



GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF
VERMONT

NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Issue 4

ISSN 1087-4550

November 2003 Whole No. 40

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dates to remember

Saturday, April 24, 2004

GSV membership meeting

Place and program to be announced

The meeting will probably be in or near Chittenden County.

Saturday, October 16, 2004

GSV membership meeting

Place and program to be announced

We are planning on a south-central Vermont location for this one.

Vermont History Expo

Saturday - Sunday June 26-27, 2004

Tunbridge, Vermont

New Vermont Genealogy editor

After eight years as the founding editor of *Vermont Genealogy*, Robert Rodgers has asked to be relieved of that job, and starting with the January 2004 issue the editorship will pass over to Scott Andrew Bartley. GSV members will be familiar with Drew as a former GSV President and as the editor of the ongoing *Vermont Families in 1790* series. He is also editor of the *Mayflower Descendant*, the foremost scholarly journal on genealogy of Plymouth Colony families and their descendants. A Springfield, Vermont native now living in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, Drew keeps in close contact with all manner of things genealogical in Vermont. He will be eager to know about potential articles for publication in *Vermont Genealogy*. Robert Rodgers continues to be a member of GSV's Publication Committee, and his work on making *Vermont Genealogy* a useful and reliable resource for Vermont research has been immensely appreciated.

Bad Actors

It doesn't happen very often, but occasionally we hear about someone whose motivations in offering genealogical services are less altruistic than those of the usual amateur or professional researcher. Perhaps the most notorious perpetrator of

falsely padded genealogies was Gustave Anjou (a pseudonym, by the way), who wrote a stunning assortment of elegant studies documented, at critical points in the genealogical accounts, by completely fabricated "records." He was good enough at using real records, and convincing enough at fabricating the ones he needed to make connections where none could be located in real material, that his output found its way into many genealogical libraries, and from there into the citations of many works published later, hence into "received knowledge" about many families. The best rule of thumb is that anything cited as coming from his work must be rejected unless independent confirmation can be found.

If you have information about a purveyor of unreliable or made-up genealogical records or accounts, either done for hire or as an amateur, let us know. We are not about to start publishing names of suspect genealogists in this *Newsletter* or elsewhere, unless we have incontrovertible proof of wrongdoing, but we may be able to act as a clearing house if questions arise.

At the less troublesome edge of this spectrum are two sorts of purveyors of genealogy whom we all know and love. (Well, we know them anyway.) One is the companies which advertise in Sunday supplement and probably on line and lots of other places, claiming what they will send you a book all about the history of your family - or your surname, anyway, if they are being honest, about what you get, for your \$25 or whatever amount, a paperback with an invariably bogus "family coat of arms" and printouts of listing of people with the surname from some number of public domain data bases. Anyone with a computer and a search engine can easily find the same information. The other is the inexperienced computer genealogy enthusiast who posts lots of poorly selected and unreliable stuff that has come to his or her way in a research adventure which is probably more naive than

intentionally fraudulent. In both cases, let the buyer (or the surfer) beware.

MORE ON THE WHITING PAPERS

As you may have read in a previous *Newsletter*, early original records of the town of Whiting were discovered on the open market last winter and purchased by the Society. The intent, after consultation with the Town and the Vermont Historical Society, was to inventory and arrange the records after which time they would be microfilmed and then returned to the Town.

I have been involved in the inventory of these records, which span a full century, from 1787 through 1886. The collection includes nearly 400 items, including grand lists, militia rolls, deeds and other agreements, town orders to pay various town folk for services rendered, surveys, lists of taxable property for various townspeople, Town Meeting minutes, Freemen's Meeting votes and a variety of writs against various town residents.

In addition to the above, there are a variety of miscellaneous papers including a book of earmarks (to distinguish one person's cattle, swine, etc., from his neighbor's), 1787-1813, personal letters and various notices, a bill of sale for hay, and an appraisal of personal property.

A quarterly publication © 2003
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*.

Perhaps some of this information was recorded in town books, but there is undoubtedly some unique information here as well. The inventory and arrangement of these records will be complete very soon, and after they are microfilmed, they will be available for viewing at the Vermont Historical Society in Barre. In addition it is expected that the inventory will be available on the VHS web site (www.vermonthistory.org).

Bob Murphy

SHAFTSBURY GENEALOGY

GSV Members with Shaftsbury ancestry (especially Johnson, Matteson, Olin, Childs and Hicks families) may be interested in an article by Linda L. Mathews, "A line of Descent from Elkanah Johnson of Coventry through his Son John and Grandson Obadiah, Part 1," published in *Rhode Island Roots*, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Sept. 2003) Ms. Mathews traces the descendants of Elkanah Johnson of Coventry, many of whom were among the early settlers of Shaftsbury. If the journal is not available in your local library, it can be ordered from RIGS, P.O. Box 433, Greenville, RI 02828 for \$3.50.

Cherry Bamberg, editor RIGS.

MEETINGS

SPRING VOCA MEETING

The spring meeting of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association is planned for Saturday May 1, 2004, place to be announced.

Please visit VOCA's web site at:

<http://www.rovers.net/~hwdbry/voca>

[This address is correct, but if you have a problem, go to the GSV site,

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.

www.rootsweb.com/~vtgsv, then link to VOCA.]

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PROGRAMS:

GETTING STARTED

This program the first **Wednesday** of every month, except January, from 12 noon to 1 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 free entrance to the library. No registration is required.

GENEALOGY IN A NUTSHELL

"Nutshell" class are short (one hour) lectures on a variety of genealogical topics. They are held at 101 Newbury Street from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and repeated on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Registration is not necessary.

GSV NEWS

FAMILY REUNIONS

Announcements of family reunions must be received by the *Newsletter* 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 Sept. 1.

BOOK REVIEW POLICY

Books for review should be sent to John A. Leppman, 20 Thwing Lane, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. Please note the new mailing address.

Families of Georgia, Vermont

Contains 86 families, 924 pages
\$35.00 plus \$5.00 postage.

Order from: Peter Mallett
P.O. Box 2001, Georgia, VT 05468

Contributions to the Computer Fund

None

Contributions to the Permanent Fund

None

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

Janet Induni, Treasurer

B & T BACK ISSUES

Each issue is \$2 (including postage). Currently available are: Volumes 12:5; 14:1,3; 16:2, 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 1:1-3; 2:1-4, 3:1-3, 4:1-4; 5:1-4; 6:1-4; 7:1-4; 8:1,3,4.

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

ARE YOU MOVING?

REPLACEMENT COPIES

Please notify the Society in advance of any address changes (including summer and winter addresses) at GSV, PO. Box 1553, St. Albans, VT. 05478-1006. Please do not send them to the *Newsletter* editor. 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

Planning a trip to Salt Lake City in January. Let me help you with some research. Contact me for details. Joann Nichols, 110 Chestnut Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-6579; 802-254-9554 jnichols@sover.net

VERMONT FAMILIES IN 1791, Volume 1

Edited by Scott A. Bartley

This award-winning first volume of a projected long series has stimulate 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 Out of print.

Volume 2

Edited by Scott A. Bartley

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

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., hardbound, \$30.00

MEMBER RESEARCH DIRECTORY

Compiled by Janet E. Induni

The directory lists addresses and interests of a majority of GSV members. Each member listed provided up to five surnames of Vermont families on which he or she might like to share information. Published in 1998 for GSV members only. 63 pp., \$3.00.

VITAL RECORDS OF PUTNEY, VERMONT TO THE YEAR 1900

Compiled and edited by Ken Stevens

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., hardbound, \$30.00

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, hardbound, \$30.00

INDEX TO BRANCHES & TWIGS 1972-1995

Edited by Robert M. Murphy

The long-awaited every-name index to GSV's *Branches & Twigs*, published for 24 years, 96 issues. The 180,000 name entries include every name mentioned in every issue, except those cited in connection with Society business, those mentioned in purely casual historical context, and the ancestry service ("Apple Orchard") feature, which was alphabetically arranged. Separate sections of this work list the coverage of each installment of the Apple Orchard, and provide a full author-title index to book reviews. *Branches & Twigs* included immense quantities of information of interest to Vermont family historians. Special publication No. 7, 2000, 572 pp., hardbound \$65.00.

WINDSOR COUNTY VERMONT PROBATE INDEX, 1778-1899

Compiled by Scott Andrew Bartley
and Marjorie-J. Bartley

A comprehensive index of all files in the Probate Courts of the two districts (Windsor and Hartford) in Windsor County, Vermont, between the earliest records (1778) and the end of the nineteenth century. More than 20,000 files are indexed by the name of the major party in the case, place of residence, district, type of record, year, and volume of the bound records in which the record(s) will be found. Special publication No. 6, 2000, 560 pp., hardbound, \$50.00.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR VERMONT GENEALOGY

by John A. Leppman

A reprint, with updates and some format changes, of the series recently completed in Vermont Genealogy, listing over 500 books and other published sources about Vermont and its counties and towns which are of particular use to genealogical researchers. (Family genealogies are not included in its coverage.) A useful reference work for any Vermont researcher. Special publication No. 8, 2000, 66 pp. soft cover, \$7.50 plus \$1.50 postage

SUDBURY, VERMONT: TRAN- SCRIPTION OF VITAL RECORDS AND GENEALOGIES OF RESIDENTS

by Mary Ann Z. Wheeler

A comprehensive transcription of vital and census records for this Rutland County town, plus carefully compiled genealogies of families. This book will take its place among the very best genealogical resources available about a Vermont town. A cooperative publication of GSV and Picton Press. Special publication No. 9, 2000, 416 pp, hardbound, \$49.50

10% discount for GSV members. Please add \$3.50 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% for books mailed to a VT address. Mail your checks, payable to GSV, to:

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

DUES NOTICE

Please look at your address label for membership expiration date.
Your membership expires on the date shown on the label.

Dues are \$20 for US addresses
Canada and Mexico \$25, foreign \$30 in US funds.

Membership includes four issues of *Vermont Genealogy* and the *GSV Newsletter*. These publications will keep you abreast of the genealogical news of Vermont and present current articles on source material, genealogy and your queries. Include a SASE if you wish a new membership card.

All Correspondence, except submissions and queries for *Vermont Genealogy* and items for the *Newsletter*, should be sent to the address below.

For the latest information on meetings and GSV, visit us on our web site at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~vtgsv>

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone number: _____ GSV membership number: _____

e-mail address: _____

Mail this coupon and your check to:

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

2982 expires 10/1/2004
Scott A Bartley
20 March Ave
West Roxbury MA 02132-2604

NONPROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RUTLAND, VT
PERMIT NO.
258

Genealogical Society of Vermont
PO Box 1553
St. Albans, VT 05478-1006
Address Service
Requested