President’s Message

Thank you to everyone who made the Fifteenth New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC), held at DoubleTree by Hilton in Manchester, N.H., on April 3-6, 2019, a great success. GSV is a charter member and a participating society in the consortium that sponsors the conference. Thank you to Carolyn Adams, Jane Belcher, Mariessa Dobrick, John Leppman and Bob Murphy, for providing valuable volunteer time to GSV, plus a very special thank you to Judy Goss for her ten hours of volunteer time. Also thank you to everyone, members and non-members alike, who stopped by the GSV booth in the Exhibit Hall. I enjoyed seeing all of you.

GSV’s sponsored speaker was Mariessa Dobrick, CA Archivist II Vermont State Archives Records Administration (VSARA). She gave an exceptional presentation entitled Be it Remembered: Researching Vermont Court Records. Everyone who attended her talk learned something new about the value of this often underutilized genealogical resource. She described several unique and interesting examples.

Even though we have just finished a NERGC conference, preparations are already well underway for the next one, which is scheduled to be held on April 14-17, 2021. We will be returning to the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, the same site where the 2017 conference was held. There have been several changes in Springfield since we were last there. The MGM Springfield Casino is now open, and additional security had been set up in the area, including a police substation. There is also a new shuttle service, The Loop, providing transportation around the city. So make a note of the date, and we hope to see you there.

The new Vermont Vital Records law, Act 46, passed by the Legislature in May 2017, goes into effect July 1, 2019. It enacts stricter guidelines for obtaining certified copies of birth and death records. We expect that this law will have little or no impact on genealogical research, and researchers should still be able to obtain informational copies. [see page 2 for additional information]

Jonathan W. Stevens, President
The New Vital Records Law (Act 46) and What It Means for You

The Vermont Legislature passed Act 46 in May 2017, which significantly changes the state laws that govern vital records—namely, birth and death certificates. The new law and rules will enhance the safety and security of birth and death certificates, provide better protection against misuse of these legal documents, and reduce the potential for identity theft. Additionally, the changes streamline the entire statewide system for creation, storage and tracking of birth and death certificates. Act 46 will impact anyone who seeks a copy of a Vermont birth or death certificate. The changes go into effect on July 1, 2019.

The most notable changes are:

- Only family members (as defined in Act 46), legal guardians, certain court-appointed parties or legal representatives of any of these parties can apply to obtain a certified copy of a birth or death certificate. In the case of a death certificate only, the funeral home or crematorium handling disposition may apply for a certified copy.
- An individual must complete an application and show valid identification when applying for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate.
- An individual who refuses to complete the application or cannot provide valid identification will be ineligible and referred to the Vital Records Office.
- Certified copies of birth and death certificates can be ordered from any town, not just where the birth or death occurred or where the person was a resident.
- Certified copies will be issued on anti-fraud paper.
- Access to noncertified copies (previously called “informational” copies) is not significantly changed by the new law or rules.
- Marriage, civil union, divorce or dissolution certificate copies and processes are not affected by the new law or rules.

For text of Act 46, go to

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**Back in Print**

*Vital Records of Rockingham, Vermont and the Records of the First Church of Rockingham*

$27.00 members, $30.00 non-members.

*plus $4.50 shipping for the first copy and $1.00 for each additional copy*

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**Sudbury, Vermont:**

*Genealogies, Vital Records, and Census Records*

*by Mary Ann Z. Wheeler*

Special Spring Sale Price $20

*plus $4.50 shipping for the first copy and $1.00 for each additional copy.*
Spring Sale on Back Issues of Branches and Twigs:

For the first time in several years, selected back issue of GSV’s first publication are available for purchase at $2.50 each, plus $2.50 shipping for the first copy and $1.00 for each additional copy.

Issues Available:


Genealogical Society of Vermont at the 15th New England Regional Genealogical Conference

Family a Link to the Past & a Bridge to the Future
DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester, N.H., April 3-6, 2019

Below: Genealogical Society of Vermont’s booth in the NERGC Exhibit Hall
April 4-6, 2019


Photos courtesy of John A. Leppman.
READING — Shirley Lewis Cooke Dunning, 98 of Reading, Vermont and East Hampton, Connecticut, died peacefully on March 2, 2019 in the home she shared with her daughter and son-in-law, Leslie and John O’Kelly in East Hampton. She was born February 4, 1921 in Camden, NJ, the daughter of Dwight Whitmore Cooke and Katharine Fiske Cooke. She lived in Merchantville and Haddonfield, NJ and graduated from Haddonfield Memorial High School in 1938. She then moved to Winchester, Massachusetts where she lived with her grandmother, Mrs. Fiske-Bradford, and attended school. Later she took courses at Middlebury College while living in Middlebury, Vermont and in past years enjoyed their Alumni College. In 1942 she and George R. Dunning were married in Winchester, MA and they lived in Marblehead, MA. During the war years she was in Walnut Ridge, AR, Dothan, AL, and Fort Myers, FL until her husband went to England as a P-51 fighter pilot. At that point, she moved to the family farm in Reading, Vermont, the seventh generation of her family to live in Reading. She was co-president with her husband of the Reading P.T.A., a Den Mother of Cub Scouts, active in the Reading Christian Union (Reading Community Church) as secretary for many years, was on the Planning Committee and Zoning Board for the town. She was a member of the Reading Historical Society and was an associate member of the Perkinsville Community Church. Shirley and her husband George owned and operated the Mt. Ascutney (VT) Ski Shop in the base lodge for fifteen years. She continued skiing in her later life. She was happy hiking the hills around her home and was a competent hunter into her eighties. Being an avid traveler, she had visited all seven continents and over thirty countries and had given talks and shown her slides on many occasions. Sailing was a passion and she had made many long passages — the Virgin Islands to Bermuda; two trips from Massachusetts to the Bahamas; Picton, Ontario to North Carolina and return; down the St. Lawrence to New Brunswick; Washington State to Alaska; as well as yearly sailing cruises on the coast of Maine, and exciting sails in Alaska and other places. Her husband George died in an automobile accident in 1978. She will be remembered with love by her three children: Dwight and his wife Judy of Cornwall, Vermont, and their two children, Rebecca (and her husband Brian) Jones, and Tim (and his wife Tiffany) Dunning; Richard and his wife Lori Kincaid of Anchorage, AK and their children, Kitty Kincaid, Kris Kincaid, and Karen Kincaid; Leslie and her husband John O’Kelly of East Hampton, CT and their children, Aimee (and her husband Len) Carlson, Kristie (and her husband Josh) Cannon, Stephen O’Kelly, and Matthew O’Kelly; and ten great-grandchildren: Eowyn Jones, Lyra Jones, Peter Sweetman, James Sweetman, McKenna Kincaid, Payton Kincaid, Ashley Carlson, Hunter Carlson, Cole Cannon, and Milo Cannon; and one great-great-granddaughter, Zoe Carlson. She is also survived by her nephews, Randy and Michael Mulligan, and her niece Kathy Mulligan Lord and their families. In addition to her parents and her husband, Shirley was predeceased by her treasured sister Katharine (Kay) Mulligan, her brother-in-law E.W. (Pat) Mulligan, and by her grandson David Kincaid. She was the niece of the noted raconteur, Dwight Fiske and a descendant of Mayflower passengers and founding fathers. She will be missed by all who knew her — especially all her Reading, Vermont neighbors and Virginia friends, including Vicki Van Mater and Sandy Smith of Virginia (daughters of the late Bob Van Mater, Shirley’s high school beau, and her dear companion in later years) with whom she spent many special winters. Her family thanks the Middlesex Hospital Homecare Hospice nurses and aides for their wonderful and compassionate care, and the helpers from Companions and Homemakers. A Celebration of Life will be held in Vermont at a later date. Friends were invited to Leslie and John O’Kelly’s home on Saturday, March 16, 2019 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at 10 Sherry Drive, East Hampton, CT. If one desires, contributions may be made in Shirley’s name to the “Middlesex Hospital Hospice”, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

Published in the Rutland Herald on March 13, 2019.

Editor’s Note: Shirley Dunning was a longtime member of GSV, and a descendant of the Whittemore/Whitemore/Whitmore family of Reading.
Volunteers Needed!

Missing the destroyed 1890 Federal censuses for many reasons, I began copying other records of that time period to help reconstruct a replacement for Stowe, Vermont in 1890. I used the 1890 Grand List, Town Report for 1891 (which covers the previous year), Walton's Vermont Register & Business Directory 1890, News & Citizen correspondents columns c. June 1890, Vital Records 1890, Special Schedule of Surviving Civil War Records for Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Widows 1890, dog licenses 1890, 1890 Year book of Stowe High School graduates, and anything of that date that is available. Even church membership lists when available. The population of each town at that time was added. This first town, Stowe, was published in Vermont Genealogy in 2009. After that came Greensboro, and submitted, but not yet published are Waterbury, Morristown, Wolcott, and Hyde Park. Almost ready to be submitted are Johnson, and Elmore, Hardwick and Cambridge will follow. Sandra McKenney of Newport has very kindly offered to cover the 18 towns in Orleans County, and hopes to get some help with Essex County.

If anyone can copy records from other towns, please contact phaslam@earthlink.net. The 1890 Veterans census is online. Grand Lists and Town Reports are in the Town Clerk's offices, and I own the 1891 Walton's Register.

Pat Haslam, Charter member #78;
C.G. retired (1973-2008)
Stowe, VT

*Martin Gathering*  
Aaron Martin Sr. (1742-1819) Williamstown, VT Family Gathering #2

Are you a direct descendant of Aaron Martin Sr. (1742-1819) and Eunice Flint (1748-1810)? All descendants and their spouses are invited to the Martin gathering a Lotus Lake Camp in Williamstown, Vt. the weekend of June 15 & 16. If you are interested in attending, please contact Cliff Martin (Dana West Martin, Clifford Arthur Martin, Arthur Manning Martin, Dennison Martin, Aaron Martin Jr., Aaron Martin Sr.) at cliffdmartin@verizon.net for details. Please provide your contact information (including email address) and your lineage back to Aaron Sr. as demonstrated for Cliff above. If you know of any direct descendants of Aaron Sr. and Eunice, please share this information.


Descendants of Giles Roberts of Scarborough, Maine

by Joann H. Nichols

For $10, plus $4.50 shipping for the first copy
and $1.00 for each additional copy

Don’t let the title mislead you,
Giles Roberts was the immigrant ancestor. This book contains a wealth of information on the Roberts family in Vermont. Towns mentioned are:

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 $4.50 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, 2962 Vermont Route 12A, Braintree, VT 05060-8779

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 1902 and 1908, 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 to this edition is an 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 non-members. 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

(Continued on page 7)

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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 non-members. 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; $58.50 members, $65.00 non-members. 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 installation, 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: Genealogies, Vital Records, and Census Records.** Mary Ann Z. Wheeler, 2000, 416 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 8; **$20.00 Spring sale price through June 1, 2019.** 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 11; $9.00 members, $10.00 non-members. (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 Scott Andrew Bartley’s Genealogies Found in Vermont Histories (Vol. 10, No. 1 of Vermont Genealogy, also designated GSV publication number 10.).


**Vermont Genealogy Back Issues:**

Issues 1: 1-13: 4, are available for $5.00 each, except special issues 10: 1 and 11: 1 & 2, which are available for $10.00 each. Issues 14: 1 & 2, 14: 3 & 4, 15: 1 - 23: 2, are available for $10.00 each. There is a mailing fee of $2.00 ($3.00 to Canadian addresses) for each single issue, $2.50 ($3.50 to Canada) for each double issue (i.e., the $10 issues). For multiple issue orders, please add $1 for each additional 1 to 5 issues. Note: issues 1: 4, 3: 3, 3: 4 and 4: 4 are out of print.

**GSV Special Publication Number 14**

**VITAL RECORDS RECORDED IN THE PERU, VT. TOWN RECORDS**

by Jonathan W. Stevens

Back Issues available:
for $10, plus $2.50 shipping for the first copy and $1.00 for each additional copy
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Please look at your address label for your membership expiration date. Your membership expires on the date shown on the top line of the address label.

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