Winter weather seems to have started rather late this year. It finally arrived with some snow on the ground, but a non-white Christmas in Vermont is unusual.

It has been requested that GSV include a copy of the Concurrent House Resolution [H.C.R. 78] recognizing Ceal Moran’s Genealogy Day [see page 3]. A free community event held at senior or community centers each year on August 9th, and described as a “holiday that has been created to help us remember relatives that have died.” The 2016 event will be held in Randolph.

If you are a member of New England Historic Genealogical Society and have pre-1784 Vermont ancestors and(or) an interest in early Vermont, be sure to check out Drew Bartley’s study project Early Vermont Settlers to 1784. It can be found online at www.americanancestors.org/earlyvermont.aspx. New sketches are frequently being added to this database.

The spring membership meeting of GSV will be held in May and in Bennington, cooperatively with Mt. Anthony Lodge #13, Masonic Societies of Bennington. Speakers will include Kris Williams, and there will be a round-table forum. Lunch will be catered by Bringing You Vermont. More detailed information will be in the next GSV Newsletter and on our website.

Mark your calendar for Vermont History Expo on June 18 and 19, 2016, at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. This biennial event, sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society, is always a highlight of the summer. The theme this year is H2O: The Power of Water in Vermont History. More information can be found online at vermonthistory.org/community/vermont-history-expo. GSV will have a booth in Floral Hall, as usual, and you can plan to pick up books and back issues of VG there and save on postage fees.

It is also not too early to mark your calendar for NERGC 2017: Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past, April 26-29, 2017, at the Mass. Mutual Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. If you have a proposal for a talk you would like to give, get the “Call for Papers” document at www.nergc.org/2017/Call%20for%20Papers%202017.pdf and submit it by March 1, 2016. GSV has asked Michael F. Dwyer, FASG, to be our sponsored speaker for the conference.

The Fall 2014 [19: 2] issue of our scholarly journal Vermont Genealogy, was sent to the printer in November, and should have arrived in members mailboxes by the time you read this message. A special thank you to Bob Murphy for indexing. If you have a change of address, make sure to notify us of the change. If you have missed a copy of the newsletter and(or) the journal please let me know and I will send a replacement.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President
The land records of the following Vermont towns and cities, for the years indicated, are currently featured in a FamilySearch collection entitled “Vermont Land Records to 1900.” This can be found online at https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1409123

The collection currently contains 169,270 digitized microfilm images, and is “browse only” meaning that it is non-searchable. However most of these volumes do have indexes of grantors and grantees, which indicate the pages on which the deeds are recorded. It is fairly easy to find the deeds that you are looking for. Note: the title of the collection is slightly misleading, as the earliest deeds are not covered, and North Troy is a village in the town of Troy, therefore these records are for the entire town.

Bakersfield, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 8-16, 1849-1946
Barre, Washington Co.,
- Vols. 1-3, 1895-1946
Barton, Orleans Co.,
- Vols. 18-26, 1877-1906
Belvidere, Orange Co.,
- Vols. 6-7, 1888-1902
Berkshire, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 11-17, 1852-1908
Bolton, Chittenden Co.,
- Vols. 8-15, 1851-1903
Bradford, Orange Co.,
- Vols. 12-21, 1852-1900
Braintree, Orange Co.,
- Vols. 9-17, 1850-1921
Bristol, Addison Co.,
- Vols. 12-22, 1848-1908
Brookfield, Orange Co.,
- Vols. 13-21, 1850-1916
Burlington, Chittenden Co.,
- Vol. 21-46, 1883-1907
Cabot, Washington Co.,
- Vols. 10-20, 1852-1904
Calais, Washington Co.,
- Vols. 10-17, 1850-1903
Cambridge, Lamoille Co.,
- Vols. 13-26, 1850-1913
Charlotte, Chittenden Co.,
- Vols. 13-19, 1852-1907
Elmore, Lamoille Co.,
- Vols. 6-11, 1853-1905
Enosburg Falls, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 21-28, 1872-1900
Essex, Chittenden Co.,
- Vols. 10-23, 1850-1904
Fairfax, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 12-23, 1846-1905
Fairfield, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 14-23, 1851-1927
Fairlee, Orange Co.,
- Vols. 7-12, 1843-1920
Fletcher, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 12-14, 1877-1902
Georgia, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 11-16, 1851-1902
Glastenbury, Bennington Co.,
- Vols. 3-5, 1856-1901
Hardwick, Caledonia Co.,
- Vols. 14-19, 1876-1900
Highgate, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 15-29, 1851-1904
Hinesburg, Chittenden Co.,
- Vols. 14-21, 1853-1900
Huntington, Chittenden Co.,
- Vols. 10-16, 1849-1904
Hyde Park, Lamoille Co.,
- Vols. 17-22, 1876-1903
Jericho, Chittenden Co.,
- Vols. 15-19, 1879-1901
Johnson, Lamoille Co.,
- Vols. 17-23, 1880-1911
Lemington, Essex Co.,
- Vol. 6, 1876-1900
Lincoln, Addison Co.,
- Vols. 8-16, 1852-1905
Mendon, Rutland Co.,
- Vols. 5-10, 1842-1905
Milton, Chittenden Co.,
- Vols. 15-22, 1854-1901
Monkton, Addison Co.,
- Vols. 13-19, 1850-1904
Montgomery, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 10-16, 1877-1930
Montpelier, Washington Co.,
- Vols. 12-20, 1881-1902
Morgan, Orleans Co.,
- Vols. 5-9, 1859-1910
Morristown, Lamoille Co.,
- Vols. 10-28, 1850-1911
Newbury, Orange Co.,
- Vols. 23-29, 1881-1903
North Hero, Grand Isle Co.,
- Vol. 8, 1855-1862
North Troy, Orleans Co.,
- Vol. 10, 1880-1899
Richford, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 9-19, 1854-1907
Richmond, Chittenden Co.,
- Vols. 8-14, 1851-1904
Roxbury, Washington Co.,
- Vols. 15-17, 1882-1901
Searsburg, Bennington Co.,
- Vol. 6, 1900-1913
Sheldon, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 8-14, 1852-1900
Shoreham, Addison Co.,
- Vols. 12 & 13, 1879-1904
Starksboro, Addison Co.,
- Vols. 8-16, 1849-1910
Strafford, Orange Co.,
- Vols. 12-20, 1850-1902
Swanton, Franklin Co.,
- Vols. 26-35, 1883-1904
Thetford, Orange Co.,
- Vols. 17-26, 1850-1913
Tinmouth, Rutland Co.,
- Vols. 10 & 11, 1876-1914
Topsham, Orange Co.,
- Vol. 21-24, 1882-1905
Tunbridge, Orange Co.,
- Vols. 13-20, 1851-1900
Vermont, Orange Co.,
- Vols. 14-18, 1853-1921
Wallingford, Orange Co.,
- Vols. 14-18, 1853-1921
Waltham, Addison Co.,
- Vol. 6, 1864-1900
Waterbury, Washington Co.,
- Vols. 24-30, 1876-1905
Waterville, Lamoille Co.,
- Vols. 4-7, 1855-1915
West Fairlee, Orange Co.,
- Vol. 1, 1892-1902
Westmore, Orleans Co.,
- Vols. 3-9, 1853-1907
Wolcott, Lamoille Co.,
- Vols. 7-19, 1853-1929
Woodbury, Washington Co.,
- Vol. 12-15, 1867-1926
Worcester, Washington Co.,
- Vols. 9-12, 1878-1930
State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution
H.C.R. 78

House concurrent resolution designating August 9, 2015, as Genealogy Day in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Yantachka of Charlotte, Brennan of Colchester, Cole of Burlington, Dakin of Colchester, Devereux of Mount Holly, Ellis of Waterbury, Evans of Essex, Hebert of Vernon, Lewis of Berlin, Martin of Wolcott, Pearson of Burlington, Purvis of Colchester, Ram of Burlington, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweeney of Windsor, and Townsend of South Burlington

Offered by: Senator Baruth

Whereas, genealogy is the tracing of an individual’s or family’s ancestry through a line of descending generations, and

Whereas, in cities and towns across Vermont, professional and amateur genealogists are busily, enthusiastically, and patiently combing through vital and other records in town halls, historical societies, libraries, and places of worship in search of their family’s origins and original arrival in Vermont, and

Whereas, genealogical research can result in the documentation of centuries of family history and the discovery of previously unknown relatives, and

Whereas, one of the most ardent proponents of genealogical research in Vermont was the late Reverend Romeo Trahan S.S.E., who in 1996 cofounded the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society, and

Whereas, Mike Sevigny published posthumously the Reverend Trahan’s research as the book A Vermont Trahan Family, History and Genealogy, Arcadian and Quebec Roots, and

Whereas, Cecile Moran, a relative of the late Reverend Trahan, has extended his work through her introduction of genealogical research to a broader audience, and

Whereas, annually, on the 9th of August, Cecile Moran travels to a different Vermont location to present a Genealogy Day exhibit, and

Whereas, her goal is the encouragement of family genealogical gatherings as well as helpful guidance in pursuit of the attendees’ personal family ancestry, and

Whereas, the 2015 edition of Cecile Moran’s Genealogy Day will take place at the Jay Peak ski resort, and

Whereas, just as The French-Canadian Genealogical Society’s library is now known as the The Vermont Genealogy Library @ the Fort in Essex/Colchester, Genealogy Day should be an encouragement for even more Vermonters to engage in their own genealogical adventures, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:
That the General Assembly designates August 9, 2015, as Genealogy Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Cecile Moran and to the Genealogical Society of Vermont.
2015 Year in Review:
FamilySearch Grows as World’s Foremost Family History Resource

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, December 29, 2015 — FamilySearch.org, an outstanding free website hosted by FamilySearch International, the foremost family history organization in the world, has released a 2015 year-end summary of its global efforts to ultimately connect families across generations. It has made substantial progress in creating new personal and family discoveries through significantly more access to historical records, expanded partnerships, a more powerful and user-friendly online search experience, and hundreds of free localized events hosted worldwide.

For more than 100 years, FamilySearch and its predecessors have gathered and preserved worldwide records, creating the largest collection of genealogical and historical records in the world. It continues to digitally convert its vaults of microfilm for online viewing; along with millions more newly captured record images from archives across the globe.

In the past 25 years, it has been influencing technology and initiatives that engage a broadening swath of consumers to have emotional, endearing experiences with their family and family history. It uses its nonprofit status to continue to rally the growing sea of commercial companies—large and small—in the genealogy and family markets to join in the noble efforts.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

During 2015, Steve Rockwood took the reins of FamilySearch, replacing retiring Dennis Brimhall as CEO.

Two Family Discovery Centers, which represent a new concept in presenting family history information, were opened in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Bellevue, Washington. Ground was also broken for a new FamilySearch Library in St. George, Utah, which will have some of the new discovery center experiences.

RootsTech 2015, a global family history event held in Salt Lake City, Utah, and hosted by FamilySearch, uses technology and fun experiences to expand family connections. It attracted a record 300,000 attendees in person, online, and through local post–Family Discovery Day events. During 2015, FamilySearch, in cooperation with several other organizations, launched the Freedmen’s Bureau Campaign (discoverfreedmen.org) to finish digitizing and indexing Civil War–era records that are crucial to African American research success. This project should be completed in 2016. On October 23, 2015, FamilySearch celebrated the 30th anniversary of its well-known Family History Library in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah, which houses the largest and most expansive collection of family history records in the world. Hundreds of thousands of patrons still frequent the facility from around the world.

DISCOVERY

The My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together booklet, which was launched in 2014, provides an engaging way to capture and preserve family trees—particularly for those individuals and cultures who are less tech-savvy. In 2015 the number of languages the popular booklet was published in was expanded to 42. More and more people made use of the local 4,891 FamilySearch facilities (family history centers) in 2015. North America alone has seen a 25 percent increase in attendance at these local libraries during 2015. Online, FamilySearch.org has seen 291,806 visitors daily—an increase of 19 percent. New patron discovery experiences have been launched in family history centers worldwide during 2015, and 1,505 local post–RootsTech family discovery day events were held.

Enhancements were introduced to the FamilySearch.org Family Tree to assist patrons in creating more accurate records and to find records of their ancestors more easily. The site has introduced a redesigned landscape pedigree view, easier access to indicators in other tree views, and safeguard reminders to help patrons avoid making common editing mistakes. The indicators clearly show possible data problems for an ancestor and opportunities to provide missing information and help to locate missing ancestors.

Dynamic record hints were added through the Search feature at FamilySearch.org to aid patrons in making new research discoveries. The hints are more plentiful as they comb through the mountain of new historic records added weekly to the site from its global records preservation efforts, and the interface has been improved to easily follow through with or dismiss hints. Over 670 million new patron hints were generated during the past year. Through partnerships with other major online genealogy sites, patrons can now use a single click to search ancestry.com, findmypast.com, and myheritage.com for the person they are viewing in FamilySearch’s Family Tree. This year’s FamilySearch innovations have made searching and recording personal and family experiences more user-friendly and have improved the accuracy of FamilySearch’s databases. Searchers can use improved exact matches in their search criteria to more easily locate records, attach records from search results to people in their Family Tree, and gather and sort information in the new hybrid view that combines historical records with their corresponding indexed information.
FAMILY TREE

More than 120,000 new contributors added to Family Tree in 2015, making a total of 2.47 million. The new user-to-user messaging feature in Family Tree simplifies collaboration with others doing research on the same specific ancestors. There are now 1.1 billion persons in the FamilySearch Family Tree.

RECORDS

FamilySearch carries out its mission through a dedicated team of employees and overwhelming contributions of time by volunteers. FamilySearch has enabled the public worldwide to use its constantly expanding record collection to make family connections through 4,891 satellite family history centers in 129 countries, with 2,864 of those satellite centers located outside the United States. That’s an increase of 15% over 2014. The site launched 158 new historical collections in 2015, (bringing the total to 2,049), and hundreds of millions of new published records have been added to FamilySearch.org. Personal discoveries are fueled by making historical records easily and quickly accessible online. FamilySearch does this through a combination of digitizing the world’s historical records online and engaging online volunteers to make them searchable by patrons worldwide with a few keystrokes. Around the world, 319 camera teams—an increase of 11%—digitally preserved over 122 million records in 45 countries, and 304,000 online volunteer indexers helped make them searchable.

In fact, volunteers logged in over 9 million hours and indexed over 106 million records in 2015. And 19 million of the records indexed were of international origin, in languages other than English.

At the end of 2015, FamilySearch.org now has over 5.31 billion searchable names in historical records.

Jennifer Kerns Davis, a manager in FamilySearch’s Records Division, said, “We republished England Wales censuses with more fields and family groupings that will make them more easily searchable. It was a huge undertaking that took a lot of resources. We also have begun similar improvements on the US censuses that we plan to update in the near future.”

MEMORIES

The FamilySearch Tree mobile app now enables users to attach photos and stories (audio and text) to individuals in their Family Tree and to receive notifications when others add content to specific individuals.

The new memories gallery view allows users to more easily organize, sort, and add photos, stories, and scanned documents to their memories collections. Last year patrons uploaded 4 million personal family photos and 40,000 new family stories.

HELP

Volunteerism is one of FamilySearch’s greatest assets. In addition to online volunteers, 3,850 volunteers serve as FamilySearch missionaries, helping support the worldwide operations needs. These generous volunteers donated a staggering 3.04 million hours of service. FamilySearch joined with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and other organizations to index and publish online the Freedmen’s Bureau records, a Civil War era collection that will prove very pivotal for African American research success. A record 12,000 volunteers have enlisted online to assist (see DiscoverFreedmen.org). Patrons needing help can get immediate assistance by telephone (one-on-one to online volunteer assistants,) by viewing the hundreds of free video courses online, and by accessing the FamilySearch Wiki, an online reference source with over 100,000 helpful articles that are updated weekly.

FamilySearch enhanced its online help system in 2015. Users will now notice slide outs that provide contextual help in key areas on the site where users might need it the most. FamilySearch also added 77 new family history centers around the world to provide free personal research assistance to patrons. Access FamilySearch’s free services online at FamilySearch.org.
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; 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. out of print.

**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)

---

**Order Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity X</th>
<th>Price =</th>
<th>Subtotal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 001</td>
<td>Membership: New or Renewal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Member #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>E-mail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For GSV publications return with a check payable in US funds to:

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

Membership: New or Renewal return with a check payable in US funds to:

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

*There is no tax on GSV material.

Membership fees are listed on the back cover.

Please include your membership number for renewals and member discounts.

Order Total: __________
Shipping: __________
Total Due: __________
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.).

**Index to the History and Map of Danby, Vermont,** Compiled by Joann H. Nichols. (1998), softbound, Item No. D1; $3.50, plus $1.50 shipping for the first copy and $1.00 for each additional copy. An index to J[ohn] C. Williams, History and Map of Danby, Vermont (Rutland, Vt., 1869; reprinted S.L. Griffith Library, 1976). **Limited Number Available.**

**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 - 18: 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

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
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, should be sent to

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