Winter is now upon us with a vengeance. The landscape is beautiful, with snow-covered fields and mountain tops. The temperatures have been decidedly frigid.

Page four contains a submission about the changes and the updated appearance of website findagrave.com. While it is certainly a valuable resource, there are some problems that it has created for researchers. Does a picture of a gravestone mean that it is listed in the correct cemetery? For example the majority of the graves in Middletown Cemetery in Andover are said to be located in Greenbush Cemetery in Weathersfield. Likewise many of the graves in the Forefathers Cemetery (formerly the Old Village Cemetery) in Weston are said to be in the above mentioned Middletown Cemetery. As you can imagine, this misinformation is not helpful to non-local researchers and can cause considerable confusion. In the cases of pre-1870 gravestones it is advisable to check the cards that were made by town clerks in accordance with Act No. 92 of 1919. These cards are included in the Vermont Vital Record Card Index, and are also held at the local level. (Note that some towns will have this information recorded in book form). For burials starting in 1903, it is advisable to check the burial permits, which are recorded at the local level and are not included in the Vermont Vital Record Card Index. Another error seems to be the misunderstanding of winter entombment. Daisy J. Turner, of Grafton died at the Springfield Convalescent Center at the age of 104 on 8 Feb. 1988. Her death certificate can be found in the Vermont Vital Record Card Index and in the vital records of both the towns of Springfield [Springfield, Vt., Vital Records (Deaths & Burial Permits), 93: 34] and a resident copy filed in Grafton [Grafton, Vt., Vital Records (Deaths & Burial Permits), 43: 43]. A copy of her death certificate has been posted on findagrave.com as proof that she is buried in Brookside Cemetery in Chester, which is given as her place of entombment. She was

(Continued on page 5)
In researching the family of Daniel Edson (1741-1816) of Bridgewater, Mass., and later of Rockingham and Springfield, Vt., I ran across the following transcription error in the recorded version of his estate, an error which has been perpetuated by the published genealogy of the surname, Carroll Andrew Edson ed., Edson Family History and Genealogy: Descendants of Samuel Edson of Salem and Bridgewater Mass. 2 vols. (Ann Arbor, Mich.: Edwards Bros., 1969), 2: 623. That publication has been digitized and is online on Ancestry.com, therefore this error continues to appear countless other times online. The recorded will of Daniel Edson of Springfield, dated 4 Jan. 1813, contains the following statement: “I do also give & bequeath unto Mable [sic] the wife of Isaac Whitney my Daughter, one Dollar.” [Windsor Vt. District Probate Estates, 7: 274] The will is also recorded in the Springfield Land Records. [Springfield, Vt., Land Records, 5: 123-125] A transcription of the recorded version of the will is included in the above mentioned Edson Genealogy. The problem that I encountered was I could not find a “Mable” or Mabel who married an Isaac Whitney. There was an Isaac Whitney who resided in Springfield, but he was clearly not the correct man. However there was a clue in a note [at right] written on the back of a page of the administrator’s account in the probate file of the estate of Daniel Edson’s second wife and widow Eleanor (Richards) Edson (1748-1826), that listed the three heirs of her estate: “Abigail Whitney wife, Lurana Hartwell wife of Amos Hartwell, Asa Edson.” However there was no Abigail listed in Daniel’s estate. There was another document in the file signed by Amos Hartwell, Asa Edson and Isaac Whitney as heirs of the estate. On closer examination of the original will, I found the problem, “Mable” was actually "Nabbe," which is a diminutive of Abigail. [at left, “nabbe whitney” appears in second line of the second page] This was simply a case of a transcription error. There is a marriage of Isaac Whitney of Brookline to Abigail Edson of Springfield in Chester in Dec. 1806. [Chester, Vt., Town Records, C: 240(250)]I had initially suspected that this might have been a cousin of “Mable,” who had married Isaac first and had died. Isaac and Abigail (Edson) Whitney had two known children, a son Daniel E. Whitney (1811-1899) and a daughter Eleanor E. (Whitney) Peters (1814-1861). It appears that Abigail (Edson) Whitney had died prior to Isaac’s marriage to Sarah Chapin in Putney, on 4 Dec. 1817. [Putney, Vt., Town Records, 2: 293] Isaac and Sarah also resided in Townshend, Weston and Londonderry. Abigail being deceased explains why Isaac signed as an heir of his mother in-law’s estate. The lesson here is go back to the original source whenever possible.

Jonathan W. Stevens
You are interested in Vermont genealogy. Are you also descended from a Union Veteran of the Civil War?

Dear Patron of the Genealogical Society of Vermont:

You may already know that Vermont played an outsized role in the Civil War, sending over 34,000 men to fight. After the war, the surviving veterans organized local chapters of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), which was a major force in Vermont and national politics into the 20th century. Vermont’s last Union veteran died in 1944.

The legal successor to the GAR is the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). Vermont’s SUVCW was founded in 1883 and today has four local camps. All of them are in need of new members to continue their mission: to perpetuate the work and memory of Union Veterans, conduct historical research on the Vermont Civil War experience, register and photograph Civil War veterans’ graves, and evaluate the condition of Vermont’s Civil War monuments.

It is very possible that you have a Civil War veteran ancestor. If you are a male descendant of a Union veteran of the Civil War, please consider bolstering the ranks of the SUVCW and taking part in their meaningful work. *Associate membership is available in the SUVCW for those without a Union veteran ancestor but who are interested in preserving the history of the Civil War.

For more information and an application, please contact Bruce Amsden, state secretary, at memphre@gmx.com or (802) 334-2808, and visit suvcw.org.

Respectfully yours,
Seth Hopkins on behalf of Vermont SUVCW
Changes to Find-A-Grave

by Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

Findagrave.com has announced changes to the website. Some changes are cosmetic, while others are functional. A map feature has been added.

The home page, formerly just a list of over thirty choices, will become a photograph with a few menu selections across the top. That page will be dominated by the search panel, which will function largely as it has in the past and with the same options for every search box except those related to location.

The current search panel specifies location via pull-down lists for country, state, and county. The new search panel offers a single box for location, in which you are supposed to type the name of a place. As you begin to type a city, county, state, or country that box auto-fills with suggested place names which you can select with a mouse click. Use the American English equivalent of a country name; Germany works but Deutschland doesn’t.

The new home page’s menu bar goes across the top of the screen. Clicking CEMETERIES takes you to a page that lets you hunt cemeteries in either of two ways. Near the top left of the page is a search box where you can type a cemetery name. This auto-fill box works as above. When you select a name, you see a hit list of cemeteries with that name. Each entry on the hit list displays some facts about that cemetery, and a link to its information page. That page contains a search box that you can use to hunt for a person’s name.

Instead of using that cemetery-name search box, you can use the cemetery-place search box to its right. Clicking a place name produces a map of cemeteries near that place. You can zoom the map in or out, and can pan it in any direction. (If the map doesn’t display any marker pins, zoom in.) After a name is in that search box, clicking Search leads to a hit list of cemeteries near that place. Use this hit list the same way you use the other cemetery search box.

Go to https://www.findagrave.com/ to see and experiment with all the changes.
entombed in the Brookside Cemetery Tomb in Chester, on 10 Feb. 1988, and remained there until 19 May 1988, when she was interred in the Houghtonville Cemetery in Grafton. It was only “temporary storage” in Chester, the term that was checked off on burial-transit permit. [Chester, Vt., Vital Records, (Deaths & Burial Permits) 1986-1988: 128] The actual burial permit was filed in Grafton [Vt., Vital Records (Deaths & Burial Permits), 43: 40]. Daisy Turner is a famous figure in Vermont’s history, a native of Grafton and the daughter of former slaves who moved there after the Civil War. She was also a gifted storyteller and rights activist. Several people in Chester, claim she is buried in Brookside Cemetery, as a result of the misinformation posted on findagrave.com.

The majority of small towns throughout the state do not have their own tombs for winter storage, and subsequently bodies are stored in the tombs of the neighboring larger towns. As with all genealogical research, it is very important to look at all the data and make an informed decision.

GSV’s Spring Membership Meeting will be held at the Middletown Springs Historical Society on 19 May 2018. We have not had a meeting in this area of Rutland County for several years. We are currently deciding on the speakers. A special thank you to our secretary, Alice Marsh, for making the contact and setting this up. Look in the next Newsletter and at our website www.genealogyvermont.org for more details. We look forward to seeing you there.

Congratulations to Scott Andrew Bartley on his Early Vermont Settlers to 1771, Volume 1 Southern Windsor County recently published by NEHGS.

According to Vermont Genealogy, editor Michael F. Dyer, FASG, VG, 22: 2 [Fall 2017] should be arriving in members mailboxes in about a month or so. Great work Michael.

I wish all of you a very productive 2018 in your genealogical endeavors.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President
## GSV Publications

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### 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. **out of print.**

### 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 index of nearly 1,000 names. **out of print.**

### Georgia, Vermont Vital Records. Peter S. Mallet, ed., 1995, hardbound. Item No. GSV 4; $15.00 fall sale price through Dec. 1, 2017. This volume presents all births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials recorded in the town. All the civil...

(Continued on page 7)

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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; $20.00 fall sale price through Apr. 1, 2018. 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 GSV Genealogy, also designated GSV publication number 10.).


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by Jonathan W. Stevens

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