



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Dates to remember

**Saturday - Sunday, June 25-26, 2005**

**Vermont History Expo Tunbridge Fairgrounds Tunbridge, Vermont**

A classic Vermont event, not to be missed. (See page 2)

**Saturday, October 22, 2005**

**GSV meeting**

**Dog Team Tavern**

**Middlebury, Vermont**

**Thursday - Sunday, April 26-29, 2007**

**New England Regional Genealogical Conference**

**Hartford, Connecticut**

Plans are already underway to hold NERGC two years from now at the newly developing conference center in Hartford. You will hear more about this as the event takes shape.

### Newsletter editor needed

Peggy Jenks has capably seen every issue of the GSV *Newsletter* to completion on schedule since soon after we started making it a separate publication. She has asked to be relieved of the job when a new editor can be found. Someone - or more than one someone - out there has the skill to do this job, and we are looking for you. You need some technical skill with preparation of copy for electronic or camera-ready submission to a publisher. Most of the actual writing is done by contributors. The job does not require editing of complicated genealogical copy; that sort of thing goes into *Vermont Genealogy*. Compulsive attention to deadlines, however, is very much an asset for the time-sensitive material which goes into the Newsletter. Knowledge of the world of genealogy and its events and issues will be an asset.

Anyone interested in working on this job is urged to contact GSV at our St. Albans mailing address, or send an e-mail to [john.a.leppman@dartmouth.edu](mailto:john.a.leppman@dartmouth.edu).

### New printer

Sharp Offset Printing in Rutland has done our printing, including *Vermont Genealogy*, the *Newsletter*, and special publications, for many years now. They have closed their business, so printing has moved to Daamen Printing Company in West Rutland. They are already showing their skill in getting the job done. We thank the folks at Sharp for the fine work they did for many years and for assisting in a smooth transition to a new printer.

### A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy, Second Edition

A new edition of *A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy* was unveiled at New England Regional Genealogical Conference in April 2005. It includes about ten percent more listings than the first edition, mostly of material newly published since 2000. It is keyed to Drew Bartley's *Genealogies Found in Vermont Histories* (Vol. 10, no. 1 of *Vermont Genealogy*, also designated GSV Special Publication No. 10). And it has a different picture of a tree on the front cover. The price is \$10.00; member discount makes that \$9.00. Mail orders should add \$1.50 for postage and handling.

## SO WHY LOCK UP THE BIRTH RECORDS?

[Note: The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2005 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.]

It seems that every week we hear of one more situation in which some politician or bureaucrat is trying to restrict access to public domain vital records. Everybody is trying to lock out everyone, including genealogists. Our right to access to public domain birth, marriage, and death

information is being threatened constantly under the guise of "preventing identity theft."

Balderdash!

(That's as strong a word as I will use in this family-oriented publication.)

I am sure that the politicians love the limelight back home when they can brag that they have taken action to "prevent identity theft." Heck, nobody is in favor of identity theft, right? Therefore, just proclaiming to have taken some token action under the smoke screen of "preventing identity theft" is sure to win a few more votes in the next election.

*"Facts? What facts? Don't bother me with facts, I've got a re-election campaign to win."*

Well, now a new study has provided genealogists with some hard facts. These facts should serve as pinpricks to any inflated claims of preventing something that never existed.

A new survey of 4,000 consumers, about 500 of whom were identity theft victims, was recently conducted by Javelin Research and the Better Business Bureau for CheckFree, Visa, and Wells Fargo Bank.

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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](mailto: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*.

This study is based on cold, hard facts, not the rhetoric or conjecture of someone who makes pronouncements not grounded in reality.

According to the people who were victims of identity theft, here are the eight most common sources:

1. Lost or stolen wallet: 29%
2. Fraud that occurs during an in-store or telephone transaction: 12.9%
3. Corrupt employees: 9%
4. Stolen mail: 8%
5. Spyware on the computer: 5%
6. Sifting through garbage: 2.6%
7. Computer viruses: 2.2%
8. "Phishing" through fraudulent e-mail: 1.7%

Take a close look at the above. Please note the rating for "obtained a record from the vital records department." Do you see it? I don't. The full report is quite lengthy. Here are a few other random facts extracted from the Better Business Bureau's announcement:

- Among cases where the perpetrator's identity is known, half of all identity fraud is committed by a friend, family member, relative, neighbor or in-home employee - someone known by the victim.
- A wide variety of metrics confirm that identity fraud problems are NOT worsening. In fact, the total number of victims is declining. The number of identity fraud victims dropped from 10.1 million in 2003 to 9.3 million in 2004.
- The median value of identity fraud crimes remained unchanged at \$750; however most identity fraud victims incurred no out-of-pocket costs.

You can read the full report on the Better Business Bureau's web site.

The next time someone claims that access to public records needs to be restricted in order to "reduce identity theft," let's ask an embarrassing question: "Show me some proof." Then, in the awkward silence that follows, let's ask that person to read the facts as proven by the Javelin Research and the Better Business Bureau report.

Here's a bit of advice to politicians and bureaucrats: please focus on real issues

where there is a demonstrated need. Otherwise, someone may just deflate your balloon.

My thanks to Peter Parkhurst for alerting me to the results of this new study.

Posted by Dick Eastman on February 22, 2005

## VERMONT HISTORY EXPO

All the Vermont genealogical and ethnic genealogical organizations, heritage societies, archival repositories will be represented at the Expo. There will be a quilt documentation and appraisal booth and the Vermont History Expo's "antique road show."

For full details visit [www.vermonthistory.org/expo/pages/special.htm](http://www.vermonthistory.org/expo/pages/special.htm). The admission is \$8.00 for adults, children & students \$4, each day with a special 2 day deal. Hours 10-5 each day.

## MEETINGS

### FALL VOCA MEETING

The fall meeting of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association is planned for Saturday October 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.

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](mailto:Hooper9999@aol.com)

## 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. Visit [www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org) for details.

## COME HOME TO NEW ENGLAND

June 19-26, 2005

July 31-August 7, 2005

This intensive week-long program is a special opportunity for all serious genealogists to immerse themselves in research at the NEHGS library. Highlights include lectures on methodology and genealogical research and one-on-one consultations.

## RESEARCH TOUR TO SALT LAKE CITY

October 16-23, 2005

Participants will be aided in their research by experienced and well known genealogists from the Society's staff who have frequently used the Family History Library and its resources.

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](mailto:education@nehgs.org) or visit [www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org). Click on Education, then on NEHGS Events for full information.

## THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

The Vermont Chapter of the Society of Mayflower Descendants holds two meetings a year. The next meeting will be on Saturday, June 25, 2005, at The Steak House in Barre, Vermont. The fall meeting will be on October 22, 2005 at The Dog Team Tavern.

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](mailto: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.

The conference will feature lectures, guided cemetery tours, slide presentations, exhibits, classes, documentation and conservation workshops. A feature this year will be the "Disaster Cemetery Tour" including the R.M.S. Titanic (1912) and the Swiss Air Flight 111 (1998) cemeteries.

Visit [www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org) for further details, printable registration forms and pictures of past conferences; or [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org). Conference pre-registration is required.

### 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.

The next annual convention of the **Chapman Family Association** will be held at the Holiday Inn, Williston Road, South Burlington, VT during June 3-5, 2005. All persons interested in the history and genealogy of the various Chapman Families are invited to attend. For information regarding the convention contact Mr. M.

### 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.

D. Chapman Morgan, PO Box 2325, Orcutt, CA 93457-2325 or Robert Chapman, 220 MacFarlane Dr., #904, Delray Beach, FL 33483. Those who wish to make reservations at the Holiday Inn, call 1-800-799-6363, Mention the CFA convention to obtain preferred rates.

The **Hildreth Family Association** will hold its annual reunion September 28 - October 5, 2005 in the Canadian Rockies. Please contact Ron Hildreth at 516-248-7877 or [RonaldBHildreth@aol.com](mailto:RonaldBHildreth@aol.com) for more information.

**Loveland-Howland Reunion.** The descendants of Robert (1765-1856) and Ruth (1775-1848) Loveland, and Caleb (1798-1859) and Elizabeth (1787-1870) Howland, Jr. of Pittsford/Brandon, VT area are invited to a family reunion August 6-7, 2005. Contact Grace Calvin by phone 802-273-2242; by e-mail [Amzgrace2@aol.com](mailto:Amzgrace2@aol.com); mail 6514 Monument Hill Road, Castleton, VT 05735 for further details.

The 2005 reunion of the **Sanborn Family Association** will be held at the Pittsfield, Vermont Recreation Area, north or Rutland, on Saturday and Sunday, August 6-7. For more information contact Mark Sanborn, president of the Association, e-mail: [snbrn1953@yahoo.com](mailto:snbrn1953@yahoo.com)

The **Sikes/Sykes Family Reunion** is scheduled for June 17-19, 2005 in Seattle, WA. Contact Sikes/Sykes Tributaries, 506 Bosque Vista, San Antonio, TX 78258-3245 or see: <http://sikes-sykes.families.rootsweb.com/Index.html> for more information.

The annual meeting of the **Towne Family Association** will be held September 29 - October 2, 2005 at the Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT. Contact the Executive Office, 15237 Pine Drive, Renton, WA 98058, 206-227-8824, [vtowne@cas.washington.edu](mailto:vtowne@cas.washington.edu).

### BOOK REVIEW POLICY

Books for review should be sent to John A. Leppman, 20 Thwing Lane, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

### 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; 22:2,4; 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; 8:1,2,4.

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

### Contributions to the Permanent Fund

None

All donations to the Permanent Fund will be gratefully acknowledged.

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

### 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

## THE YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER SMITH AND JONES AND BROWN

by Fairfax Downey

Summer was skipped entirely in 1816 -- "Eighteen-Hundred-and-Froze-to-Death," shivering Yankees dubbed it. There was frost or snow every month of the year as far south as the Ohio and Potomac Rivers; even in Norfolk, Virginia, ice was reported on the 16th of May.

Farmers wore overcoats, mittens and ear muffs to do their spring planting. A freeze in June, with six inches of snow blanketing New England, killed many lambs, all the vegetables and thousands of birds; there were five inches of snow in Pennsylvania.

Yet on June 23, Massachusetts sweltered in a three-day torrid spell, with temperatures to 101. By July 4 New Englanders again wore overcoats. Cold in August killed the New England corn. Dearth of corn meant a pork shortage, so salt mackerel became standard diet and 1816 acquired another name, "Mackerel Year." A brief spell of good weather in September, and it was winter again - or still. October brought 12 inches of snow in Massachusetts.

It was probably cold everywhere that year. The London *Times* recorded a "baneful year... a visitation from Heaven." In Sweden there were prayers all summer for warmth enough to save the crops. Groping for an explanation for such weather, people blamed sunspots, which were visible without telescopes for several days. Scientists have since surmised that the dust from the great volcanic explosions of 1815 in the Dutch East Indies had cut off the sun's rays.

But weather may make history. Discouragement and destitution caused by the "Year Without a Summer" contributed materially to the great migration from New England in 1817 that established the Middle West.

Baltimore Sun.

This undated clipping, but probably before 1950, was found in my Grandmother's genealogy notebook. Peggy Jenks

I've pointed 'em in Savage, I've run 'em down in Burke,  
Through Hotten's lists and others I've warmed into the work,  
Till now I've got 'em sorted and set out row by row,  
Two, four and eight, and so on, as far as they will go.  
As they lie spread before me my pride is taken down  
By an over great proportion of Smith and Jones and Brown.

I've stalked a herd of nobles and backed into a king,  
So that ancestral corner is quite a proper thing,  
And as for lesser liars, celebrities or cranks,  
I've resurrected all I own, to decorate the ranks.  
But *they* make no impression when they are reckoned with  
Humiliating numbers of Brown and Jones and Smith.

I have no foolish scruples about making a missing link,  
But forge 'em quite as deftly as Mr. Burke, I think,  
My flying leaps and guesses are always to the good  
And fill a link as nearly as any old !ir could.  
But still with all my efforts my heart is secret owns  
That mainly I'm compounded of Brown and Smith and Jones.

My Smiths are not connected with famous of their kind,  
My Browns and Jones did nothing much so far as I can find;  
But I've a consolation when tempted to ask why  
It seems to me quite likely they were just as good as I.  
And how can I be doubtful about my kin and kith  
If I'm a living sample of Brown and Jones and Smith?

By "Anonymous," it first appeared on the back of the front cover of *Pelliana*, 2:2, 1935. *The American Genealogist*, XV:3. January 1939, p. 192.

## CLAIM YOUR 15 MINUTES OF FAME!

Have you recently made an important genealogical discovery through some innovative use of resources?

Have you found a Vermont ancestor with a surprising life story?

Have you encountered some unexpected gravestone inscriptions?

Have you had other experiences you'd like to share with other Vermont Genealogists?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please send your story to the *Newsletter* editor so the next issue won't have a blank column. We will publish as many contributions of general interest as space permits.

**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.

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.

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

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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:

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