I hope you all had a wonderful summer. With such a wet spring, it certainly seemed even shorter than usual. Summer is often the time when we find new leads in our research, visit new places, and maybe meet a few long lost family members along the way. We had our annual Stevens family reunion in Weston.

Even though NERGC 2013 is just behind us, planning for NERGC 2015 is well underway. John Leppman and I attended the annual delegates meeting on June 22nd in Sudbury, Mass. The theme of the conference is Navigating the Past: Sailing into the Future, and it will be held April 15-19, 2015 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jane Belcher passed on a bit of information from Paul Zeller, Vermont Civil War author and researcher, who just returned from his annual week at NARA in Washington, D.C. The Civil War service records for Vermonters are presently unavailable as they have been sent to be digitized and are expected to appear on www.fold3.com within the year. Vermont is one of two states which were chosen as the first for this project. The records of the two states will be gone from the Archives for longer than typical as a process is being established for the digitization which will be used on the service records from other larger states.

Our fall meeting will be held at the Franklin Conference Center at the Howe Center in Rutland. We have not met in Rutland in several years, and this is an excellent location. Howe Center was formerly home to the Howe-Richardson Scale Works, once the largest platform scale manufacturer in the world. This 18-acre industrial complex is located in the heart of Downtown Rutland. We are very excited about this venue; the food is made onsite from scratch. We have an impressive lineup of three excellent speakers: Michael Dwyer, Bill Powers, and Jim Davidson. A thank you to all of those who helped in the organization of the meeting, especially Randy Brown. We look forward to seeing you there. [See page 5 for more details of the meeting, the speakers, and directions to the Franklin Center at the Howe Center].

No matter what the research project, it is always good to know the hours of the repository that you will be using, before you make the trip. As Vermont Records are very much town oriented, one resource that is helpful is the “Guide to Vermont’s Town Clerks, Treasurers & County Clerks.” http://vermont-elections.org/elections1/TownClerkGuide.pdf. The guide also has a village/place name cross reference, which can quite helpful for those who are not familiar with more obscure localities. I always keep a copy on my desktop for easy access.

Finally, the Board extends our deepest condolences to our membership chair/webmistress Diantha B. Howard, whose mother Dorothy, died in early June.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President
GSV is offering the following used CDs for sale. All are used, but in good condition and have been donated to GSV. Please contact GSV President Jonathan W. Stevens at stevens@vermontel.net for additional information and availability. Note that there is only one copy each and these titles are offered on a first come first serve basis. Shipping on the CDs is $2.00 for the first item and $1.00 for each additional item. We hope to be able to offer additional titles in future Newsletters.

**FAMILY TREE MAKER CDs**

*Note: These CDs require that you have Family Tree Maker or the Family Archive Viewer installed.*

- **CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1790** $3
- **CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1800** $3
- **CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1810** $3
- **CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1820** $3
- **CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1830** $3
- **CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1840** $3
- **CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1850** $3
- **CENSUS MICROFILM RECORDS: MASSACHUSETTS 1850** [5 disc set] $15*
  [contains images of the microfilm]
- **CENSUS INDEX: U.S. SELECTED COUNTIES 1860** $3
- **VETERANS’ SCHEDULES: U.S. SELECTED STATES 1890** $3
- **FAMILY ARCHIVE VIEWER** $5

* $5 shipping on this item

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**Editor’s Note**

GSV received this information in an email from Kim Seidel about this new website, that we thought our members would be interested in.

Reuniting genealogists with faces from the past...

**THE FORGOTTEN PHOTOGRAPHS PROJECT**

Within our database, are hundreds of lost and discarded photographs from around the county. These photographs were collected from a number of sources; antique shops, flea markets, auctions and estate sales, and put together into one searchable database. Each of our photographs is identified on the back and includes the county and state the picture was acquired from, in addition to any other identifying information we may have. Each month our database is updated with hundreds of new photographs and remains free for everyone to use.

[www.forgottenphotosproject.com](http://www.forgottenphotosproject.com)

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**New Members**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Haselton-Jadali</td>
<td>65 Ridge Road, Sandyston, NJ 07827</td>
<td><a href="mailto:turtlepondfarm@gmail.com">turtlepondfarm@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Haselton, Kirby, McCurdy, Ingalls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Sullivan</td>
<td>P.O. Box 125, Thomaston, ME 04861</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Taft</td>
<td>1245 McClellan Dr, #308, Los Angeles, CA 90025</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amandataft@mac.com">amandataft@mac.com</a></td>
<td>Taft - Bascom</td>
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Since 1779, town clerks have been mandated to record all births, deaths and marriages that occurred in their towns; however, vital events were not recorded at the state level until 1857. **Act No. 63** of 1856 created the *Vermont Vital Registry System*, which required town clerks to compile lists of the vital events that occurred in their respective towns during the course of a year starting in 1857.

Lists of town vital events were initially submitted to the Vermont Secretary of State on an annual basis and bound by year and town (see **PRA -242**). To understand what was initially recorded for births, marriages and deaths, see *Instructions concerning Registrations in the State of Vermont* that were issued by Secretary of State Benjamin W. Dean in 1859.

In 1896, the Vermont legislature passed **Act No. 56**, which required County Clerks to submit the number of divorces granted and their cause to the State Board of Health for statistical purposes only. Returns of divorces were eventually added to the State Vital Registry by **Act No. 59** of 1898.

**Act No. 114** of 1902 required town clerks to transmit returns of births, marriages and deaths to the State Board of Health semi-annually (in March and September). The State Board of Health was charged with preparing and publishing tables (vital statistics) and transmitting the returns from the town clerks to the Secretary of State for "indexing, binding and preservation."

In 1904, the Vermont Legislature passed **Act No. 140**: *An Act Related to the Registration of Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths*. Through this act, town clerks were responsible for transmitting returns of births, marriages and deaths to the State Board of Health every six months (in January and June). Relative to divorces, county clerks were responsible for submitting returns of divorces to the State Board of Health every six months. Returns were submitted to the Secretary of State.

Four years later, in 1908, **Act No. 78** was passed. This Legislative Act required all town clerks to submit certified copies of all births, marriages and deaths to the State Board of Health on a *monthly* basis. These returns continued to be transmitted to the Secretary of State for "indexing, binding and preservation."

Through **Resolution No. 425** of 1908, the Secretary of State was authorized to create a card index for any records in the custody of the Secretary. This included the annual lists of vital events that had been submitted to the Secretary by town clerks and the vital returns. Unfortunately, relative to the Vital Registry, not all towns complied with the above laws and the registry within the Secretary of State's Office was considered incomplete.

As a result, in 1919, the Vermont Legislature passed **Act No. 92**, which required all town clerks to transcribe, in full, records of births, marriages, and deaths in the possession of the town and churches. In addition, inscriptions of gravestones for all individuals who died prior to 1870 needed to be transcribed as well. The town selectboards were responsible for paying transcribers five (5) cents per card and transmitting all cards to the Secretary of State's Office by January 1, 1920.

The requirement to transcribe records and transmit the copies to the Secretary of State's Office was reintroduced again in 1921 by **Act No. 89**. Towns who had failed to transcribe their records and transmit them to the Secretary of State's Office by July 1, 1921 risked having their records "procured" by the Secretary of State at the expense of the town. Legislative acts concerning amendments to vital records (i.e. to correct errors in spelling or add additional information) did not get introduced until the late 1930s.

Several changes to the forms, filing and transmittal requirements between town and county clerks and the State Board of Health and, later, Department of Health were enacted between the 1930s and 1980. In 1980, **Act No. 142** (*An Act to Modernize and Improve Laws Relating to Vital Records*) was passed. Subsequent to this Act, the vital records within the Secretary of State's Office were removed and divided between the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Department of Public Records in the late 1970s.

This arrangement remained in place until July 1, 2008 when the now Division of Public Records (within the Department of Buildings and General Services) merged with the Vermont State Archives to create the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, which is a division of the Secretary of State's Office.

*Source: [http://vermont-archives.org/research/genealogy/vitals/history.htm](http://vermont-archives.org/research/genealogy/vitals/history.htm)*
Meldon John Wolfgang III, 68, of Nassau, N.Y., died July 5, 2013 at the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers, Mass. after a long illness. He was born on March 14, 1945 in Albany, the only child of Meldon J. Wolfgang, Jr. of Albany and Madeline Frances Scott of Brooklyn. Mel was a graduate of Vincentian Institute in Albany and McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. Mel served as a Peace Corps volunteer, where he taught English at the Mutolare Senior Secondary School in Kisoro, Uganda. There he met his wife Pat, a fellow volunteer and a native of West Virginia. They were married in Kampala, Uganda on August 23, 1969. Mel served as commissioner of human resources for the City of Albany and as an administrator for the NY State Cancer Registry. He also served as a trustee of the Albany Public Library and as a trustee adviser to the Albany City-County Archives, one of the country's first intergovernmental archives. An active and avid genealogist and family historian since 1961, Mel was the founder and owner of Jonathan Sheppard Books, specializing in out-of-print books on genealogy and local history, as well as re-publishing historic maps for genealogists and historians. He taught and lectured about genealogy and family history around the US and Canada for nearly 40 years. Mel wrote the genealogy column for the New York State Archives Partnership Trust's quarterly magazine "Archives" from 2005-2012 and wrote other scholarly and educational articles for the genealogist. He was a member of many state and local, national and professional genealogical societies and archival organizations and a Fellow of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. He devoted many hours to researching the baseball career of his grandfather, Meldon (Mellie) J. Wolfgang, pitcher for the Chicago White Sox and teams in Albany and Lowell, Mass., with a special emphasis on his days playing sand-lot ball and semi-pro ball in Albany and Lowell. He was a past president (and until 2012, the archivist) of the Executive Council of the Kappa Alpha Society, the oldest college social fraternity in North America. Mel is survived by Patricia E. Lockhart Wolfgang, his wife of 43 years; his sons, Meldon J. Wolfgang IV (Sarah Minifie) and Andrew J. Wolfgang; and his grandchildren, Lola Chapin Wolfgang and Miles Hooper Wolfgang. Funeral arrangements will be private. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Burial will be in Albany Rural Cemetery. In honor of his grandchildren, contributions to the Massachusetts General Hospital Food Allergy Center would be appreciated.

Genealogical Society of Vermont Fall Meeting, October 12, 2013

Franklin Conference Center at the Howe Center, Rutland, Vt.
One Scale Avenue, Building # 3
see directions below

Registration Begins at 9am,
Annual Business Meeting begins at 9: 30 am
Registration is $25 for members and $30 for non-members.
Please send a check to by October 5, 2013
to Genealogical Society of Vermont, P.O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014

Featured Speakers

Michael Dwyer “The Original Mrs. Silas Hall, A Tale of Hubris”
This presentation will detail the twists and turns of research surprises as the presenter reveals the turbulent life of his third great-grandmother and her elusive husband, Rev. Silas Hall. Michael is a high school Humanities teacher for the last 30 years; he was named Vermont Teacher of the Year by the Vermont Department of Education in 2003. He has been a past presenter for GSV. His genealogical articles have been published in The New England Historic Genealogical Register, The Maine Genealogist, Rhode Island Roots, and Vermont Genealogy.  

William J. Powers, Jr. “The Importance of “Proper” Documentation”
Bill Powers has over 50 years experience in genealogical and historical research, with a strong background in Vermont, New York and Irish research. He has extensively used National Archives material in Washington, D.C. and the Boston Branch of NARA. He has good familiarity with the material and library operation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS). He frequently uses the resources of the New England Historical Genealogical Society (NEHGS) in Boston. He is the author of the book Leicester, Vermont’s Silver Lake: Beyond the Myths, and the NEHGS NEXUS article Lewis and (Double) Vanderburgh Ancestry of President George Bush: A Colonial New York Excursion.  

Luncheon: consisting of a hot entrée, tossed green salad, and a dessert  

Jim Davidson “Rutland History & Some of Its Lesser Known Sources”
Jim Davidson is the Volunteer Curator of the Rutland Historical Society. Jim holds a B. A. in History, summa cum laude, from St. Anselm College and an M. A. in History from the University of Kansas. His Master’s Thesis was entitled “Rutland, Vermont, 1770 – 1791”. Jim is a member of the Center For Research On Vermont. In 2007, he was elected a Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a founding member of the Rutland Historical Society and a member of the Society’s Program, Publication and Web Site Committees. He has served as a three-time President of the Rutland Historical Society

Directions:

From The North (i.e. Burlington Vermont)
Take U.S. Route 7 south to Rutland. Turn right onto Madison Street when you see Christ the King church on your left. Turn left at the traffic light at the bottom of the hill. Howe Center is on the right about two blocks down. Park in the outer lot or pass through the tunnel to park in the interior courtyard. The Conference Center is located in Building #3 which is on the right side of the tunnel as you drive into Howe Center

From the North east and East (i.e. Montpelier, Vermont)
Take Interstate 89 south to Exit 3 for Rutland. Turn right at the bottom of the exit ramp. Follow Routes 12/107 and 100 to route 4 west in Killington (about 20 miles). Take Route 4 west into Rutland and turn left onto Route 7 South. Follow above directions from there. When coming from the east take Route 4 west into Rutland, then turn left onto Route 7 South.

From The Southeast (i.e. Massachusetts)
Take Interstate 91 north to Exit 6 for Route 103 North. Route 103 exits onto Route 7 about 3 miles south of Rutland. When in Rutland, take a left at Dunkin’ Donuts onto Strong’s Avenue. Howe Center will be on your left about two blocks down.

From The West (i.e. New York State)
Take Interstate 87 north to Exit 20 and turn onto Route 149 east of the Village of Fort Ann. Turn left onto NY Route 4 heading north. Follow to Route 4 North about 12 miles into Whitehall NY. Bear right in Whitehall Village to take U.S. Route 4 East into Rutland. At the end of Route 4 take a left onto Route 7 north. Go approximately 1-2 miles and Dunkin’ Donuts will be on your right. Turn left onto Strong’s Avenue. Howe Center will be on your left about two blocks down.
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 to this edition 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 non-members. This volume presents all births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials recorded in the town. All the civil books

(Continued on page 7)

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*There is no tax on GSV material.

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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; $58.50 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: Genealogies, Vital Records, and Census Records.** Mary Ann Z. Wheeler, 2000, 416 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 8; $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 11; $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 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, 15: 2 and 16: 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 13**

**VITAL RECORDS OF SPRINGFIELD, VT.**

*by Scott Andrew Bartley*

Back Issues available:
For $15, plus $3.50 shipping for the first copy and $1.00 for each additional copy.
Genealogical Society of Vermont
P.O. Box 14
Randolph, VT 05060-0014

Address Service Requested

Dues Notice!

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.

Dues are $25.00 for US addresses.
Canada and Mexico are $30.00
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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*, should be sent to

Genealogical Society of Vermont, P.O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014.