



GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF
VERMONT

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dates to remember

March 31 - April 3, 2005

New England Regional Genealogical Conference

Holiday Inn By the Bay

88 Spring Street

Portland, Maine

Please refer to the registration materials you received with your last copy of this Newsletter (which was mailed with the July 2004 issue of Vermont Genealogy). This should be a spectacular conference.

Meetings of the Genealogical Society of Vermont will take place on Saturdays in late April or early May and in October (probably the third Saturday of October) in 2005. More details later.

Uses and Mis-uses of Genealogy

The presidential election campaign has produced a couple of interesting, if not always enlightening, uses of genealogical data. Both major party candidates have a substantial allotment of New England roots, and the *New York Times* (September 19, 2004, Section 4, p. 2) produced a graphically clear presentation of the fact that they have at least eight common sixteenth- and seventeenth-century ancestors in New England or pre-emigration English families. At the closest, they are ninth cousins, twice removed. The Times cited Gary Boyd Roberts (who else?) as the source of this information, and he was at pains to point out that most pairs of twenty-first century Americans with any colonial New England ancestry, and that is a very large number of us, will have similar relationships to each other.

Less useful was an item in the July 12, 2004 issue of *Time* magazine, which notes the similarity of Bush's and Kerry's patrician New England roots and tries to establish Bush's blue-bloodedness by pointing out that he is a 13th cousin, once removed, of the Queen of England. So, I dare suggest, are millions of Americans,

not all of whom even live in the better quality mobile home parks.

Finding Family History

Notes from Myslowice

A few weeks ago I visited Myslowice (formerly Myslowitz), a rather nondescript small city in southern Poland. Before World War I, when it was in Germany, its claim to fame was that at its eastern edge, on a small river called the Przemsa, the imperial reaches of the Prussian Hohenzollerns, the Austrian Hapsburgs, and the Russian Romanovs met at a point folks called the Dreikaiserecke, the Corner of the Three Emperors. My great-grandmother was born and brought up there. Her father wrote a history of the city, published in 1867. They named the local library and a street or square after him.

No trace remains of such commemoration. The complexities of the political history of Upper Silesia erased just about all trace of German history from the region, and although Dr. Lustig's history quotes liberally from Polish documents, and I would guess that he could speak Polish, he was most assuredly German. I came past the municipal library, not named after him any more, but my own language deficits prevented my comfortably stopping in and asking if they even have a copy of Dr. Lustig's book on the shelf.

A few miles away, a locality recorded in family archives as the birthplace of my grandmother is now a forlorn industrial wasteland.

None of this came as any surprise to me. I went to these places to get a sense of what they now look like, and was pleased to have the chance. But I was struck by a sense of how fortunate we are in places like Vermont, where buildings and cemeteries and records and the landscape still give visitors some clarity of vision of their past. History is a fragile thing. We lose it easily and must never take for granted that it will be preserved.

ANOTHER NORTHEAST KINGDOM RESOURCES

Northeast Kingdom researchers now have an additional new source available to them.

Genealogical Gleanings from the North Union, West Charleston, Vermont, for the years 1854-1856, by Robert M. Murphy, 2004. The *North Union* newspaper was a weekly published from 10 June 1854 through 5 December 1856. It was the successor to the *Orleans County Gazette*, previously published in Irasburg, and contained many marriage and death records. This was at a time prior to the mandatory recording of vital records by the towns. Included in this 75-page document are extractions of marriage and death notices, miscellaneous articles detailing marriage, death and family relationship information, probate notices, liberation notices, etc. All information was obtained from microfilmed copies of the newspaper at the Vermont State Library in Montpelier. Both an all-name as well as a place index are included at the end.

This document is available at the Vermont History Center in Barre.

Bob Murphy

A quarterly publication © 2004
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*.

Replies to: Claim your 15 Minutes of Fame!

POWNAI GRAVESTONES

Gravestones with only a few letters are very difficult to decipher. This last summer, the Pownal Historical Society washed stones at Pownal Center. Two primitive ones said only, "S W 1800" and "J W 1802." However these crude stones are in a row with "Welch" ones.

The correspondence file at the Bennington Museum Library has had letters for over fifty years, which seek the burial places of these two. They are Samuel Welch and his wife Jerusha, probably from Voluntown, CT, probably Mayflower connected.

Voluntown during the Great Awakening of the 1740s was the scene of much divisiveness. Ten male residents, who refused to pay the Church Tax, were put in the Windham jail for three months. (C. C. Goen, *Revivalism and Separatism*, pp. 196-7.)

Ted Atkinson, 170 Berkshire Drive, Williamstown, MA 01267, Member #2752

A VERMONT ANCESTOR WITH A SURPRISING LIFE STORY

My paternal great-grandfather, John Dutton was born 24 June 1818 in Royalton, Vermont. He served in the 1st Vermont Artillery, 11th Vermont Volunteers in the Civil War and was captured 23 June 1864 in the fighting near the Weldon Railroad south of Petersburg, Virginia. John died in Andersonville, Georgia prison 11 July 1864 and, according to federal records, was interred in the federal cemetery at City Point, Virginia. According, however, to the Town Clerk's records in Northfield, Vermont he died 11 January 1864 of sunstroke! Sunstroke in Vermont in January?? Note that the date of death varies only in the month. Since the Town Clerk attests that he is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Northfield, he must have been disinterred at City Point.

Robert C. Jackson, 23 Briarcliff Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-5805 (845) 462-3814 email: rcjaxon@aol.com Member #532

More replies please, editor.

THE BENNINGTON MUSEUM LIBRARY

Thanks to the generosity of Ted Atkinson, the Bennington Museum now has the complete Barbour Collection of Connecticut vital records. The collection consists of 98 rolls of microfilm. One set has the surnames from A to Z and the other has municipalities from Andover to Woodstock. This fills the largest gap in our collection for vital records. A couple of years ago we acquired (thorough Ted's agitation) the Vermont vitals to 1908, and they have been well utilized.

Tyler Resch

Beginning in November the Museum will be on winter hours again, open only 11-5 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Note: The Rutland Free Library has the same 98 rolls of microfilm of the Barbour Collection.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES WALTHAM, MA

Effective September 1, 2004, the National Archives in Waltham will no longer be open Wednesday evenings after 4:30.

The archives will continue to offer evening hours every Thursday from 4:30 -9:00 P.M., and will remain open on the first and third Saturday of every month.

This change is due to the cost of remaining open on an evening with limited patronage. Please contact the Archives Director by email at stuart.culy@nara.gov or toll free on (866) 406-2379 with your concerns.

MEETINGS

SPRING VOCA MEETING

The spring meeting of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association is planned for Saturday May 1, 2005.

Join VOCA and keep up with Vermont cemetery news. The dues are \$5 for 1 year, \$20 for 5 years. The meetings are held around the state on the first Saturday of May and October.

Are you searching for an ancestor's burial place? VOCA's publication, *Burial Grounds of Vermont* may help you find a "lost" cemetery.

The book contains a page listing the known cemeteries for each town in Vermont and map page showing where each cemetery is located. The actual inscriptions are not listed. VOCA does not answer genealogical questions.

Membership includes VOCA News. If you know of any goings on in a Vermont cemetery, editor, Robert Hooper would like to hear from you at 44 Charity St., Burlington, VT 05401, 802-862-0708 or at Hooper9999@aol.com

Please visit VOCA's web site at: <http://www. Dover.net/~hwdbry/voca/> for registration and ordering information.

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND TOURS

GETTING STARTED

This program is held the first **Wednesday** of every month, at 12 noon and 6 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, a tour of the 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" classes 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.

RESEARCH GETAWAY'S

Fulfill your dreams and your fan chart during Winter Research Getaway, February 24-26, 2005, or Spring Research Getaway, April 7-9, 2005. Each three-day program offers lectures, consultations with expert staff and time for individual research and problem solving. Multi-generational fan charts are available from the NEHGS Book Store at 1-888-296-3447.

RESEARCH WEEK IN WASHINGTON, C.D.

March 13-20, 2005

Watch *NewEnglandAncestors.org* for further details, or email tours@nehgs.org, or call Amanda Batey 1-888-286-3447

Pre-registration is required for the above programs. Contact the NEHGS Education Department, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116-3007; phone 1-888-286-3447 or 617-536-5740, ext. 226 or by e-mail education@nehgs.org or visit www.NewEnglandAncestors.org. Click on Education, then on NEHGS Events for full information.

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.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVESTONE STUDIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The twenty-eighth annual conference and meeting will be held June 22-26, 2005 at St. Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This is the first international conference.

Watch www.gravestonestudies.org for further details, registration forms and pictures of past conferences; or info@gravestonestudies.org. Conference pre-registration is required.

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.

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

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Wilmington, DE 19803

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research interests: Palmer, Pect, Taylor, Orvis

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Cornwall, VT 05753

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Montpelier, VT 05602

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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

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research interests: Tyler, Jordan, Atwell, Johnson

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email: lmeob@cox.net
research interests: Miller, Wilder, Dyer, Woods, Mandos

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PO Box 833
Wilmington, VT 05363

email: a3134@together.net
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Cemeteries of Georgia, Vermont
Contains all gravestones, 362 pages
\$15.00 plus \$5.00 postage, soft cover.
Order from: Peter Mallett
P.O. Box 2001, Georgia, VT 05468

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Chaffee, MO 63740

email: moo_cow_lover66@hotmail.com
research interests: Easton, Ketcham,
Balis, Sutherland, Cooley

6501
James E. Selleck
925 Halladay Road
Middlebury, VT 05753-9152

email: selleck05753@yahoo.com
research interests: Selleck, Hope, Elliott,
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6502
Jean Partlow
PO Box 9248
Cedarpines Park, CA 92322-9248

email: wordsnstats@msn.com
research interests: White, Horne,
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6503
Sharon K. Ridenour
508 San Juan Drive
Southlake, TX 76092

email: SKRide@yahoo.com
research interests: Brooks, Allen, Bryant,
Howard

6504
Caryn Johnson
1209 Madras Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

email: carynJ@att.net
research interests: McMaster, McMasters,
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6505
Constance Lancaster
PO Box 300
Saxtons River, VT 05154

email: lancaster@vermontel.net

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.

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.

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

BRANCHES & TWIGS

Complete runs of all 96 issues of *Branches & Twigs*, 1972-1995 are available in a number of libraries. See previous *Newsletters* for a listing.

If you know of other libraries with complete runs of *B & T*, please let your *Newsletter* editor know.

GSV GRANT PROGRAM

GSV has a grant program that helps to preserve old records. One of the projects has been to microfilm the records. Thus far, we have microfilmed church records for Middletown and Jamaica. Vershire is in the process of being done.

Do you know of any old records that should be microfilmed in order to preserve the information? If so, please contact one of the officers of GSV with

details. If you have any questions, you may also contact us. Submitted by Joann H. Nichols, 110 Chestnut Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301-6579; 802-254-9554; jnichols@sover.net

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.

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

HEREDITY

I asked once, "What does Heredity mean"? She replied, "Well, it's like this. If your Grandma didn't have any children and your mother didn't either, then you probably inherit a tendency not to have any children yourself. That is heredity."

Branches & Twigs, 10:4:134

January Hath 31 Days

"Kill your winter's pork the first of this month to have it spend well. Lay in a stock of fire wood while the sledding holds good.

"Horses permit not to stand in the cold air unless covered, after being exercised until they sweat.

"Much is lost at this season by trusting boys with the care of our barns. Why don't we see to them ourselves?"

The Ladies' and Gentleman's Diary and Almanac...1814, Brattleborough, Vt, William Fessenden, n.p.

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.

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.

\$30.00
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

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