



GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF
VERMONT

NEWSLETTER

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May 2000 Whole No. 26

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dates to remember

May 31 - June 3, 2000

**National Genealogical Society
Conference**

Providence, Rhode Island

Local Host: New England Regional Genealogical Conference

You have received a conference program and registration details. We hope to see many GSV members at our booth in the exhibit area.

June 17-18, 2000

Vermont History Expo

Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Tunbridge, Vermont

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. each day

Sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society. Come to one of Vermont's most picturesque spots and enjoy exhibits, entertainment, music, food, and demonstrations showing the variety and fascination of Vermont's history and heritage. GSV will have a booth there. If you would like to volunteer some time staffing it, please let us know promptly. We could use some help. (Please note that although this event is being held at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, some of the more boisterous activities often associated with the Tunbridge Fair will probably not be offered. Sorry.)

October 21, 2000

Genealogical Society of Vermont membership meeting

Watch for details about location. It is expected to be in the White River Junction area.

Publications

Our two newest special publications, Scott Andrew Bartley's *Windsor County Vermont Probate Index 1778-1899*, and *Index to Branches & Twigs 1972-1995*, edited by Robert M. Murphy, have already been formally announced. Coming soon: Mary Anne Z. Wheeler's *Sudbury*,

Vermont: Transcription of Vital Records and Genealogies of Residents, a detailed and authoritative resource for this Rutland County town. (This publication is a joint venture with Picton Press.) Also planned is a pamphlet version of "A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy," which has been running serially in *Vermont Genealogy*.

Microfilming and Records Preservation

Several projects are completed, in progress, or in the planning stages. The microfilming of the complete archives of the WPA Historical Records Survey in Vermont, much of which was never published, will make that source of information on the whereabouts of Vermont municipal records a great deal more accessible. (Copies of the film are at the Vermont Historical Society and the Public Records department at Middlesex.) The recent discovery at the Harvard University Library of a probably unique file of the eighteenth-century Vermont newspaper *Orange Nightingale and Newbury Morning Star* led to a microfilm of this interesting archive, now available with other Vermont newspapers at the State Library in Montpelier.

Web Site

Many thanks to Diantha Howard for reactivating our Web Site, now available for your surfing pleasure at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~vtgsv>.

Town Clerk of the Year

It's not too early to be considering nominees for this annual award, presented at the annual meeting of the Vermont Municipal Clerks Association, which will be held September 18, 2000. Let us know if you have had extraordinary service from a Vermont town clerk or if a clerk has made a special contribution to making family history research easier or more successful.

BOOK REVIEW POLICY

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

COURTHOUSE VAULT YIELDS RECORDS DATING FROM 1800

The Associated Press

ST. JOHNSBURY - Historians say old records found during the construction of a new county courthouse date from 1800, before the county seat moved to St. Johnsbury.

"The majority of them were written well before the courthouse was built. My guess is that they came from when the courthouse was in Danville. How they got inside the walls of the courthouse I don't know," said Jay Swainbank, engineering consultant for the state Department of Buildings and General Services.

Workers found the documents in the bowels of a previously undiscovered vault in the Caledonia County Courthouse while they were working in the courthouse expansion in October.

"They were all tied with an old-fashioned ribbon," said Larry Ruggles, who worked on the site. "Some of them dated back to the 1800s and there was one dated 1799." The documents - including attachments of property, court vouchers and divorce papers - are records from the time when the county court was located in Danville, said retired Assistant Judge Don Mullally, who did research on the papers.

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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

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

According to attorney Joseph Benning of Lyndonville, the towns of St. Johnsbury, Danville, Lyndon and Passumpsic all vied in the 1800s to be the county seat. St. Johnsbury won because it was a terminal for the railroad.

The documents are being stored at the temporary quarters of the Caledonia Courthouse at Fairbanks Scales.

The Burlington Free Press
Saturday, January 1, 2000

Submitted by Pat Haslam who adds: "They need a volunteer to inventory the papers."

Why don't you volunteer? If you live in the Caledonia County area please offer to represent GSV in expressing an interest in what is being done with the records and noting our willingness to assist with filming or other preservation efforts. John Leppman will write an "official" letter of introduction if you will go to the Court House and really look interested and knowledgeable.

Alden M. Rollins adds: Yes, this is a wonderful find, a great complement to the important collection of old court records in the attic there. I went through them about 1993. After spending a wonderful day with these old records, I said to someone working there (and this person shall remain nameless), "Wouldn't it be great if all that material could be microfilmed for researchers?" Response: "Yes, then WE COULD GET RID OF ALL THAT OLD STUFF." I am still recovering from this remark, which represents an ATTITUDE not a POLICY. But sometimes attitudes have a way of becoming policy. Everything at St. Johnsbury should be microfilmed, and GSV should sponsor it. Then if the ATTITUDE described above ever becomes POLICY, at least we'll have the derivative records.

NORTHFIELD RECORDS FOUND

On February 16, 2000 I, Alden Rollins, had a most extraordinary conversation with a man from Boise, who owns the treasurer's book of records for Northfield, Vermont, 1805-1840. He got this original volume of about 400 pages from a dealer in Syracuse, NY. He offered it back to the Town of Northfield, and HE WAS TURNED DOWN. After I picked myself up off the floor, I asked him whether he might be willing to have it microfilmed.

He was very agreeable to this proposal, and I told him I'd somehow get funding.

The volume contains many, many names of people doing business with the town over the years, and, most wonderfully of all, contains warning out records. We must do something about this. Another set of records GSV should have filmed.

VERMONT RELIGIOUS CERTIFICATES

A new project is well underway, and your help can help bring it to completion. You know how difficult it is to locate church membership lists, especially for the early decades of Vermont's history. But there is a way to find our ancestors' denominational affiliations and to create synthetic church membership lists. In the late 18th century government policy was to require some kind of support of the gospel from taxpayers. Each town had a "majority" church, usually Congregational, sometimes Baptist, and more rarely a "union" church. This town church received tax revenues from the town to support a minister and to assist in the building of a meeting house. Sometimes membership lists for church "societies" are given in town records, and of course these are very useful, if we bear in mind that "society" membership was not the same thing as "church" membership, although closely related.

The great bonanza, however, for genealogists in this system was the provision of the law which permitted dissenters from the majority church to file a tax exemption. The requirement was that everyone support some recognizable denomination, and if a dissenter filed a religious certificate with the town clerk, his religious tax could go to his denomination instead of the town church. The dissenter had to get a responsible leader of his denomination to state that he both attended and supported the dissenting church, which by the way did not have to be in the same town where the dissenter lived. When the town clerk received the properly authenticated certificate, the information had to be registered in the town books. In 1801 the law was modified to say that dissenters could register themselves with the town clerk and did not have to prove support of another denomination, so these

certificates are less useful than the earlier ones. The entire system was discontinued in 1807 when church and state were completely separated by law.

These copied certificates survive in up to half of the towns of Vermont, but are easily overlooked. The project underway extracts or abstracts the relevant information from each certificate. The dissenters are listed, along with the ministers or deacons or whoever wrote the certificate to the town clerk; also given is the church affiliation, and when the dissenter became associated with the church, if that information is given. A surprising use of the certificates is in the identification of clergy and other church officials who signed or provided the certificates. Additionally, one can take the certificates and compile a list of the Baptist dissenters or the Methodist dissenters or the Universalist dissenters (and so on) and create synthetic membership lists for those churches. An example is the Baptist Church of Bradford which flourished in the 1790s and slowly faded into oblivion. No records survive, and the meeting house was long ago torn down. But in the 1790s this church had members from not only Bradford but many surrounding towns, including Newbury and Fairlee and a couple of towns in New Hampshire. Because the dissenting certificates for these towns survive, a synthetic membership list for this church can be created, including the names of many church officials. Astonishingly, a perhaps rather stylistic sketch of the meeting house survives in a 1790s Whitelaw map of Bradford, showing the exact location of the structure on the Upper Plain in that town. Suddenly a lost church comes alive and reveals much of itself to us despite the unfortunate absence of its records.

At this point in the project it is impossible to say how many church affiliations will be discovered but based on what has been done so far it will surely be in the high thousands. The information from the religious certificates will be further enhanced by the listing of pew sales which are often found in the early town records.

The goal of course will be to publish all these lists, complete with a name index. Many of the required town records have been microfilmed, and Alden Rollins will work with these. But some required town

records have not been filmed yet, and it will be necessary to rely on volunteers to help gather the religious certificates from these records by visiting the town clerks in each town and copying the information from the original books. The WPA/HRS published and unpublished town inventories done in the 1930s and early 1940s will be used to identify where the certificates are located.

If you would like to assist in this very interesting project, please let Alden Rollins know. The best way to reach him is via e-mail at <afamr@uaa.alaska.edu>. Or you may write him at 221 East 7th #114, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Experienced researchers certainly bring a special understanding to the requirements of such a project, but enthusiastic novices should offer help too if they have an interest. The goal is to have the project ready for a publisher in two years.

Alden M. Rollins, Documents Librarian
University of Alaska, Consortium Library
3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK
99508-8176 Phone: 907-786-1874 FAX:
907-786-6050

B & T BACK ISSUES

Each issue is \$2 (including postage). Currently available are: Volumes 12:5; 14:1,3,4; 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, 3:1-4

Your checks should be payable to GSV and sent to: GSV Back Issues, PO Box 1553, St. Albans, VT 05478-1006.

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
Canada and Mexico \$25, foreign \$30**

For the latest information on meetings and GSV, visit us on our web site at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~vtgsv>

VERMONT GENEALOGY

The October 1999 issue of *Vermont Genealogy* is probably in our members' hands by the time this *Newsletter* arrives. The January 2000 issue goes to printer by mid-March. My apologies for delays, and my gratitude for everyone's patience.

Robert Rodgers
Vermont Genealogy editor

GSV NEWS

Contributions to the Permanent Fund

Ginger August	3549
Scott Bartley	2982
Cliff Bresett	3610
Vivian Ety	3603
Vickie Storlie	4014
National Society Sons of Colonial New England	

Contributions to the Computer Fund

Ann Eid	2916
Robert Stone	4728

Please send your donations to GSV, P.O. Box 1553, St. Albans, VT. 05478-1006. Please mark your check "Permanent Fund" or "Computer Fund."

Janet Induni, Treasurer

ARE YOU MOVING? REPLACEMENT COPIES

Please notify the Society in advance of any address changes (including summer and winter addresses) at GSV, P.O. Box 1553, St. Albans, VT. 05478-1006. 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

Why waste your money looking up your family tree? Just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you.

Mark Twain

"WAR IS HELL BUT PROCESSING AIN'T MUCH FUN EITHER: THE VERMONT MILITARY RECORDS PROJECT"

Gregory Sanford, Vermont State Archivist, Office of the Secretary of State and Kelly Nolin, Project Archivist, Division of Public Records presented this Seminar on March 9, 2000.

"In 1783 George Washington advised against invading Vermont, arguing that it was populated by a "hardy Race, composed of that kind of People who are best calculated for Soldiers." Vermonters have, indeed, had a proud tradition of military service. Research on Vermont's citizen soldiers, however, has lagged, in part because of the inaccessibility of many of our military records. Burned in the Montpelier arsenal fire of 1945, these records, dating from the American Revolution to the beginning of World War II, have been too disorganized, and in many cases too fragile, to research. Those records that survived the 1945 fire, including heretofore unavailable Civil War and militia records, are now being processed and prepared for microfilming through a collaborative effort led by the Public Records Division of the Department of Buildings and General Services with the assistance of the State Archives of the Secretary of State's Office.

Despite serious losses which will cause frustration to genealogists, there is still much here that will be of interest. The medical records of recruits, the parent's permission forms (for those under age), and a variety of correspondence--these are things that genealogists and all historians will be thrilled to find in the eventual access.

Tentative guesses are that microfilms (and some materials probably in digital format) will be available for researchers to use by summer of 2001.

Kelly Nolin's patient work with these forlorn documents is deeply appreciated already--and will be more so as her labors result in safe access to users.

Robert H. Rodgers

FAMILY REUNIONS

The **Brooks Family Reunion 2000** will be held July 21-23 in Brooksville (New Haven), VT. A reception on July 21 at the New Haven Mills Congregational Church, followed by a visit to The Sheldon Museum. July 22: a visit to the Shelburne Museum, followed by a Reunion Dinner at Rosie's Restaurant. Closing with a July 23 lunch at the Dog Team Tavern. Contact: Ralph E. Brooks, 214B Main St., Foxboro, MA 02035-1321
e-mail: ralphebrooks@earthlink.net

The 49th Triennial Reunion of the **Descendants of Salathiel⁵ Bump** of Salisbury, Vermont (1760-1842) will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2000, 11 am at Waterhouse's Beach and Marina on Lake Dunmore, Salisbury, VT. There will be a small admission charge. All descendants of Edouard¹ Bumpasse of Plymouth Colony, 1621 are welcome. Contact Audrey S. Pratt, 3 Piping Rock Circle, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

The **Clopton Family Association** will hold its biennial reunion August 3-6, 2000 at the Ludlow Resort, Port Ludlow, Washington. The family descends from William and Ann (Booth) Clopton, early settlers of Hanover County, Virginia and their five children. Contact the Clopton Family Association, 14246 SH 240 West, Electra, TX 76360-4706 or e-mail <http://www.seanet.com/~Clompton/>

The **LaForce Family Descendants'** Family Reunion will take place in Burlington, VT August 3-6, 2000. The program will include a barbecue at Button Bay State Park with a sharing of family history and stories. Contact Robert Grownney, 2922 Route 72 East, Shoreham, VT 05770, 802-897-7921 or visit: <http://laforce2000.home.att.net>

The **Lovell Family Association** will hold their 13th biennial reunion for the descendants of Alexander Lovell of Medfield, Mass. at Plymouth State Park in Plymouth, Vermont on August 13, 2000. 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 annual reunion of the **Descendants of Marcus Alonzo Horton, 1849-1924**, will be held in Lowell, MA on Sunday June 25, 2000. Contact: Ruth E. Kosiavelon, 90 Lawrence St., Lowell, MA 01852-2631. e-mail: rek92@hotmail.com

The **Vermont Chapter of the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants of America** will hold a reunion July 23, 2000 at Lake St. Catherine State Park, Poultney, VT. Contact VT chapter President, Velma W. Reed, P.O. Box 612, East Poultney, VT 05741 (802) 287-5821.

The National Society Reunion will be held August 4,5,6 2000 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Contact: Barlow M. Westcott, 411 Lakewood Circle B1116, Colorado Springs, CO 80910

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. Announcements received after March 15 will be used in the August *Newsletter* if they are for reunions held after September 1.

MEETINGS

THE ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVESTONE STUDIES TWENTY-THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE & MEETING

June 22-25, 2000, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. The conference will feature lectures on various cemetery issues, an all day cemetery bus tour, basic conservation workshop and participation sessions. Registration deadline is June 2, 2000. Contact The Association for Grave-stone Studies, 278 Main St., Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 423-772-0836 e-mail: ags@javanet.com or visit the AGS web site: <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>

SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

The Vermont Chapter of the Society of Mayflower Descendants holds two meetings a year, spring and fall. If you have Mayflower ancestry and would like to

join, contact Ms. Sharon A. Matyas, Historian, 6126 Bennett's Corner Road, Memphis, NY 13112-9780 (315) 672-5882 e-mail: SAMatyas@aol.com

FALL VOCA MEETING

The fall meeting of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association is planned for October 7, 2000 in Danville, VT.

VOCA grants funds for repairing old cemeteries. The grants are to be matched with volunteers or money. Workshops may be scheduled to teach grave stone repair. Please visit VOCA's web page at: <http://homepages.together.net/~btrutor/voca/vocahome.htm>.

WORLD OF RECORDS FGS/UGA 2000

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Utah Genealogical Society is presenting **A World of Records**, September 609, 2000 in the Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah, "The Crossroads of the West".

This national family history conference is located next door to the world's largest genealogical library. Every attempt has been made to have something for everyone who is interested in tracing their family history.

For complete information contact the Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 2000940, Austin, TX 78720-0940
Phone 888-FGS-1500
FAX 888-380-0500
e-mail: fgs-office@fgs.org

NEHGS GETTING STARTED New Time and Day

This program is offered the first Monday of every month from 12 noon-1 p.m. and from 6-7:30 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. Non-members will receive a free pass to the library. No registration is required.

Enhanced QuickSearch Service at NEHGS Makes Finding Ancestors Easier.

Anyone wishing to use QuickSearch should first access its list of sources via the Society's website at www.NewEnglandAncestors.org, or purchasing a paper copy. Patrons may choose from a list of hundreds of indexed sources: genealogies, local histories, microfilm, CD-ROM that are indexed and searchable for the Society's research staff. The fee for the service varies according to the source. For more information visit the web site or contact NEHGS at the address below.

NEHGS RESEARCH TOUR TO SALT LAKE CITY

18-25 June & 29 Oct.-5 Nov. 2000

A week of research at the Family History Library. Orientation, lectures by NEHGS staff, ample research time, personal consultations.

COME HOME TO NEW ENGLAND

30 July - 6 Aug. 2000

Search your roots with help at the extensive NEHGS Library. The program will be held at the John Hancock Conference Center a short walk from the Library. You will receive one-on-one personal consultations, use of the library when its normally closed, daily lectures, a tour of the Boston Public Library and more.

Pre-registration required for the above programs. Contact: The New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA Education Department at (888) 286-3447 or (617) 536-5740 Ext. 202.

e-mail education@nehgs.org
Or visit the Web Site at
www.NewEnglandAncestors.org

VERMONT VITAL RECORDS

You don't have to go to Middlesex, Vermont to use the VT Vital Records. The New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA has the microfilmed VR Vital Records

1760-1954 and 1980-1988. These are the same films, in the same increments, you use in Middlesex, VT. They are located on the 4th floor Dean & Roberta Smith technology room. NEHGS also has microfilmed vital records for NH, MA, ME for earlier periods.

Jim Holmes

Editors note: Most same films are available at the Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, MA. All are available for loan from any branch LDS library. The cards are filed alphabetically by time period: 1760-1870, 1871-1908, 1909-1941, 1942-1954, 1955-1979 (closed, being re-filmed), 1980-1988.

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

4003 (reinstated)
Mildred S. Kunz
1624 W White Oak St., #2-D
Independence, MO 64050-2566

4423 (reinstated)
Virginia Sleeper-Terry
PO Box 94
Warren Center, PA 18851

research interests: Sleeper, Eaton, Bailey, Goodall, Sealey

4497 (reinstated)
Diana H. Mayer
995 Skyland Drive
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

6102
Harold S. Merrill, Jr.
96 Knollwood Drive
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

research interests: Allen, Prentis

6103
Claire LaForce
31 Easterly Ave.
Rutland, VT 05701

research interests: LaForce, Phillips, Traverse, Ames, Carleton

6104
Esther Rancier
1312 E 215th Place
Carson, CA 90745-1622

6105
Judith LaPierre
4628 Dever Drive
Augusta, GA 30907-4213

e-mail: judilee@finenet.net
research interests: Abell, Phillips, Reed, Houghton, Webster

6106
State Historical Society of Iowa
600 E Locust
Des Moines, IA 50319-0290

6110
Leslie Soper, MD
217 Canyon Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89107

e-mail: Lsoper@lvcm.com
research interests: Soper, Beardsley, Teal

6111
Charles H. King
2337 N Carol Ave.
Fresno, CA 93722

e-mail: chaz57@netzero.net
research interests: Roy/King, Cyr/Sears, Dufresne/Ash

6112
Terry J. Foss
N2682 Co. Hwy K
Granton, WI 54436

e-mail: froggman89@yahoo.com
research interests: Burt(Burt), Kendall

6113
Edgar W. Mills
358 Starin Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14216

e-mail: millsted@acsu.buffalo.edu
research interests: McKinney, Roberts, Martin, Mayhew, Otis

6114
Jeffrey D. Marshall
2016 Plains Road
Milton, VT 05468

e-mail: jeffrey.marshall@uvm.edu
research interests: Goodrich

6115
Virginia Little
610 Gallison Hill Road
Montpelier, VT 05602-8122

e-mail: GinnyL@together.net
research interests: Barr, Bagley, Lewis,
Rousseau

6116
Bonnie Potter
PO Box 267
Marcy Lane
Newcomb, NY 12852

research interests: Norton, Steinhour

6117
Budd Rice
12103 30th Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98146

e-mail: buddrice@juno.com
research interests: Rice, Rogers

6118
James F. Hallihan
PO Box 204
Newport, VT 05855-0204

6119
Joyce Padilla
3459 East Hwy 50
SaLida CO 81201

e-mail: jPadilla@bwn.net
research interests: Graves, Johnson

6220
Betty Carley VanSleet
69 Pine Orchard Road
Hague, NY 12836-2030

e-mail: NALA@together.net
research interests: Corley, Chaduck,
Nokes

FRANKLIN/GRAND ISLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HAS BEEN FORMED

After several organizational meetings, a group of people from various parts of the county formed a genealogical society on October 7. At that meeting the bylaws were accepted and officers elected as follows: President, Barbara Thibault of Swanton; Vice President, Gary Snyder of Richford; Secretary, Clare Sheppard of St.

Albans; Treasurer, Sheri Arpin of St. Albans. Directors elected were Marjorie Napoli of Sheldon, Henry Raymond of Fairfax, and Charles Tinker of Fletcher.

The purpose of this organization is to research, promote and encourage the study of genealogy for interested people. The society had made up a list of people in each town who will assist others with inquiries in those towns.

Each town clerk in the two counties will receive a copy of this so-called contact list for ready reference.

To make genealogical inquiries in Franklin County, you may contact the following people who are willing to help:

Bakersfield - Joyce Morin
Berkshire - Virginia Messier
Enosburg Falls - Carolyn Simpson
Fairfax - Henry Raymond
Fairfield - Gerry Longway
Fletcher - Charles Tinker
Franklin - Susan Clark
Georgia - Peter & Frances Mallett
Highgate - Cora Baker
Montgomery - Linda Cluba
Richford - Gary Snyder
St. Albans - Sheri Arpin
Sheldon - Albert Severy
Swanton - Barbara Thibault

The complete list with addresses and telephone numbers may be obtained from the secretary, Clare Shepard at 53 Smith Street, St. Albans, VT 05478, phone 802-524-9304. A SASE would be appreciated.

The society is open to any interested persons. Contact the secretary if you wish to join. The group will meet again early in 2000 at which time appropriate programs will be planned.

CANADIAN BORDER CROSSINGS

I recently discovered a new group of records at the Federal Records Center in Pittsfield, MA. All foreigners entering the US from Canada had to file a report.

The records are in two groups, up to 1943 and after that, and cover all crossings from the Atlantic to the Pacific. You must first search series M1461 using the soundex code to find your people. The manifest lists the port of entry, date, a serial number needed to find the full data,

names of those in the family, place of birth, age occupation, last permanent address, nearest relative in country you came from, destination in the US, passage paid by, money owned, head tax status, height, complexion, hair, eyes and designating marks. Using the serial number and date, the full record may be found yielding additional information.

My paternal grandparents were born in England and I have birth certificates for both. He was a Methodist minister in Irasburg, Vermont in the 1920s. These records show they came to the States through Newport, VT, from Foster, Quebec on December 9, 1921 with daughter Winifred age 16, a student. They paid their own passage, had \$500 with them. Their nearest relative in Canada was my father in Toronto. Alfred John Ward, was age 55, 5'10", fair complexion, blue eyes, gray hair. Annie M. was age 54, 5'5", medium complexion, gray hair, brown eyes. They were to live in the "postiate" (probably the parsonage) in Irasburg and to live there permanently. They returned to Canada after a few years.

Peggy Jenks

OLD STYLE AND NEW STYLE DATING Julian and Gregorian Calendars

To Romulus is given the credit of having, during his reign, divided the year into ten months with a total of 304 days. His successor, Numa, made changes, but even so, in 452 B.C. the year had only 355 days. Further corrections were made and the year increased to 366 $\frac{1}{4}$ days, soon changed to 365 $\frac{1}{4}$. By the time the power to alter the calendar was in the hands of the Roman pontiffs, the calendar was off by three months from the true astronomical time. Cæsar, as Pontifex Maximus, changed the calendar to restore the vernal equinox to March 25. Cæsar, in 45 B.C., with the aid of Sosigenes, a famous Egyptian scholar, added a day to February every 4th year.

The Julian calendar was in use by Great Britain and its dependencies when our ancestors first came to this country. In March 1582, Pope Gregory XIII, abolished the Julian calendar in the Catholic countries, and adopted the calendar

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VERMONT FAMILIES IN 1791, Volume 1

Edited by Scott A. Bartley

This award-winning first volume of a projected long series has stimulated research and guided many people to sources useful to establish their own ancestry. The goal of this series is to describe in detail the families listed in the First Federal Census taken in Vermont in 1791, the year Vermont joined the Union. Special Publication No. 1, 1992. xxvii + 281 pp., hardbound, \$30.00

Volume 2

Edited by Scott A. Bartley

This volume covers 107 families and has improved formatting and more complete information of the third generation. Special Publication No. 5, 1997. xlviii + 304 pp., hardbound, \$30.00

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

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bearing his name. March was the first month of the year (January the 11th and February the 12th), March 25 the first day of the year. Years evenly divisible by four and centesimal years evenly divisible by 400 (1600, 2000) were to be leap-years. Great Britain did not adopt the Gregorian calendar we now use until 1752, in part due to prejudice. By this time the calendar was eleven days off according to the solar calendar.

By an Act of Parliament, it was enacted, that throughout his majesty's dominions the 1st of January 1752, should be reckoned the first day of the year, and to correct the error of eleven days, the 3rd of September should be reckoned the 14th. Many mistakes have been made in reducing Old Style (O.S.) to New Style (N.S.).

It has been the custom, to lesson the confusion to avoid mistakes, to double-date. Thus dates in January, February and March are often given as 26 January 1631/2 or 1631-2, 1631 O.S. or 1632 N.S.

It was usual to place the day first, then the month, and lastly the year, but examples

can be easily found that begin with the month. Where a single date is given as the first month in the seventeenth century, without any surrounding entries to show the chronological position, it will almost always be safe to double-date it, for example, if the entry reads 13 day 1 mo. 1658, add the N.S. date thus: 1658/9.

When making abstracts, preserve as far as possible the spelling and form of the original. Be cautions in printed works, of all dates that may have been incorrectly translated. Not knowing the calendar change, frequently, the first month (March) has been transposed to January. The Quakers considered the names of the months as "heathen", thus they expressed the months numerically. A Quaker date of say 1 mo. should never be changed to March/January depending on the time period.

For a full discussion of all the historical calendars, see: The Mayflower Descendant, *Old Style and New Style Dating*, by F. Apthorp Foster, January 1899, 1:17-23.



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