



## Changing Times

Given the economic times we live in it should come as no surprise that genealogy will take a few hits. I've noticed that several subscriptions and memberships have started to increase (see FootNote.com), repositories are reducing hours and staff (see the Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics), and we can expect conference attendance to decrease.

The next few years may present major choices for genealogists. With less disposable income will genealogists find fewer clients able to pay for their services? Will large regional and national conferences happen less frequently?

In a larger sense will it be necessary to elect to

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## President's Message *Bob Murphy*

Happy 2009! I'm hoping that this message finds you all in good spirits, and looking forward to a trip to the New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) in Manchester, N.H. This conference is typically very well run, well attended, and well worth your consideration. Because of the timing of this year's conference (22-26 April 2009) your Board has decided to not have a GSV Spring Conference. That will eliminate the need for you to choose between the two (or bear the expense of two meetings in the spring). I strongly encourage all GSV members who can, to attend the Manchester event. Your society is, as always, one of the sponsors, and our sponsored speaker will be Howard Coffin, Civil War historian and author.

Complete information on the conference can be seen on the internet at <http://www.nergc.org/>. Early bird registration ends on 28 Feb, so if you haven't already made plans, now is the time to do so. The location of the conference will be convenient for all those members living in the New England area. I am told that for those who travel to the conference by bus, the terminal is right near the conference hotel.

For those planning on attending, please stop by the GSV booth in the exhibit hall and say hello. If you have a few minutes to spare during the conference, we also encourage your helping your society by volunteering (as little as an hour, at your convenience) either as part of the conference, or at the GSV booth. "Many

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## New England Regional Genealogical Conference

The Tenth New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be held in Manchester, New Hampshire April 22 through 26. The conference theme is *Discovering Family Treasurers* and is supported by a cast of experienced and talented presenters.

The conference brochure states the presentations "will help attendees "discover":

- Ancestors who immigrated to and migrated out of New England.
- The wealth of information available in New England's archives, libraries, and historical societies.
- Specific types of diverse source materials not usually initial places to begin research (school records, church records, newspapers, maps).
- Resources and other researchers through technology and social activities throughout the conference."

As Bob Murphy mentioned in his Message the speaker representing GSV is Howard Coffin. His presentation is titled "Civil War Site Discoveries in Vermont." Scott Bartley, past president of GSV and editor of our quarterly journal, will present "How to Organize and Preserve Your Genealogical Papers."

For more information and registration forms visit their website at [www.NERGC.org](http://www.NERGC.org).

### GSV Spring Meeting Cancelled for 2009

There will be no Spring GSV Conference in 2009. Your Board has decided to avoid a conflict with the New England Regional Genealogical Conference, which is scheduled to be held from 22-26 April 2009 at Manchester, N.H. The next GSV Conference will be held in the Fall, on 17 Oct 2009. We look forward to seeing you there.

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hands make light work”.

As we enter the new year, this seems an appropriate time for thanks. Thanks to all the Board members (V.P. Jonathan Stevens, Treasurer Jane Belcher, Secretary Mary Pat Brigham, Website guru Diantha Howard, Publications Chair John Leppman and Program Chair Joann Nichols) for the work they do throughout the year to keep the organization running smoothly and developing programs of interest to all our members. Thanks, also to our editors: Bill Budde, who produces this fine Newsletter each quarter, on time, and Drew Bartley, our VG editor, who has done a marvelous job in turning out one of the premier genealogical publications in the U.S.

A special thank-you goes out this year to two individuals who have stepped forward to assist their society. Tom Record of Cornwall has taken over the job of Sales person, and has been sending publications out to members (and others) who request them; he has been doing a great job. Randy Brown of Rutland also stepped forward and has taken on the responsibility of getting the Newsletter assembled and mailed out. We struggled early in the year to find ways to reduce costs and get the Newsletter out in a timely fashion; we were not always successful. Now that Randy has taken over the process, it is running smoothly and Newsletters are getting out just about as quickly as is possible. Many thanks to them both!

Although many of your society's activities are running smoothly and efficiently, there is still room for more

help from YOU. Jonathan Stevens is busy at work editing what will eventually become Volume 3 of Vermont Families in 1791, he still needs submissions from you. As indicated previously, guidelines for submissions can be found on our website at <http://www.genealogyvermont.org/>, or obtained by mail from Jonathan (227 Fletcher Hill Rd., Chester, VT 05143-8639).

Another area where we need your help (mainly in the form of ideas) is our conferences. As mentioned, our Spring Conference is being cancelled this year to make it easier for folks to focus on the NERGC in Manchester, N.H. However, Fall is right around the corner, and we will be having a conference then. The date has been set for 17 Oct 2009. What have not been set are the locale and the program. If you know of a good location for the meeting, let us know. Criteria for a good meeting spot would include affordable (or free) handicapped-accessible meeting space for 30-50 attendees, separate men's and women's toilets, convenient nearby parking and some provision for noontime meal (local eateries, low-cost catering, etc.)

We are also (always) looking for good ideas for program topics and speakers. We welcome your thoughts and assistance. Send your ideas to us by mail or email, or pass on your ideas in person at meetings. Keep those cards and letters coming!

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

## New and Note Worthy

While reading the extra edition of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* several items are worth passing on.

- FamilySearch has announced updates on several index projects. Three are especially relevant to members of the society. Vermont militia records are 23% complete, Ohio Tax Records second of four index projects is 68% complete, and Indiana Marriages from 1882 to 1905 are 73% complete. Anyone interested in helping with an indexing project can find more information at <http://www.familysearchindexing.org/home.jsf>.
- International domestic events are often hard to relate to from a distance, but one recent event in Australia makes a personal impression to genealogists everywhere. In the recent devastating wildfires that swept large areas of the country, three members of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies died in Marysville. News reports indicate that more than 200 died and more than 1,800 homes burned.
- A second international disaster that affects genealogists world wide is the recent collapse of the Historic Archives of the City of Cologne. The archive contains documents as much as 1,000 years old and was one of the only collections to survive World War II intact.
- The U.S. Customs and Immigration Services offers a service to help locate individuals in their historical database. As part of the USCIS Genealogy program the records include some dating to 1975. The Index Search and Record Request program has two steps. The first step is a search of the index to determine if there are any files for that individual. The second step involves submitting the record number for an individual with the request for a copy of the record. An index search costs \$20.00 and a records request has a \$35.00 fee for a paper copy (This may mean a copy from a paper original—the website is unclear on this.) and \$20.00 for a microfilmed copy. For privacy reasons information about living persons is not released. The Historical Records Series includes: Naturalization Certificate Files (aka C-Files) from 1906-1956; Alien Registration Forms from 1940-1944; Visa Files from 1924-1944; Registry files from 1929-1944; and Immigrant Files, aka A-Files, from

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## Unshelved by Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum



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pay more attention (in the form of dollar and material donations) to the support and care of family, friends, and neighbors before we follow our research goals. If we remain open to alternative solutions we may reinvent a new form of an old economic system—bartering for ancestors. In the process we might make some new friends. Yours aye, Bill

## Research Hours Update

The *Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics* announced a reduction in hours that went into effect February 23, 2009. The announcement on the Registry's website reads "Due to restrictions in our budget and staffing reductions, we will be reducing our research room hours." The new hours are Monday 2:00 pm—4:30 pm; Tuesday 9:00 am—12:00pm; Wednesday, no research hours; Thursday 2:00 pm—4:30 pm; and Friday 9:00 am—12:00 pm. "We apologize for any inconvenience." Before the cutback registry research hours had been five and a half hours per day Monday through Friday.

### Vermont Historical Society Library

The library and store located in the Vermont Historical Center in Barre, Vermont is open four days per week, Tuesday through Friday 9:00 am—4:00 pm, Wednesdays until 8:00 pm from Labor Day through Memorial Day, and the second Saturday of every month.

### Bennington Museum Research Library Winter Hours

From November 1st until May 31st the Bennington Museum Library be open for winter hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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1944-1951. Visit the USCIS website at [www.USCIS.gov](http://www.USCIS.gov).

- The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) has announced the theme for their 2010 Professional Management conference—*Charting Your Path To Success*. The APG Management Conference is held in conjunction with the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference. Lecture proposals that will help members of the genealogical profession improve genealogical and business skills are requested. Lectures that help professionals think outside the box, evaluate and review current business practices, and meet the needs of twenty-first century clients will be given special attention. Additional information on submission of proposals will be posted at [www.apgen.org](http://www.apgen.org).
- The Charlestown Historical Society of Charlestown, NH has announced the availability of an index for the *Second History of Charlestown*. When the *Second History* was originally published in 1955 it lacked an index to the many deeds, historic description, and genealogies included in the book. The \$25.00 (plus \$5.00 for shipping) index is available from the historical society at P.O. Box 159, Charlestown, NH 03603. The town clerk's office continues to sell the two histories—*The History of Charlestown* and the *Second History of Charlestown*. As the historical society points out there was a good deal of movement back and forth across the Connecticut River. As a result Vermont families could be found in records in both states.

For more information on Eastman's newsletter go to [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com). The standard edition is free, but interested readers would be wise to subscribe to the Plus edition.



## 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* is out of print.**

***Vermont Families in 1791, Vol. 2.*** Scott A. Bartley, ed., 1997, 304 pp., hardbound. Item No. 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 Vermonters.

***Vital Records of Putney, Vermont to the Year 1900.*** Compiled and edited by Ken Stevens, 1992, 406 pp. Item No. GSV 2; \$27.00 members, \$30.00 non-members. This is a complete compilation from all primary sources available in the town. This is augmented by the ministerial records of the pastors who served as early as 1776.

***Vital Records of Rockingham, Vermont and the Records of the First Church of Rockingham.*** Reprinted from the 1902 and 1908 first editions, newly indexed by Christopher T. Norris and Scott A. Bartley, 323 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 3; \$27.00 members, \$30.00 non-members. Reprinted from the first editions of 1908 and 1902, this is an important source of one of Vermont's oldest towns. The town records extend to 1845 and church records from 1773 to 1839. New is an indispensable index of nearly 1,000 names.

***Georgia, Vermont Vital Records.*** Peter S. Mallet, ed., 1995, hardbound. Item No. GSV 4; \$27.00 members, \$30.00 nonmembers. This volume presents all births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials recorded in the

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Membership fees are listed on the back cover.

Please include your membership number for renewals and member discounts.

## Want To Contact Us?

Our website is at

<http://www.genealogyvermont.org/>

News, articles and comments for the **Newsletter** should be mailed to:

Bill Budde  
142A Munn Terrace  
Arlington, VT 05250-8573  
(802) 375-9296  
E-mail: [bbudde@verizon.net](mailto:bbudde@verizon.net)

Newsletter deadlines are  
Dec 15 for the February issue  
March 15 for the May issue  
June 15 for the August Issue  
September 15 for the November issue.

If you would like to **contact our journal, *Vermont Genealogy***, write:

Scott Andrew Bartley, Editor  
*Vermont Genealogy*  
20 March Avenue  
West Roxbury, MA 02132-2604  
E-mail: [YourGenealogist@aol.com](mailto:YourGenealogist@aol.com)

Copies of relevant **books for journal review** can be sent to:

John A. Leppman  
Book Review Editor  
20 Thwing Lane  
Bellows Falls, VT 05101-1640

Contact Bob Murphy, President at  
PO Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014  
[rmm@sover.net](mailto:rmm@sover.net)

### Moving? Let Us Know

Please inform GSV if you move. Send notices to Diantha Howard, 57 East Shore North, Grand Isle, VT 05458

### Advertising Policy

The newsletter accepts paid advertising at \$3.00 per column inch. It must relate to genealogy, preferably Vermont, and must be received before the deadline listed above. Checks made out to GSV are sent to the newsletter editor along with the exact wording for the ad. *GSV offers no warranty on the services of advertisers.*

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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 Fairfax.

***Windsor County, Vermont Probate Index, 1778-1899.*** Scott Andrew Bartley and Marjorie-J. Bartley, compilers, 2000, 560 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 6; \$45.00 members, \$50.00 nonmembers. This is a comprehensive index of all files in the Windsor County Probate Court Districts —Windsor and Hartford. The records cover the period from the earliest 1778 records 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 probate record volume .

***Index to Branches & Twigs, 1972—1995.*** Robert M. Murphy, ed. 2000, 572 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 7, \$40.00 ppd members, \$65.00 nonmembers. This is the every-name index to GSV's *Branches & Twigs*, published for 24 years in 96 issues. The 180,000 entries include every genealogically important name mentioned in every issue. Separate sections 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 large quantities of information of interest to family historians.

***Sudbury, Vermont: Transcription of Vital Records and Genealogies of Residents.*** Mary Ann Z. Wheeler, 2000, 416 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 9; \$44.55 members, 49.50 nonmembers. This book is a comprehensive transcription of census and vital records for Sudbury, plus carefully compiled genealogies of families. This book is among the very best genealogical resources about a Vermont town. This is a cooperative publication between GSV and Picton Press.

***A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy, 2nd edition.*** John A. Leppman, 2005, softbound. Item No. GSV 10, \$9.00 members, \$10.00 nonmembers. (Mail orders should add \$1.50 for postage and handling, not the \$3.50 normally charged.) This is a new edition of *A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy* was released in April 2005. It includes more listings than the first edition, most 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 publication number 10.).

## Vermont State Archives and Records Administration Update

Gregory Sanford, Director of the recently merged Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA), has clarified the procedure for searching the *Vermont State Papers*. He also clarified the difference in certified and non-certified vital records available at the Middlesex office.

As you may have read, the old Public Records Division (which held vital records) has been merged with the Vermont State Archives, creating the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration under the secretary of state.

All staff is now at the Middle-

sex record center, but archival records at the Redstone location (26 Terrace St., Montpelier) will not move until new vaults are built in Middlesex.

As a result, anyone wanting to access the manuscript *Vermont State Papers* will have to call the VSARA reference desk (802 828-2308) to set up an appointment to meet a staff member at Redstone site (this will likely be on Mondays).

The full Nye name index, which references the Manuscript *Vermont State Papers*, remains at

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Your membership expires on the date shown on the top line of the address label.

Dues are \$25.00 for US addresses.

Canada and Mexico are \$30.00, all other foreign addresses are \$35.00 in US funds.

Membership includes our journal *Vermont Genealogy* and four issues of our newsletter. These publications will keep you abreast of genealogical news and present current articles on genealogical source material, conferences and meetings, techniques and queries. If you would like to receive a membership card, please include a self addressed stamped envelop with your dues. Send membership dues and applications to:

GSV Membership Chairperson  
57 East Shore North  
Grand Isle, VT 05458

All other correspondence, except for submissions and queries to *Vermont Genealogy* and items for the *Newsletter*, should be sent to Genealogical Society of Vermont, P. O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014.

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Middlesex while the pre-1800 Nye entries are available online at:

<http://vermont-archives.org/research/database/nye.asp>.

The new State Archives and Records Administration only has the official birth, marriage, and death certificates from 1909 to the most recent five years. What they have for the 1857-1908 period is simply a register of vital events sent to the state by town clerks.

BIRTH - MALE	
Name of Child	Francis Van Jandt
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	1911
Name of Mother	Margaret Conway
Name of Father	Charles Van Jandt
Name of Occupation	Engineer
Name of Informant	J. H. Richardson
Date of Birth of Child	1911

As a result the VSARA can only certify vital records from 1909 to the most recent five years. To obtain a certified copy of a vital record before 1909 researchers need to contact the town clerk. For more information researchers can check the VSARA website at:

<http://vermont-archives.org/research/genealogy/gene.htm>.