



Editorial

In this issue we complete Dick Eastman's thought provoking article on *Expanding the Reach of Genealogical Societies and Conferences*. While many societies have experienced declines in their membership and see the internet as the cause, Eastman offers a different perspective and different, empowering solutions. One of the most fruitful is the suggestion to offer our enthusiasm, talents and passion to different audiences. While attending conferences and seminars is satisfying, it's not the place we can expect to find new members for our organizations. Let's look for new ground.

Bill

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Conclusion of Dick Eastman's

Expanding the Reach of Genealogy Societies and Conferences

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://blog.eogn.com/>. The first part appeared in our August 2006 issue.

WARNING: This article contains personal opinions. The intended audience for this article is the members and officers of genealogy societies.

What we need is new blood. We need those mysterious people who are buying the software and surfing the web's genealogy pages and newsgroups. These people are in "stealth" mode; we know they are lurking out there someplace, but we have difficulty locating them. We

need to attract these people to both local and national genealogy conferences. If they could become "hooked" at the conferences, I bet a significant number of them would join local and ethnic genealogy societies. Yes, they could energize societies as we watch membership begin to increase.

So, how do we find and interest these people? We (the old-time members of the societies) have to go to the potential newcomers. We cannot wait for them to come to us. We cannot go to genealogy conferences that keep attracting the same crowd and expect our membership numbers to grow as a result. We have to seek out the potential newcomers wherever they are. And I assure you that is not at genealogy

conferences.

Two years ago I spent several days working in a genealogy society's booth at the Eastern States Exposition, an event locally referred to as "The Big E." This Exposition is similar to a state fair, except that it covers all six New England states. It was an eye-opening experience. More than one million people attended this 17-day event, and an estimated 750,000 of those people walked by the genealogy booth where I worked. To be sure, not all of the attendees stopped to talk, but thousands did. Yes, thousands. I think we (the society) talked with more people at this one 17-day event than we do the rest of the year at all the genealogy events combined.

(Continued on page 2)

President's (Farewell) Message

Passing the baton

At the October GSV meeting, I will conclude ten years as President of the Genealogical Society

of Vermont and pass the job on to a successor. Robert Murphy has allowed his name to be on the ballot to take the job over, and he will do it

well. Rest assured, ten years is far more than I intended when I took on the job, but I've enjoyed it thoroughly. Notice that I

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

Talking with the general public is a fascinating experience. To be sure, the conversations mostly were at an introductory level since most of these people had no idea who their great-grandparents were. We had a high-speed Internet connection in the booth and spent many hours looking at Social Security Death Index records, as well as a variety of Web sites in addition to our own. We handed out blank pedigree charts by the thousands, along with some advertising materials.

Not all of these people went home and started looking up their family trees that evening or the next day; but, a significant number did. I also believe that we planted many "genealogy seeds" that may not sprout for months or perhaps years. What we did do well is that we got many of these people to start thinking about their family heritage, people who would not have started that thought process if we only exhibited at genealogy events. I believe that some number of these people will join a genealogy society in the coming weeks, months, and years. Admittedly, I do not have an accurate yardstick to measure the success of our efforts at this non-genealogy event. All I have is intuition and some one-on-one feedback from individuals. Yet every staff member and volunteer who worked in the genealogy booth at this event has expressed satisfaction with our efforts and believes that we "did good."

Other venues that would seem suitable for a genealogy society's booth would include:

- Any event that celebrates history, such as "Old Time Days"
- Any ethnic heritage events, such as St. Patrick's Day celebrations
- State, county and local agricultural fairs

- Civil War re-enactments
- Revolutionary War re-enactments
- Highland games associations' events
- Antique auto shows
- Steam engine and old gasoline engine meets

I am sure that you can add to the above list. You can probably find other potential events within the next year in your vicinity.

In short, I would urge you and every other genealogy society member to creatively find new places in which to advertise your society's products and services. While it is good to advertise to genealogists, it is even more important to generate publicity among those who never heard of your organization. In short, you need to advertise to the general public. The only way to do this is to go out and find the general public at the places where the public gathers. It works best if the people you talk to have at least a casual interest in history and/or heritage, such as the people who attend the types of events I listed above.

I am reminded of a very old joke that has been told millions of times. Many years ago, a shoe manufacturer felt they had saturated the U.S., Canadian, and European markets. They already sold millions of pairs of shoes every year but wanted to increase those sales even further. Seeking new markets, they sent a salesman to darkest Africa where there were no shoe manufacturers.

The salesman wired back to the home office, "The people here do not wear shoes. There is no opportunity to sell shoes. I am returning home rather than wasting my time any further."

Undaunted, the home office sent another salesman known to have a unique way of looking at sales situations. A few days later he wired back, "The people here

do not wear shoes. The potential market is unlimited! Please send all the shoes you can spare, I am going to stay and make a fortune!"

The joke is an old one but perhaps it does point out that new viewpoints and new approaches are needed. I would suggest that it is time to throw away some of the ideas we have held for years.

How does your genealogy society "sell" its services and products? Are you seeking new members/customers in markets that are already saturated? Or are you seeking opportunities in places where genealogy is unknown? Where are you most likely to find new members?

Has your genealogy or local history society had any success publicizing its efforts and attracting new members via nontraditional methods? If so, would you mind sharing your success stories so that others could benefit from your ideas? Please post your stories and comments at the end of this article and tell what your society did, along with any description possible of the benefits derived. Other newsletter readers can see your comments immediately on the Web site and benefit from them, and you may get ideas to further your own efforts as well.



Answer to Last Issues' Question:

What number in genealogy follows the same pattern of increase seen when additional RAM is added to a computer?

The number of parents and grandparents double as the generations increase—2 (your parents), 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, and 1,024 for ten generations. A computer's Random Access Memory increases in the same pattern—128, 256, 512, 1024.

New England Meeting Announcements

November 12, 2006: *Maine Genealogical Society*, Brunswick, ME, *Rev. Clark Family*.

November 18, 2006: *Connecticut Society of Genealogists*, Middlebury Library, Middlebury, CT. Virginia Banerjee presents *Tax and Land Records*.

January 11, 2007: *Maine Genealogical Society*, Dover-Foxcroft, ME. *Brickwalls and Burnout: Some tips to ease the pain*.

February 11, 2007: *Maine Genealogical Society*, Brunswick, ME. *Library Computers*.

February 17, 2007: *Connecticut Society of Genealogists*, CSG office, East Hartford, CT. Janet Wallace presents *Preparing for Genealogy Conferences*.

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

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*, Place to be announced, likely in the Rutland area

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

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

didn't say I've enjoyed every minute of it, but actually that would pretty nearly be true. GSV is far from the most exalted organization in the world, or even in the genealogical world, and it is far from the least. Like all genealogical organizations, it is smaller in membership than it was a decade or two ago. We know that the Internet is one of the reasons for this decrease in size of formal genealogical organizations. We continue to discuss how we can continue to be relevant. We expect to stay alive and thriving. I will continue to be involved and interested. I owe no less than that to an avocational interest which has held my attention since I was a teenager and to a state for which I have an almost pathological affection.

Dates to Remember (Please see the *New England Meeting Announcements* section for a complete list of meetings)

Thursday - Saturday, April 26-28, 2007

New England Regional Genealogical Conference, Hartford Convention Center, Hartford, Connecticut

Registration materials for this conference will be coming with a forthcoming issue of the *GSV Newsletter*. (See the insert in this issue.) Or check the NERGC Web site, www.nergc.org. It is not too early to make reservations with the

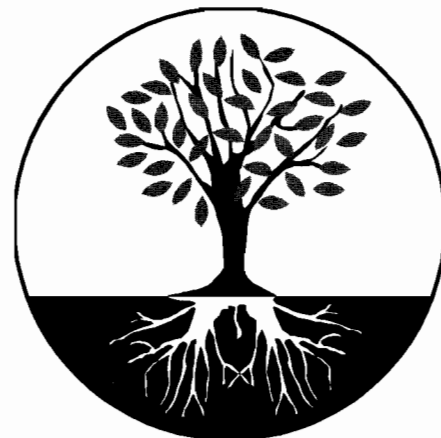
host hotel, Hartford Marriott Downtown, toll-free reservation number 866-373-9806. This reaches a central reservation facility, and there have been some instances of difficulty getting the person at the other end of the line to understand the request, but be patient. Be sure to indicate that you will be attending NERGC (Group code NGCNGCA) to take advantage of the special room rate for the conference, \$125 per night for a single or double room. The Web site at which reservations can also be made is <http://www.hartfordmarriott.com>. All Marriott rooms are non-smoking. The direct line number for the Hartford Marriott Downtown is 860-249-8000; Fax 860-249-8181. There is nothing to be gained from using these numbers for reservations; you will be switched to the central facility. There are, of course, other accommodations available in Hartford. The convention rate and convenience to the meeting make the Marriott your best bet in most cases.

If you plan to attend this conference and can spare some time to help out at the GSV booth and/or volunteer a bit of time to help the conference by assisting with signs, staffing the registration booth, or taking care of other needed tasks, please let John Leppman know at john.a.leppman@dartmouth.edu promptly.

Glover Historical Society Queen of Hearts Project

The Glover Historical Society is soliciting stories of women who lived in Glover, Vermont for something called the *Queen of Hearts* project. The women in question need not have been anyone prominent. They want eventually to have a file on any and every woman who has lived in Glover.

Contact information for the historical society is Glover Historical Society, P. O. Box 208, Glover, VT 05839



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

As I am sure most members of GSV are aware, the genealogical magazine *Heritage Quest* ran into financial troubles and recently ceased publication. This reminded me of some Vermont (and Taplin family) confusion that appeared in the Jan/Feb 2001 issue of *Heritage Quest*, an issue devoted to the American Revolution. Following is my letter to Leland Meitzler, then editor of *Heritage Quest*, which addressed these confusions. Meitzler requested permission to publish my letter, which I granted. But the letter never appeared in *Heritage Quest*.

Please feel free to publish the letter, which is pretty much self-explanatory, in the *GSV Newsletter*, if you believe that GSV members would be interested in its substance and, as I hope, amused by my comments.

"I was pleased to see a picture in the Jan/Feb 2001 issue of *Heritage Quest* (p. 19) of the gravestone [in a Montpelier Cemetery] of my first cousin (four times removed), Guy C. Taplin, who died on Dec. 1, 1846. The picture was used to illustrate your magazine's very fine article on finding Revolutionary War ancestors. There are a few reasons, however, that Guy C. Taplin might not be the ideal person to illustrate an article on Revolutionary War ancestors.

"First, Guy C. Taplin's full name was Guy Carleton Taplin. He was named for British General Sir Guy Carleton who in 1776 led a British invasion [from Canada] of the new United States! During the Revolution, Carleton was Governor-General of the British Province of Quebec and from 1781 until the war ended in 1783, he was Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in America. (As Lord Dorchester, Guy Carleton returned to Canada in 1786 and for the next ten years served as Governor of British North

America.)

"Second, it would have been particularly difficult for the Guy C. Taplin of your gravestone to have fought in the American Revolution for he was not born until April 29, 1804, more than twenty years after the peace treaty that ended the conflict. (A careful look at the gravestone photo shows that he died aged 42 years.)

"And third, both the Guy Carleton Taplin of your gravestone photo and his older cousin of the same name (born 1793) were the grandsons of Col. John Taplin, a storied veteran of British Provincial Forces during the French and Indian War. Col. Taplin was a prominent early Vermont settler [Newbury and East Corinth] and the first judge to hold court in what is now Northern Vermont. During the Revolution he was suspected of being a Tory sympathizer, and in fact, he was an informant (code-named "Tanner") for British Secret Service operatives in Canada. (At a critical moment late in the war, however, when the British called on

Col. Taplin to assist in kidnapping a strong supporter of American independence who happened to be an old French and Indian War comrade-in-arms, Col. Taplin betrayed his British Secret Service colleagues and warned the British target who escaped capture.)

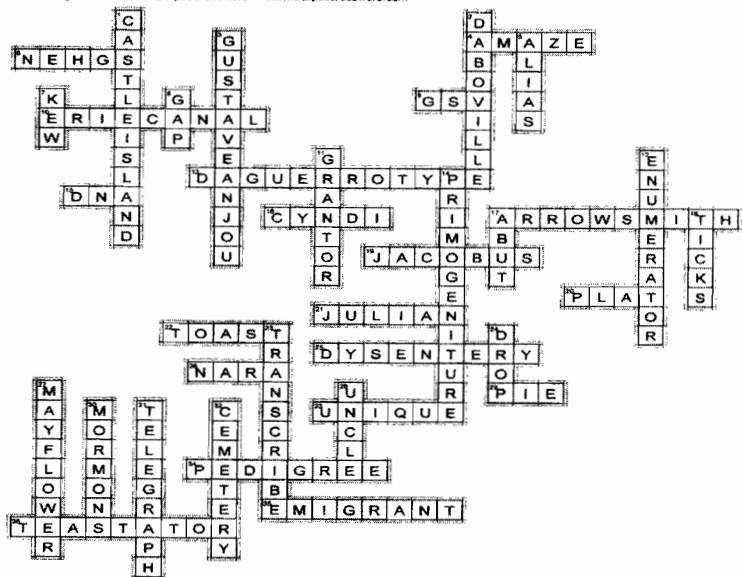
"In spite of its origins honoring a British commander of the American Revolution, the name Guy Carleton Taplin really has a nice 'ring' to it and it has been used in the Taplin family several times since the cousins mentioned above, most recently to my knowledge in 1954!"

To add a personal note, although I am retired in Sarasota, Florida, I grew up a Vermonter. Two strong interests of mine -- American history and genealogy -- are combined in the above letter. I am a former president of the Vermont Historical Society (1989-1993) and the Genealogical Society of Sarasota (2000-2002) and I hold a PhD (Univ. of Michigan) in American History.

Sincerely, Winn L. Taplin

GSV Puzzle 1

Created by Bill Budde with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com



The answer to last issue's crossword puzzle.

The Curious Journey of Mary Wright & Isaac Waterman

The Belfast, ME, Republican Journal of September 25, 2006 reported "Belfast police take on tombstone mystery. A tombstone dating back to 1775 was stolen from a Vermont cemetery more than 30 years ago and resurfaced in Belfast only to be stolen again." Friday, October 20, 2006 Bangor Daily News: The missing tombstone was recovered from a local church yard. The police are now focusing on locating its original home." The article continues listing a second old stone that was recovered. Belfast police detective McFadden contacted VOCA for help in finding the original home of these stones.

Back in the 1970s a journalist traveled around small VT towns looking for unusual tombstones. He is now terminally ill and in a nursing home. His wife took the two stones he had stolen, from their basement, to the transfer station. Steve Bogen of the Grove Cemetery in Belfast was called and rescued the stones. Then one was again stolen. Fortunately the thief, fearing prosecution, soon returned the stone. The single stone reads: "Mrs. Mary Wright wife of Mr. Abel Wright" and the second, a double stone: "Isaac Waterman died at the age of six months on Sept. 7, 1775 and Deliverance Waterman died at age of seven on Sept. 10, 1775 sons of Samuel & Sarah Waterman." On closer examination the stone reads, Deliverance died in her third year. Tom Giffin, VOCA president, has kept in touch with Belfast detective Mc Fadden on this story.

Tom Giffin, sent me a copy of the articles and at once I recognized the stones as the work of gravestone carver Gershom Bartlett. Back in the 1950s & 1960s, Dr. Ernest Caulfield wrote a series of articles on CT carvers. His search for "Hook & Eye man" took him up & down both sides of the CT River.

Dr. Caulfield visited the Pompanoosuc cemetery in north-east Norwich and noted many stones for

children who must have died in a 1775 epidemic. To his delight, the cemetery also contained both the original and a military stone for Gershom Bartlett who died in 1798, now identified as the "Hook & Eye" carver. Bartlett's wives and some of his children are in this cemetery. For the full details of Dr. Caulfield's search, see the Association of Gravestone Studies, Markers VII, 1991, pp. 311-337; reprinted from the Conn. Historical Bulletin, ca. 1967.

Locating the home of the two Waterman children's stone was relatively easy. Searching the IGI, I found a family in Norwich that lost 2 young children in 1775. The History of Norwich that is on line profiles the Watermans, early settlers of Norwich. The 1790 [Samuel] and 1800 [Lemuel, a misreading of the S] Norwich censuses list a Waterman family that fit the known family. Bob Murphy checked some records at VHS and found the vital records for the two children: Isaac Waterman, born 24 March 1775, died 3 Sept. 1775 age 5 months 10 days & Deliverance, a girl, born 24 May 1773, died 1 Sept. 1775 age 2 years 3 months 7 days, both children of Samuel Waterman of Norwich. The stone reads "died in her third year." This is one place the IGI has been proved correct. Samuel Waterman of Bozrah, CT, married 25 Feb. 1771, Sarah Woodward of Mansfield, CT and must have moved to Norwich soon after.

Nancy Osgood of the Norwich Historical Society, having received the above information from Tom and me, visited the Pompanoosuc or Waterman Hill Cemetery and confirmed that the Waterman children's stone was taken from there. Art Peale of the Hartford Historical Society went to the cemetery as well and kindly photographed the children's double footstone, the stone of the parents and of younger sister Abigail, who died in 1783. He also photographed the stones for Ger-

shom Bartlett & his wives.

The second stone is for Mrs. Mary Wright, wife of Abel Wright. The stone was broken above the dates. Without an exact date, the search has been more difficult. Early census records list several Abel Wrights in the area. The ones not in the CT River area were eliminated. Telling Dawn Hance of the stones, she went to the Rutland Library and located another Abel Wright, born Lebanon, CT Feb. 1828, married second 26 Nov. 1766 Lebanon, CT, Mary Lyman, born 14 Aug. 1748. They both died in Lebanon, NH

Recently, Art Peale contacted the Lebanon, NH Department of Public Works. Their lists included Mary Wright, died 1782, in the Old Pine Tree cemetery, the oldest in Lebanon. On November 13 Art, decided it was worth a try. His message begins "You should have been able to hear me in NY, Rutland and Norwich. I couldn't believe it." This was Dr. Caulfield's response when he found the Gershom Bartlett stone in Pompanoosuc. Art goes on to say: "Up the hill about 60 ft. I spotted Gershom Bartlett signature: diamonds." He then found a foot stone for "Abel Wright" and the broken base of Mary Wright's stone & other buried stubs in the same plot. Also, Irene, daughter of Abel & Mary Wright, died Aug. 1777 in her 4th year.

I hope I have given credit to all who have helped solve this mystery. Now we all await the final chapter of the story, the return of the stones to their rightful home.

PS. The stones have been returned to Tom Giffin who has returned them to Norwich and Lebanon. 12/24/06

Submitted by GSV member
Peggy Jenks

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 Vermonsters.

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, hardbound.

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

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Newsletter deadlines are
Dec 15 for the February issue
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Scott Andrew Bartley, Editor
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20 March Avenue
West Roxbury, MA 02132-2604
E-mail: YourGenealogist@aol.com

Copies of relevant **books for journal
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John A. Leppman
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Fairfax.

Member Research Directory.

Janet E. Induni, compiler, 1998, pp.
63, paper. For GSV members only.

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 Andrew 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 Ge-
nealogy, 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.).

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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.

Member Patricia Haslam reports that a survey of the existing gravestones in Morristown, Lamoille Co., Vermont has been compiled by Gloria Wing, Doug Churchill, and Francis Favreau. Paul Carnahan, VHS librarian, has been informed so that it can be added to the next edition of the Index to Cemetery Inscriptions for Vermont. The survey is in a spreadsheet format and is available through the town clerk's office: Mary Ann Wilson, P. O. Box 748, 18 Lower Main Street, Morrisville, VT 05661; phone: (802) 888-6370; e-mail: mawtclerk@pwshift.com.

Looking for information on the parents and place of birth of Laban Mattison/Matteson, blacksmith. He is known to have lived in Arlington, VT based on school, land and militia records for the period 1830 -1850. Naming patterns and known Mattison migrations suggest he came from the area of East or West Greenwich, RI. Suggestions can be sent to Bill Budde, 142A Munn Terrace, Arlington, VT 05250-8573.

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The Vermont Genealogy Journal,
the VGS Newsletter, as well as
Family Histories & Genealogies.

A 60 Year Heritage In Printing