



## Editor's Note

It appears that winter snow is finally arriving in Southern Vermont. With the snow I am reminded that it's time to put the snowshoes in the car if I plan to do any cemetery research. A few years ago I was knee deep in snow as I sought a critical gravestone in Winhall.

It is also the time to think about taxes and the IRS. One deduction that may be available for your genealogy research is a hobby deduction. Ask your tax consultant about this or check the IRS.gov site for information on hobby vs business expenses.

Bill

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## President's Message

*Bob Murphy*

This quarter's message comes with good news and not-so-good news. First, though, remember to send in your registration form and make hotel arrangements to join us in April at the 9<sup>th</sup> New England Regional Genealogical Conference in Hartford, Connecticut. Details are available online at [www.NERGC.org](http://www.NERGC.org). Also, please join us on 12 May in Rutland for our Spring Conference. We have a great lineup of speakers, and I'm sure you will enjoy the presentations. Now for the good, the bad and the ugly.

### First the good news.

**Regime Change** - On 21 October, at the annual meeting of GSV, a new slate of officers was elected. Although the President (Bob Murphy), Vice President (Jonathan Stevens) and Treasurer (Jane Belcher) are all newbies, veteran Mary Pat Brigham stays on as Secretary, and will keep all of us "youngsters" in line. In addition, past President John Leppman will be staying on the Board and will lend experience and ensure continuity.

This is the first major change in leadership in

many years. The installation of new officers brings with it some new ideas, but we are also looking to you, the members, for input as well.

### Address Change -

Along with regime change our mail address has changed. Our new mailing address is now P.O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014. The old P.O. Box at St. Albans is no longer in use. All Society correspondence should go to that address except for membership-related items and submittals to Vermont Genealogy and the GSV Newsletter. Diantha Howard is our new Membership Chair. Her address is 57 East Shore North, Grand Isle, VT 05458. Drew Bartley and Bill Budde remain as editors of VG and the Newsletter, and their addresses have not changed.

**GSV Website** - As many have undoubtedly already discovered, GSV's website is now on the internet in a new location. We have abandoned our website on RootsWeb, and have struck out on our own. You will now find us at [www.genealogyvermont.org](http://www.genealogyvermont.org). The reason for the change was to enable us to respond to your re-

quests that the website be enhanced to include Vermont-relevant genealogy content. We listened to you and are making it happen!

At first glance, the website looks much like it used to when we were on RootsWeb. A closer inspection, however, will show genealogical content that is beginning to appear on the site. Right now it is in a public location where all can access it. However, we plan to change that in the not-too-distant future so that it becomes available to members only. It is a way of providing additional benefits to members, and we hope you like what you see. We welcome your comments on what we are trying to do.

Initial website content is relatively small. One of the things we would like to do is to provide access to members to the complete run of *Branches & Twigs*, all 24 years-worth. That will take a while to accomplish, as each issue has to be scanned. We are using OCR (optical character recognition) software as we do this. The early B & T issues are the most difficult for OCR recogni-

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

tion, as most issues were produced using a manual typewriter, and characters are often ill-formed and difficult for OCR to read. Current plans are to add one volume (or more) per month until it is all available online.

Our ultimate goal is to make the GSV website a significant source of Vermont-related genealogical information for members, including cemetery listings, vital records, court records and more. We will be soliciting submissions from members once we get our feet a bit more wet. So if you have information of general interest to Vermont researchers, and it can be put into PDF format, we would be interested in hearing from you. Our website director, Diantha Howard, has done a superlative job with our new site, and will add content as it becomes available and as time permits.

**NERGC 2007** - The New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be held on 26-29 Apr 2007 in Hartford, Conn. GSV is a co-sponsor of the event, which has been extremely popular in the past, and we expect this coming year's conference to be a rewarding experience for genealogical researchers. Despite the fact that the conference is months away, you may wish to make hotel arrangements very soon. The Hartford Marriott Downtown, where the conference is to be held, can be expected to fill well before the conference dates. Information and details on how to book a room and how to register for the conference can be found on the internet at <http://www.nergc.org/>.

For those GSV members who are attending the conference, let me ([rmm@sover.net](mailto:rmm@sover.net)) or John Leppman ([John.A.Leppman@Dartmouth.EDU](mailto:John.A.Leppman@Dartmouth.EDU)) know if you would be willing to help out for an hour at the GSV booth, or in some other way to support this conference. It would be greatly appreciated! Once again, it is volunteers like you and me that keep these conferences going.

### Now for the bad and the ugly.

As with many genealogical and similarly sized societies, GSV finds itself in a financial bind. Costs keep going up for everything from printing and distributing *Vermont Genealogy* and the Newsletter to our twice-a-year conferences. Add to that a declining membership, and the picture begins to look less than rosy. We have recently raised dues, which in turn has resulted in the loss of some members (we recognized that might happen, but under the circumstances needed to raise dues if we were to remain solvent). Nevertheless, costs still exceed anticipated income for the current fiscal year. We have been running a deficit for at least the last two years, but anyone who has ever had to handle a budget knows that is not a sustainable model. So we are looking for more ways to bring the budget into balance.

One recent change is to begin charging a shipping fee for back issues of *Vermont Genealogy*. The cost of those back issues may also have to be increased, as the recent printing of the Oct 2006 issue came in at a little over \$5 per copy. Quite obviously, we can't afford to sell for less than publication costs!

Another issue is conferences. For the past several years the society has subsidized the cost of conferences to keep prices down for members. Costs of meals, facilities, equipment and speakers continue to rise, and the cost to attendees can be expected to rise as well. We will work hard to keep the costs of conferences affordable.

Healthy membership growth would probably be one of the fastest routes to recovery of our fiscal health. It is hoped that the new website will prove to be one way to attract new members and to retain those loyal members who have supported the society over the years. In the meantime, your ideas and comments are solicited. We exist to serve you, the members, and your feedback is important.

### Rutland County, Vermont

**Probate Extracts,  
Rutland District  
Probate Court.  
Volumes 1-8, 1781-1814.**

Margaret R. Jenks  
Danielle L. Roberts  
Dawn D. Hance, editor  
148 pages, indexed

\$25.00 post paid  
Add sales tax if mailed to a  
New York address.

Make checks out to:  
Margaret R. Jenks  
24 Mettowee Street  
Granville, NY 12832



### Vermont Families Editor Wanted

The Genealogical Society of Vermont is seeking an interested and qualified person (or persons) to be editor for *Vermont Families in 1791*, Volume 3. As you may know, Drew Bartley, current editor of *Vermont Genealogy*, oversaw the publication of the first two volumes of *Vermont Families*. As the editor of those two award-winning volumes, he received many more submissions, and currently has in his files enough for a volume 3, and possibly a volume 4.

The publication of a series of volumes on this topic has long been an important project for this society, and it is important that we continue to pursue it. The first volume was issued in 1992 and has been through three printings. Volume 2 was published in 1997, and both have been extremely popular among those with Vermont ancestry.

We are eager to get this project rolling once more. If you have an interest in spearheading this project, please send a letter of interest, along with credentials for the job, to John Leppman, GSV Publications Chair, at 20 Thwing Lane, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

## New England Meeting Announcements

**March 11, 2007:** *Maine Genealogical Society*, Brunswick, ME. *Ulster Scots on the Coast of Maine.*

**Saturday, March 17, 2007:** NEHGS, Boston, MA. *Researching Immigrant Documents: The Pendergast Letters.*

**Wednesday, March 21, 2007:** NEHGS, Boston, MA. *New Englanders in the 1600s.*

**Wednesday, March 28, 2007:** NEHGS: Boston, MA. *Using Your Computer for Genealogical Analysis*, presented by Rhonda McClure.

**Saturday, March 31, 2007:** NEHGS, Boston, MA. *Writing Your Family History: Organizing Your Material and Getting Started.*

**Saturday, April 21, 2007:** NEHGS, Boston, MA. *Genetics and Genealogy.*

**Thursday - Saturday, April 26-28, 2007:** *New England Regional Genealogical Conference*, Hartford Convention Center, Hartford, Connecticut. See the enclosed information for details.

**May 10, 2007:** Maine Genealogical Society, Dover-Foxcroft, ME. Roxanne Moore Saucier presents *Tips on Writing the Perfect Query.*

**Saturday, May 12, 2007:** *GSV Spring meeting*, Holiday Inn, Rt. 7, Rutland, VT. GSV member Peggy Jenks will speak on "A Case Study or What Can be Found in a Probate Record;" David Allen will present "Using Old Maps to Find Your Ancestors, or Where Did Granddad Live?"; and David Coffin will speak on "Vermont Civil War Sites."

**Saturday - Sunday, June 23-24, 2007:** *Vermont History Expo*, Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Tunbridge, Vermont.

**Saturday, July 14, 2007:** *Massa-*

*chusetts Genealogical Council Annual Seminar*, Conference Center, Marlborough, MA. Marcia Melnyk will give four intermediate lectures with plans for other introductory lectures. Registration is \$60.

**Sunday, September 9-16, 2007:** NEHGS, Boston, MA to London, UK. *English Family History Research Tour to London.*

**September 13-15, 2007:** *Towne Family Association 27th Annual Reunion*, Peabody, MA.

**Saturday, October 20, 2007:** *GSV Fall meeting*, Place to be announced, likely in northeast Vermont.

### Towne Family Association 27th Annual Reunion

Descendants of William and Joana Blessing Towne, including collateral lines Barton, Bowden, Cummings, Estey, Gould, Havens, Nurse/Nourse, Perkins, etc. will meet September 13—for their 27th Annual Reunion at the Peabody Marriott Hotel in Peabody, Massachusetts.

Meeting information is available from Wayne M. Riggle, 2303 Appalacin Blvd., Arden, NC 28704; e-mail [rigglew@bellsouth.net](mailto:rigglew@bellsouth.net). Membership information is available through Virginia Towne, 15237 Pine Drive, Renton, WA 98058; e-mail [vtowne@cas.washington.edu](mailto:vtowne@cas.washington.edu).

Reservations for the Peabody Marriott can be made by calling toll free 1-800-801-0099.

### Research Contest

From time to time the newsletter will sponsor a contest focused on a genealogical question. This issue offers a copy of *Arlington Along the Battenkill* for anyone that can answer this two part question:

What is the oldest charitable organization in the United

## Godfrey Memorial Library Family History Contest

The Godfrey Memorial Library 2007 Family History Essay Contest is accepting submissions post-marked by Friday, March 31, 2007. The contest has two divisions. Division I is open to all students in grades 5 through 8 and Division II is open to students in grades 9 through 12.



Entries in Division I will be judged on organization, style, creativity and presentation. Essays must be at least 500 words, typed, double spaced, and limited to the biography of one person in their family line. The subject of the essay should have been born before 1937.

Division II entries will be judged on the same criteria as Division I with the addition of showing their documented sources.

The top three Division I winners will receive a \$50 US Savings Bond. In Division II the first place winner will receive a \$250 US Savings Bond. Second and third place winners will receive a \$50 US Bond.

Details are available from the Godfrey Memorial Library by calling (860) 346-4375, by e-mail at [library@godfrey.org](mailto:library@godfrey.org) or at the website: [www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org).

States, and why would a genealogist want to know this?

Send your answer to the editor, Bill Budde. In case of a tie a winner will be chosen at random from all correct answers.

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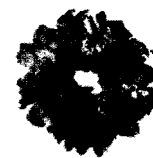
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## Description of a Mortuary Wreath



*The following item was in the Community Club file at the Russell Vermontiana Collection. It seems like an early form of scrap booking. The original was seen in Waterbury, Connecticut. Imagine finding this in your grandmother's attic.*

"The old lady whose work it is, and on whose parlor wall it hangs, made both wreath and frame in memory of her husband who died about four years before.

She was the third wife, and in her work she made use of relics of the "dear departed," and of his former wives'. The old lady's words are occasionally given.

The frame was made of putty into which, while soft, the widow had placed the following articles:- In the centre of the top cross piece was his spectacle-case. Under this was a

small bottle half filled with pills which he had not taken. Then came stones of all shapes and sizes which he had treasured.

Next his jack-knife, "a piece of hoarhound candy which he had not eaten", a small glass for measuring medicine, buttons of all kinds from his clothes, a number of watch keys, a small bottle filled with "chese made by his first wife", and a smelling bottle "used by the wife before me"

The space between these things were filled in with cherry and plum pits, and nuts of different kinds. Enclosed in the frame was a picture of "the dear departed".

The wreath about the photograph consisted of leaves each made of either some of his coat, vest, pants, suspenders, neck-ties, hat-

band or shoes. The shirt in which he died was honored by having made from it a bird — too wonderful for description. Just outside of the wreath was placed a suspender buckle, a watch chain, and one small festoon "made of the hair of the mother of the wife before me". Some of "his" hair was made into a tendril and the stamens of one of the flowers were made from the inside lining of his coffin".

One side of the wreath was a bunch of raisins "he" brought her the winter before he died saying: Now don't cook any, but eat every one".

Balancing the raisins on the other side of the wreath were three wires, each supporting one of his teeth, and behind them his tooth-pick."

## Rutland County, Vermont Probate Extracts

RUTLAND COUNTY VERMONT  
PROBATE EXTRACTS, RUTLAND  
DISTRICT

PART 1, VOLUMES 1 - 8, 1781 -  
1814

Margaret R. Jenks, Danielle L. Roberts, Dawn D. Hance

In compiling this book, we have abstracted every item and entry, page by page, in Volumes 1-8 of the Rutland County probate records, covering the time period from the establishment of the Probate Court in Rutland County, to early in the year 1814, the end of Volume 8. All items of genealogical interest have been included: wills, inventories, administrator's accounts, receipts, petitions, guardianship, and other data pertaining to the probate of an estate. The records in these books were recorded by the court registrar.

Dawn Hance, Rutland Historian, has checked the books at the court house in cases where the films are illegible, or pages were not filmed, and some of the packets. She has also listed the packets by number. Her extensive knowledge of the area has added much detail to these records. Her extractions of the Rutland Herald and other early Rutland area newspapers have added more data.



We expect to continue this series to about 1850 when full names appear in the census records. Probate records for the Fair Haven District are also being compiled. Unfortunately two fires have plagued the Fair Haven District. When the district was set off from Rutland, William Ward of Poultney was the first Probate Judge. About 1797 his

home burned along with the first two volumes of probate records. A second fire on 2 January 1862 burned all of the Poultney vital records, deeds, and town records, along with Volume 7, December 1807 - February 1811; Volume 9, January - December 1813; and Volumes 12-18, July 1824 - April 1842, of the probate records.

It will be noted that many of the estates mentioned in these early volumes are for residents of Addison, Chittenden and Orleans Counties, Vermont.

Also, numerous estates were probated in Rutland County for residents of other states who held some property in Rutland County. And some records show property held in former homes. The book includes six pages of front material, 142 pages in the body, 4,400 names, and an every name indexed.

## GSV Publications

The society offers the following publications for purchase by our members and readers. GSV members receive a 10% discount on the purchase price. Postage and handling is extra—please add \$3.50 for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item in the same order to the same address. Mail your checks, payable to GSV, to:

**Genealogical Society of Vermont, P. O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014**

***Vermont Families in 1791, Vol. 1.***  
Scott A. Bartley, ed., 1992, 281 pp.,  
hardbound. **Out of print.**

GSV 1, \$27.00 members; \$30.00  
non-members.

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.

***Vermont Families in 1791, Vol. 2.***  
Scott A. Bartley, ed., 1997, 304 pp.,  
hardbound.

GSV 5, \$27.00 members, \$30.00  
non-members.

This second volume covers 107 families, has improved formatting and more complete information on the third generation of early Vermonters.

***Vital Records of Putney, Vermont to the Year 1900.*** Compiled and edited by Ken Stevens, 1992, 406 pp.

GSV 2, \$27.00 members, \$30.00  
non-members.

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.

***Vital Records of Rockingham, Vermont and the Records of the First Church of Rockingham.***  
Reprinted from the early 1902 and 1908 first editions, newly indexed

by Christopher T. Norris and Scott A. Bartley, 323 pp., hardbound.

GSV 3, \$27.00 members, \$30.00  
non-members.

Reprinted from the rare first editions of 1908 and 1902, this is an important source of 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 10,00 names.

***Georgia, Vermont Vital Records.***  
Peter S. Mallet, ed., 1995, hard-

bound.

GSV 4, \$27.00 members, \$30.00  
nonmembers.

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, and Methodist Church of Georgia and North Fairfax.

***Member Research Directory.***  
Janet E. Induni, compiler, 1998, pp. 63, paper. For GSV members only.

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Please include your membership number for renewals and member discounts.

The Newsletter is

A Quarterly Publication of the  
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VERMONT

## Want To Contact Us?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Moving? Let Us Know

Please inform GSV if you are plan-  
ning to move. Without a notice about  
your move the Society must pay for  
each publication the Post Office for-  
wards to your new address. Send no-  
tices to Diantha Howard, 57 East  
Shore North, Grand Isle, VT 05458

## Advertising Policy

The newsletter accepts paid advertising at  
\$3.00 per column inch. It must relate to  
genealogy, preferably Vermont, and must  
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wording for the ad. *GSV offers no war-  
ranty on the services of advertisers.*

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GSV 5, \$3.00.

The directory lists addresses and  
research interests for a majority of  
the GSV membership. Each mem-  
ber listed in the directory provided  
up to five surnames of Vermont  
families on which he or she might  
like to share information.

**Windsor County, Vermont Pro-  
bate Index, 1778-1899.** Scott An-  
drew Bartley and Marjorie-J.  
Bartley, compilers, 2000, 560 pp.,  
hardbound.

GSV 6, \$45.00 members, \$50.00  
nonmembers.

This compilation is a comprehensive  
index of all files in the two Probate  
Court Districts of Windsor  
County—Windsor and Hartford.  
The records cover the period from  
the earliest records in 1778 through  
the end of the nineteenth century,  
more than 20,000 probate files. The  
files are indexed by the name of the  
major party in the case, place of  
residence, probate district, type of  
record, year, and volume in which  
the record is found.

**Index to Branches & Twigs,  
1972—1995.** Robert M. Murphy, ed.  
2000, 572 pp., hardbound.

GSV 7, \$58.50 members, \$65.00  
nonmembers.

The long-awaited every-name index  
to GSV's *Branches & Twigs*, pub-  
lished for 24 years in 96 issues. The  
180,000 name entries include every  
name mentioned in every issue, ex-  
cept those cited in connection with  
Society business, those mentioned  
in a purely casual historical context,  
and the ancestry service ("Apple  
Orchard") feature, which was alpha-  
betically arranged. Separate sec-  
tions of this work list the coverage  
of each Apple Orchard installment,  
and provide a full author and title  
index to book reviews. *Branches &  
Twigs* included immense quantities  
of information of interest to Ver-  
mont family historians.

**Sudbury, Vermont: Transcrip-  
tion of Vital Records and Gene-**

**alogies of Residents.** Mary Ann Z.  
Wheeler, 2000, 416 pp., hardbound.

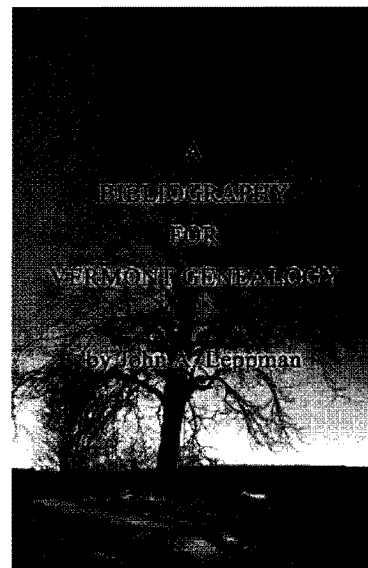
GSV 9, \$44.55 members, 49.50 non-  
members.

This book is a comprehensive tran-  
scription 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 genea-  
logical resources available about a  
Vermont town. This is a cooperative  
publication between GSV and Pic-  
ton Press.

**A Bibliography for Vermont Gene-  
alogy, 2nd edition.** John A.  
Leppman, 2005, softbound.

GSV 10, \$9.00 members, \$10.00  
nonmembers. Mail orders should  
add \$1.50 for postage and handling,  
not the \$3.50 normally charged.

A new second edition of *A Bibliogra-  
phy for Vermont Genealogy* was un-  
veiled at the New England Regional  
Genealogical Conference in April  
2005. It includes about ten percent  
more listings than the first edition,  
mostly of material published since  
2000. It is keyed to Drew Bartley's  
*Genealogies Found in Vermont His-  
tories* (Vol. 10, no. 1 of *Vermont Ge-  
nealogy*, also designated GSV publi-  
cation number 10.).



Newsletter of the

## Genealogical Society of Vermont

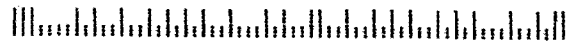
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### Dues Notice!

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Your membership expires on the date shown on the top line.

Dues are \$25.00 for US addresses.

Canada and Mexico are \$30.00, all other foreign addresses are \$35.00 in US funds.

Membership includes four issues of our journal *Vermont Genealogy* and four issues of our newsletter. These publications will keep you abreast of the genealogical news of Vermont and present current articles on source material, genealogy and queries. If you would like to receive a membership card, please include a self addressed stamped envelop with your dues. Send membership dues and applications to:

GSV Membership Chairperson  
57 East Shore North  
Grand Isle, VT 05458

All other correspondence, except for submissions and queries to *Vermont Genealogy* and items for the *Newsletter*, should be sent to the Randolph address given on the order form on page 4.

### 1834 Vermont Resolution

The following resolution was passed by the Vermont legislature and distributed by the Secretary of State in 1834:

“Resolved, The Governor and Council concurring herein, that the several town clerks in this State be requested to forward to the Secretary of State,... a list of all insane persons in their respective towns, with their names, age, sex, cause and duration of their insanity, whether confined or not, together with a memorandum in reference to their own pecuniary

ability and that of others liable for their support and maintenance....”

In my own Vermont research I have not seen a copy of this report. Given the time period and the information requested it seems that this could provide valuable genealogical information. This would also make a good article for Vermont Genealogy.

### Sharp and Company Printers

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