



GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF  
VERMONT

# NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Dates to Remember

Saturday, May 6, 2006

#### GSV meeting

Place to be determined, probably in southeastern Vermont

Wednesday – Saturday, August 30  
– September 2, 2006

#### Federation of Genealogical Societies conference

Hynes Auditorium and Sheraton Hotel

Boston, Massachusetts

This is one of the leading annual genealogical gatherings on the calendar. This year the New England Historic Genealogical Society will be its host organization. They anticipate over 150 lectures in the four-day event, exhibitors from all over the country, and some 1500 to 2000 attendees.

Saturday, October 21, 2006

#### GSV meeting

Place to be determined, probably in northwestern Vermont

Thursday – Sunday, April 26-29, 2007

New England Regional Genealogical Conference  
Connecticut Convention Center and Hartford Marriott Downtown Hotel

Hartford, Connecticut

GSV is signed up to be a sponsor of this conference, as it has been of all of the conferences in this popular more-or-less biennial series. Your support of GSV helps make it possible for us to serve the genealogical community as we sponsor these conferences.

Lecture proposals are now being accepted for this conference. If you would like to be considered as a speaker, please send your proposal to

the conference program chair, Allison L. Ryall, 32 Arundel Road, Raymond, Maine 04071, <allison@allisonryall.com>. Please put "NERGC 2007" on the subject line of e-mails. Allison would like to have proposals by March 1, 2006. The conference theme is "New England Connections," and preference will be given to talks which offer enlightenment on finding ancestors who immigrated to and migrated out of New England. Talks which help people find material in New England repositories, locate obscure sources, or use technology beneficially will be appreciated. For a more detailed copy of the NERGC Call For Papers, contact John Leppman at <john.a.leppman@dartmouth.edu>.

### Vermont Coalition for Open Government

Please see Bob Murphy's note elsewhere in this Newsletter about this new initiative. Genealogists don't find themselves in the midst of political lobbying very often, and GSV is most certainly not a lobbying organization, but there are times when we do advocate for efforts to assure that laws and regulations serve our needs appropriately. Excessive security around public records which we use lawfully and appropriately serves no public need. GSV will continue to monitor this issue, and as Bob points out, involvement in this coalition would benefit from some volunteer time by one or more members who can get to meetings in the Montpelier area.

### BOOK REVIEW POLICY

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

## VERMONT COALITION ON OPEN GOVERNMENT

In August of this year GSV was invited to participate in the formation of a coalition on open government in Vermont. The movement was spearheaded by Mike Donoghue, Executive Director of the Vermont Press Association. Among the others present during the first organizational meetings were representatives of such diverse groups as the Vermont Library Association, the League of Women Voters, Project Sunshine, the American Civil Liberties Union, and others. I was at those first meetings as a representative of GSV.

The tendency toward secrecy in government at all levels is of interest to us all. We in the genealogical community have seen attempts in the past to limit access to records we all feel are essential to good genealogical research. We can expect continued future attacks on open access to vital records and other important public records in the name of national security, identity theft issues and

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News, articles and comments  
should be mailed to:

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e-mail: [mjenks@capital.net](mailto:mjenks@capital.net)

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

personal privacy. Already we have limited access here in Vermont to probate records, and there are those who would limit or ban access to other types of records we often use. Indeed, we all know of similar successful efforts to limit access in other states.

The other organizations forming this coalition support our views on open access to genealogically significant records, but have additional concerns as well. Those concerns include the tendency for governmental bodies to over-use the executive session in their meetings, the tendency for local or state officials to deny access to records that should clearly be accessible to the public, and the difficulty that ordinary citizens face in attempting to gain access. Faced with denial of access, an individual may eventually prevail if he/she is willing and financially able to use the court system. The Vermont Attorney General should be the one enforcing the open government statute, but in a case against the state, he/she ends up defending the state, not the citizens.

Vermont is one of the few states in the U.S. that has, until now, not had a coalition on open government. The current effort is intended to remedy that situation, and to create a group with more clout in this area than any one of our individual organizations would have. The GSV Board recently met and discussed the VCOG (as it is apparently to be called), and our willingness to continue involvement with it.

Those gathered around the table, already heavily involved in GSV activities, were unable to commit to being the official GSV representative to this group, however. If you are a GSV member in the Montpelier area and would like to get involved, please contact either me or John Leppman. Continued GSV involvement in this organization

will be in the best interests of us all.

Bob Murphy  
[rmm@sover.net](mailto:rmm@sover.net)

## MEETINGS

### SPRING VOCA MEETING

The spring meeting of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association is planned for May 6, 2006 at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse in Springfield, VT.

### 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. Pre-registration is not necessary. Visit [www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org) for details.

### The Association for Gravestone Studies Annual Conference

The twenty-ninth annual conference and meeting will be held June 22-25, 2006 at the Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA. The conference will feature lectures, guided cemetery tours,

slide presentations, exhibits, classes, documentation, conservation and photography workshops. 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.

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

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### 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; 24:2-4.

### 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

### 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 Nickerson Family Association is looking for "cousins". If you are a Nickerson by birth, marriage, adoption or a friend please consider joining NFA. We have a research center in Chatham, MA and are looking to expand and correct our genealogical data base through wider membership and participation. Well over 100 members attend the reunion each year from all over the US and Canada! Visit the web site at [www.nickersonassoc.org](http://www.nickersonassoc.org) or e-mail [nicks@cape.com](mailto:nicks@cape.com) for more information.

### 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 should 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 Order of the First Families of Maine

This new organization was founded September 27, 2003 by The Reverend Robert Toss Giffin, Founding President General.

The objectives are:

1. To honor those hardy and enterprising early ancestors who concentrated their efforts, labor and skills in building the enduring greatness of the State of Maine.
2. To promote patriotism and pride in our beloved country by remembering and sharing exemplary deeds of our Maine ancestors.
3. To preserve and increase knowledge of the history of Maine by preservation of documents and the recording of family histories and traditions.
4. To teach and emphasize the heroic deeds of those who laid the foundation for the noteworthy state that Maine is today.

For further information, contact Marlene Wilkinson, Registrar General, 6876 Richard Wilson Drive, Millington, TN 38053-3934 [firstfammaine@earthlink.net](mailto:firstfammaine@earthlink.net)

### AUGUST NEWSLETTER

A number of copies of the August 2005 *Newsletter* were lost in the mail. There will be replacement copies available at the October 29 meeting at the Dog Team Tavern in Middlebury. Or, please notify Janet Induni at P. O. Box 1553, St. Albans, VT 05478-1006. Your *Newsletter* editor does not have the extra copies.

### 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

## 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>

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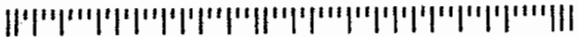
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