knew or saw Phineas before or after his accident in New England, especially in Boston in 1849-1850, in Hanover, New Hampshire in 1851-1852, and during his later career in Valparaiso and Santiago, Chile in 1852-1859, as well as in San Francisco in 1859-1860.
- Any information about John Martyn Harlowe's medical career, especially his association with Dr. Harris Cowdrey or Arthur H. Cowdrey (possibly the same person, the latter of Stoneham, Massachusetts).
- Representations of those citizens of Cavendish who played some role in the Gage affair, illustrations of contemporary Cavendish buildings, especially of the inn at which Gage was staying, and records of the phrenological lectures Messrs. Sizer and Buell in Vermont.
- We are most grateful for your help. Please refer to our web site at [www.psych.unimelb.edu.au/phineas\\_gage.html](http://www.psych.unimelb.edu.au/phineas_gage.html) for an update on the weekend's schedule of events.

Dr. Stacia Spaulding  
RR 1, Box 44B

Proctorsville, VT 05153

(e-mail: [jrice@ludl.tds.net](mailto:jrice@ludl.tds.net))

[Please send duplicates of your findings to either John A. Leppman or Peggy Jenks.]

### FAMILY REUNIONS

The Thirteenth Annual Braley Family Reunion will be held on Saturday, June 27, 1998 at the Thurston United Methodist Church, Thurston, OH. Contact: Mrs. Doris Braley Wolfe, 2175 Canal Road, N.E., Baltimore, OH 43105 (614) 862-4426.

The Harlow Family Association will hold its Annual Meeting on August 29, 1998 at Plymouth MA. A reunion will be

held on Sunday, August 30, 1998 at The Harlow House, Plymouth, MA. 12:00 noon: lunch, election of officers, and speaker. Contact: Mr. Elmer G. Harlow, Jr., Genealogist, P.O. Box 467, South Easton, MA 02375 (508) 238-6328 or Mrs. Deborah L. Wheeler, Secretary, 66 Aspen Road, Springfield, MA 01128 (413) 782-8651

The Descendants of Elias Hoffman and his wife Elizabeth Saunders/Sanders are sought for a reunion at Fayston, VT August 1, 1998 in the Town Clerk fellowship room. The Hoffman's came from County Kerry, Ireland and settled in Fayston. Contact with a SASE to Maudean Neill, 26 Loomis St., Montpelier, VT 05602 or e-mail: maudean@sover.net.

The annual reunion of the Descendants of Marcus Alonzo Horton, 1849-1924 will be held in Lowell, MA on July 5, 1998. Contact: Ruth E. Kosiavelon, 90 Lawrence St., Lowell, MA 01852-2631.

The Hull Family Association will hold its Thirteenth Annual Meeting June 25-27, 1998 at the Ramada Inn at Amoskeag Falls, Manchester, NH. Contact A. Franklin Rice, 81 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH 03110. Family genealogist: Phyllis J. Hughes, 4946 Clubhouse Circle, Boulder, Co, 80301-3725. The Hull Family Association, P.O. Box 2066, Marrisonfield, VA 22116-2066

The Kimball Family Association, descendants of Richard Kimball, 1637 settler of Ipswich, MA, will hold its 30th annual reunion July 17-19, 1998, at

Mitchell College in New London, CT. Scholarship awards, genealogy information, auction & more. Contact Judith Kimball, 14 Manson Rd., Kittery, ME 03904-5534 (207) 439-2727; e-mail: jkimball@star.net.

The Lovell Family Association will hold their 13th reunion for the Descendants of Alexander Lovell of Medfield, MA at Plymouth State Park in Plymouth, VT on August 9, 1998. For information before June 1, write to Elizabeth Lovell Bowman, 12 Leone Road, Toms River, NJ 08755-6321; after June 1, Spruce Lane, Lake Pauline, Ludlow, VT 05149 (802) 228-4214.

The Nims Family Association will hold its annual reunion Saturday October 3, 1998, at 10 a.m. at the White Church, Old Deerfield, MA. Contact John H. Schultz, 1085 Bowen Drive West, North Tonawanda, NY 14120-2828 or N.F.A., P.O. Box 99, Deerfield, MA 01342-0099, or e-mail: aa157@freenet.buffalo.edu.

The Seventh Biennial Family Reunion of the William Strother Society will be held at the Hyatt Hotel, Arlington, VA August 5-9, 1998. Guest speakers, tours of ancestral historic sites and other special events are planned. Contact Edward L. Strother, 36 Puget Drive, Steilacoom, WA 98388-1521 (253) 584-5043.

The Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America will hold a reunion August 7-8-9, 1998 at the Summit, Killington, VT. Your editor will be the banquet speaker on the 8th. Contact VT chapter President, Velma W. Reed, P.O. Box 612, East Poultney, VT 05741 (802)287-5821. Make reservations directly with the Summit Lodge, Box 119 Mountain R., Killington, VT 05751 (800) 635-6343 Fax (802) 422-3536.

## MEETINGS

### 1998 AGS CONFERENCE

The 21st Annual Conference of the Association for Gravestone Studies will be held from noon, June 25 through noon June 28, 1998 at the Monmouth University, West Long Beach, NJ. All attendees must be pre-registered. For information contact: AGS Office, 278 Main Street,

Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 01301 or by e-mail at ags@javanet.com.

The mission of the Association for Gravestone Studies is to foster appreciation of the cultural significance of Gravestones and burial grounds through their study and preservation. They publish a journal each year called *Markers*, with articles on various aspects of gravestones and their carvers. Contact AGS or your editor if you find any signed gravestones or probate records showing payments for gravestones.

## IMMIGRANT DREAMS:

### THE SETTLEMENT OF AMERICA

August 19-22, 1998 Cincinnati, Ohio. Sponsored by The Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Ohio Genealogical Society. A Conference for the Nation's Genealogists. Contact FGS at P.O. Box 830220, Richardson, TX 75083-0220, (888) FGS-1500, fax (888) 380-0550; e-mail: fgs-office@fgs.org. Check the web site at <http://www.fgs.org>

## AMERICAN-CANADIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

An action packed weekend, September 24,25,26,27, 1998 is planned to include speakers, walking tours, research time, workshops, vendors, an awards banquet and more. Make your reservations at the Tara-Wayfarer in Bedford, NH. Conference rate \$99/per night - reserve now (606) 622-3766. Contact ACGS at P.O. Box 6478, Manchester, NH 03108-6478 (603) 622-1554; Pauline Cusson, e-mail: pcusson@worldnet.att.net; or Richard Fortin at rfortinNH@aol.com

## CONNECTING TO YOUR COUSINS

The New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be held October 22,23,24, & 25, 1998 in Portland, ME at the Holiday Inn By the Sea. This is the fifth conference sponsored by a consortium of Genealogical Societies in New England. More than 50 lectures on a variety of topics by National, International and Local Speakers. For a brochure, send a #10 SASE to B. Fenner, PO Box 130, Centerville, MA 02630-0130. Call The Holiday Inn (207) 775-2311 for hotel reservations. Special conference rate - \$99 per night per room. (Mention Conference.)

### 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  
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**Dues are \$20 for US addresses  
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For the latest information on Meetings and GSV, please visit us on our Internet home-page at:

[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/induni\\_n\\_j](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/induni_n_j).

## NEHGS PROGRAMS: GETTING STARTED

This program is offered the first Wednesday of every month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

This free program gives an introduction to NEHGS, its services and ways to help you find your family roots. Tips on how to begin your own family research, tour of the newly renovated library and a chance to meet the library staff. No registration is required.

## GENEALOGY 101 AT 101 NEWBURY STREET

May 7, 14, 21, 28, 1998 6:30-9:00 p.m. or  
October 1, 8, 15, 29 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

This course is led by professional genealogist Marcia D. Melnyk and covers many ways to become organized and how to find various records. Registration is required. The Seminar costs \$90 for the four class sessions and a course syllabus.

## RESEARCH TOUR TO NOVA SCOTIA June 7-18, 1998

This tour is led by George F. Sanborn, Jr., F.A.S.G., the NEHGS Canadian Specialist. Included is research at the Provincial Archives in Halifax, a visit to the Shelburne Genealogical Society, the Beaton Institute and other places. Registration is required.

## DISCOVERING YOUR ROOTS: AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

June 13, 1998, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the African Meeting House, 46 Joy Street, Boston along the Black Heritage Trail in historic Beacon Hill and includes a free coach to NEHGS with time to do research in the library and consult the staff. The program is led by Stacie Scarver, Marcia D. Melnyk and Franklin A. Dorman. Registration is required.

## PUTTING YOUR ANCESTOR ON THE MAP: GENEALOGY AND CARTOGRAPHY

June 20, 1998 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at 101 Newbury St., Boston. Spend the afternoon exploring the ways genealogists use maps, gazetteers, and panoramas to determine their ancestor's whereabouts. This program is led by Maureen A. Taylor, Jerome E. Anderson, David A. Cobb and Michael Leclerc. Registration is required.

## NEHGS NEW ENGLAND SUMMER CONFERENCE

July 17-18, 1998 at the Hartford Marriott Hotel, Farmington, CT. The conference will include: Solving Problems with Little Known New England Sources, Colonial Brahmins of Boston and Early Quaker's of Providence; Producing a Quality Family History; The Joys and Frustrations of Family Bibles & other Private Family Records, Migrations Patterns and more. Registration is required.

For fees, information and to register for the above NEHGS programs, call the Education Department, (617) 536-5740, ext. 202 or (800) 286-3447.

## ARE YOU MOVING? REPLACEMENT COPIES

Please notify the Society in advance of any address changes (including summer and winter addresses). Your copies of *Vermont Genealogy* and *The GSV Newsletter* are forwarded to you by the Post Office with additional charges to the Society if you have filed a forwarding notice with the Post Office.

We will send you replacement copies of *Vermont Genealogy* by first class mail for a small replacement fee of \$3.25 for each issue. Replacement copies of *The GSV Newsletter* will be forwarded at no charge. Thank you for letting us know of any address changes in advance. This helps keep costs down.

Janet Induni, Treasurer

Contributions to the Permanent Fund:  
September 1997-March 1998  
June Dobbe

Contributions to the Computer Fund:  
September 1997-March 1998  
Mary Jane Cole

The Computer Fund represents the Society's support of the LDS Family Search research station located at the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier. The 1996 license renewal, which allows us to keep the program going, cost us \$150.

This is just a friendly reminder that donations to the Computer Fund are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please send your donations to GSV, P.O. Box 1553, St. Albans, VT. 05478-1006. Please mark your check "Computer Fund."

Janet Induni, Treasurer

## THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING REINSTATED AND NEW MEMBERS:

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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.

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The long awaited second volume is now available. The goal of this series is to describe in genealogical detail the families listed in the First Federal Census taken in Vermont in 1791, the year Vermont joined the Union. This volume covers 107 families and has improved formatting and more complete information of the third generation. Special Publication No. 5, 1997. xlvi + 304 pp.

Work has been started on Vol. 3. See the July 1996 *Newsletter* for detailed instructions on how to submit data.

## VITAL RECORDS OF PUTNEY, VERMONT TO THE YEAR 1900

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This is not just a verbatim listing of such events, but a complete, concise and accurate compilation from all primary sources available in the town. This material is augmented by the ministerial records of the pastors who served from as early as 1776. Special Publication No. 2, 1992. x + 406 pp.

## GEORGIA, VERMONT VITAL RECORDS

Edited by Peter S. Mallett

The first of its kind for northern Vermont, 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, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and Methodist Church of Georgia and North Fairfax. GSV Special Publication No. 4, 1995.

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

Reprinted from the rare first editions of 1908 and 1902, this is an important source for one of Vermont's oldest towns, chartered in 1752. The town records extend to 1845, church records from 1773 to 1839. New to this publication is an indispensable index of nearly 10,000 names, constructed by Christopher T. Norris and Scott A. Bartley. GSV Special Publication No. 3, 1994. 323 pp.

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