



BRANCHES & TWIGS



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NEWSLETTER OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT

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WINTER, 1973-74

Carol Church, editor, Westminster West, RFD #3, Putney, VT 05346

OUR RETIRING PRESIDENT, LEON DEAN

Born Bristol VT Dec 8 1889, the son of Dr Ashbel Dean & Lillian Wills Dean. He is married to the former Hazel A Warden of Monroe NY. They have three married daughters who have added to the Dean family tree nine grandchildren.

Mr Dean has founded 3 societies associated with Vermont history. Always interested in genealogy (his ancestors arrived in America shortly after the Mayflower) and realizing the need for such an organization, he founded the Genealogical Society of Vermont in 1971. There were 11 people at the opening meeting. Membership has now grown to over 700 from 42 states & Canada. He was President of the Genealogical Society from the time of its founding until Oct 1973 when he decided to retire.

He is an active member of the Green Mt. Folklore Society of which he was a founder. This society recently observed its 25th anniversary. Mr. Dean is editor of its publication, The Potash Kettle.

The Vermont Old Cemetery Association was also founded by him in 1958. This group is working on the restoration of cemeteries throughout the state, also locating and mapping all Vermont cemeteries. After founding VOCA, Mr. Dean proved helpful when the Wisconsin State Cemetery Association and later the Maine Cemetery Association were begun.

The members of our society wish Mr Dean well on his retirement and look forward to seeing and Mrs Dean at future meetings.



FALLING LEAVES:

The annual Fall meeting of the Genealogical Society of Vermont was held Oct 20, 1974 at Weybridge Vermont with nearly 100 members in attendance. Our treasurer, Leo Fleury, reported that we have now received our Non-profit Organization status from the federal government. He also states that he has had a 23% response to the VT Library survey for genealogical materials which he instigated last summer.

One member suggested using postcards for notification of meetings; another member thought it might be printed on page 1 of "B&T". At the time of this issue your editor does not have this information.

The nominating committee consisted of Mrs Robert W Drake, Mrs Ruth Hesselgrave, & Mr Sanford Witherell. The officers they nominated were accepted unanimously, and are listed elsewhere in this issue under the heading BROKEN BRANCHES. The most important change of course was the retirement of our marvelous founder and president, Leon Dean, who was replaced by Mrs Louise Jacobs of Morrisville, VT. Louise was one of our vice presidents and is well qualified for the office.

A recent quarterly publication of the St Lawrence County (NY) Historical Society Association mentions Silas WRIGHT whose statue stood outside the church in Weybridge where we were meeting.

Our first speaker was Stuart Witherell - Judge of probate court, of Addison Co. Addison Co seat is at Middlebury and was patterned after Litchfield, Conn. First court was held in 1787 in the house which is now the DAR mansion. The first judge was John Strong who has been followed by 19 other judges. Addison Co was divided into two districts in 1824 and remained two districts until Feb 1 1959 when it again became one district. This court has records from 1824 til now from the New Haven district. A fire in 1852 destroyed the early records from 1787 to that time. These records are available for research. People are invited to either write or come in person. The court has statutory authority: setting up wills, appointing guardians adoptions, marriage waivers, corrections of birth notices etc or establishment of birth records for Social Security purposes. There is no fee charged for information, however there is a charge of \$1.00 per page for copies of pages of wills. Probate Court does NOT have a register of deeds. The individual towns have this, usually in the town clerks office. Judge Witherell later answered questions from the audience.

Mrs Vivian Kill of Sharon VT exceeded a question & answer period until lunch time. Notes taken during this part of the program reveal that: There is a BUMP family reunion every 3 yrs...Mr Bosworth Bump has the BUMP & BEACH family genealogies & is willing to look up information...Has anyone persued early Quaker records? Monthly meeting have names & info in them... A lot of Quaker records of Danby Vt are in Montpelier on microfilm... What happens when towns listed in the 1790 census no longer exist? Suggested you write to County clerk...Ever heard of a "Genealogy of houses"? Its finding out about the lives of the families who lived in your home before you... Sec. Bishop Butterfield has records of the Episcopal Church at Rock Point...Looking for pasanger lists? Try the Portland Maine Historical Society or the New England Historical & Genealogical Register. Also the Genealogical Society of Baltimore Maryland has a bibliography of passanger lists... Is there a HALL family Bible in some museum in VT?... School Records? Historical Socs are receiving old class pictures with names on the back...

The afternoon session started with A town clerk's view of us, presented by Mr Leon V Bushey, a former town clerk of Moncton VT. Always look at the land record books, says Mr Bushey, they list birth, death and marriages. This was their common record book. Be sure to give the various spellings of names. With lesser education than we have today, many people spelled a name the way it sounded to them. Different people had different accents thus creating different sounds and spellings of the same name. Writing 6 or 8 letters to town clerks isn't a good idea unless you tell her you've written to several others. This leaves several town clerks looking for items and using time for work that should be used somewhere else. Bible records may have listing of a child born which isn't listed in town records. Often there was no doctor at time of birth so it wasn't listed. Or the doctor may have come from an other town and the birth might be listed elsewhere. Proprietors records may be the first records of a town - they existed before town clerks records. Why no death records for some people? There are many reasons. Families lived far apart. There were no cemeteries. People were buried on private land or had just field stones for markers. Most town clerks will let you search the records yourself, especially if you give notice in advance of your coming. Towns sometimes have records that the Dept of Vital Stastics in Montpelier doesn't have. Conversely Vital Stastics may have records the towns don't have. So you should check both.

Our third speaker was Mary Rivard, reference librarian at St Michaels College, Winooski VT. She was librarian at Newberry Lib. in Chicago before coming here. Become interested in your local library. Learn what they have such as books on "How to use the library", "Handy book for genealogists" etc. YOU, the genealogist should also have these books. Government publications can be of interest to you. The Washington National Archives & Record Service has f district libraries or depositories with materials filed on microfilm, micro fiche, or micro cards. Any book from St Michaels College Library may be borrowed by inter-library loan; check your local library for this service. Public Archives in Canada has the best records of Canada. Quebec Archives in Quebec Can. has the 2nd best records of Canada. The Jesuits Library, Montreal, has a good collection, however you need special permission to enter the library to see the records. Louisiana State Library in New Orleans also has some excellent French records.

Time did not permit us to see the VOCA Sliderama which Merton Sage had planned to show us. On the night before our meeting your editor saw on television a program featuring Leon Dean and Merton Sage in a discussion on cemeteries, showing a few of his slides. I for one was looking forward to his program and hope it will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

BIDDING OUT:

Several family organizations have been brought to my attention and might be of interest to our readers: Mrs D W Leahy, 6629 West 87th St, Los Angeles CA 90045 has started a family newsletter, The PENN Pals, for those searching the PENN family of Virginia. Your editor has vol 1, issue 1 which may be borrowed same as exchange bulletins.

The Peter Willcocks Society, PO Box 1832, Kansas City, MO 64111, Laird M Wilcox, director, has sent us The Journal of the Peter Willcocks Soc. no. 1, July 1973. This also may be borrowed.

Mr Elbert Heath is head of the HEATH Family Assoc., Wickabog Valley Rd, West Brookfield, Mass 01585. We do not have a copy of their bulletin.

A quick check of the Ancestry Service list reveals 1 member interested in Heath, 1 member interested in Wilcox and noone working on Penn.

Merton Sage of Cambridge VT sent us a news clipping of letter to the editor written by Mrs. Ola A Johnson, 303 Linsey Lane, Hartselle Ala 35640 Mrs Johnson bought at auction an old photo album. Many of the pictures were made by Gauvin Studio of Burlington VT and spanned 200 yrs. A newspaper picture of Roy Gilman, Alfred & Elizabeth written on back of one of the older pictures. After the sale, Mrs Johnson contacted the man who had put it up for sale, and found he'd purchased it from an estate in VT. Anyone interested in obtaining this album may contact Mrs Johnson at the above address.

No new states added to our membership list. New Mexico has been deleted. Thought we'd also lost Alaska when our member there was transferred to FLA. However another member was transferred to Alaska thus keeping that state on our list. We're not too far from our goal of a member in every state.

Back issues may be purchased from our treasurer, Mr Leo Fleury, 164 Saratoga Ave, Burlington VT 05401. Vol 1, nos 1,2,3,4 vol 2, nos 1,2 cost 50¢ each. Index to vol 1, vol 2 nos 3,4 are \$1. ea

APPLE ORCHARD:

ANCESTRY SERVICE

Any member wishing to be listed in the ancestry service should please follow these directions.

1. On 1 sheet of paper make an alphabetical list of the surnames on your tree. (Parent, grandparent, etc. DO NOT list their children) Use maiden name for all females.
2. On a 2nd sheet of paper begin with the first surname on the list, starting with the relative closest to you and working backwards in time. Chart name, (spouses name in parentheses), birth place, birth date, marriage place, marriage date, death place, death date, and your membership number.

3. Repeat the process for the second surname on your list, the third, the fourth, and etc.
4. All lines, with the exception of members married surnames, will begin with a female name.

5. Members may find it easier to work with just a portion of their list at a time. For example; all the A,B, & C surnames, sending in additional charts later. PLEASE TYPE if possible.

6. Your name address and membership number (if known) should be on the bottom of each sheet.

The surname list will not be printed in "B&T" but will be filed with the ancestry service committee, enabling them to know in advance how many members are working on a given surname, or how many charts will be soon arriving. The chart with the surname worked backwards through time is what will be published, along with other charts of the same surname. Additional charts may be sent in at any time.

As there is at this time, only 2 people working on this ancestry service, it may become necessary to change the above directions to include your sending in two sets of both charts: One to each of us on the service. In the meantime, send charts and lists as follows: Members whose last names begin A_M send to: Mrs Carol Church, Westminster West, RFD 3, Putney, VT 05346. Members whose last names begin N_Z send charts to: Mrs Mary P Woodman, 402 Comet Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739.

Even though the Ancestry service committee may be enlarged and may have several out-of-state members, a central file of ALL charts and lists received will be kept by the editor.

SPRUCE GUM:

Eleven members have helped our Permanent Fund to grow with their contributions. They are: Mr & Mrs Leon W Dean (past pres.) of Burlington, Vt; Dorothy Thomas of Calif.; Harriet Colton of Florida; Mrs Arthur Kerr of Orleans Vt; Lillian Livingston of Minn.; Mrs Jeanette Pearson of Washington State; L. Johnson from Indiana; Gordon W. Lane of Barre Vt; Ann Byrne of Essex Junction Vt; Constance Chiabrandy from Burlington Vt; and Mrs. Donald Keeler of New York.

Our sincere thanks to these people for their contributions to our society.

WOOD CHIPS:

Mrs G A Simpson, editor for the North Platte Nebraska Genealogical Society writes that her group would be willing to do any checking in that locality for our readers.

Mrs Marilla R Grimes, R D 1, Rome NY 13441 is willing to do research in Oneida County N.Y. for a fee.

Mrs Arthur Witherbee, Box 282 R D 2, Oneona NY 13820 sent several cemeteries which appear in this issue. If any one is interested in other members of these families she may have some of them in other cemeteries or can possibly find out about them. Also she has the AXTELL genealogy and the History of Broome County (1900) and will be glad to look up things for a SASE.

SAW DUST:

We are sorry to hear of the death of one of our members, Mrs Ruth Thorndill of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mrs Thorndill joined our society when it was first organized. She was also a very active member of the Western Michigan Genealogical Society
