



Editor's Note

There are several good articles that concerned members will want to read.

1. The Presidents Message by Bob Murphy reports on the last Board and the fiscal discussions they addressed.
2. The report on the survey that many members returned last fall.
3. A reminder about our May 15th meeting at the Bennington Museum, Bennington, VT.

Bill



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President's Message *Bob Murphy*

As I write this message the snow is falling outside, and Christmas is a little more than a week away. (Vermont is beautiful at this time of year; it is also cold!) Due to deadlines it is necessary to pen these messages well ahead of the publication date so our editor has sufficient time to assemble and get the Newsletter out to members in a timely fashion. So if my message seems a bit dated, please bear with me.

I am pleased to report that our Fall Meeting went well, and we had two excellent speakers. Brad Hadley gave an informative presentation on how the Hartland Historical Society is documenting its cemeteries. Joann Nichols then gave a stimulating report on her research into blacks living in Vermont in the early years of the Census. All those wishing to

do so had the run of the Vermont Historical Society Library in the afternoon.

A principal item of business at the Fall Meeting was the bylaws amendments, and I am happy to report that the proposed changes were accepted with no dissenting votes. The proposed changes were spelled out in our August Newsletter. Currently approved bylaws can be seen on our website at www.genealogyvermont.org. For those of you without internet access who would like a copy of the bylaws, please send SASE to me, Bob Murphy, at GSV, P.O. Box 14, Randolph, VT 05060-0014.

The August Newsletter also included a questionnaire which many members took the time to fill out and return. A separate article in this Newsletter will spell out the

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GSV Questionnaire Summary

First of all, thanks are due the 110 members (that's 20% response!) who took the time to answer the questionnaire and share their thoughts with us. Aside from the "yes" and "no" responses, the comments you made were particularly useful in capturing the essence of what is important to you. The Board met on 8 Dec 2007 and discussed the responses, and what we intended to do as a result. Here is a snapshot of the questions the answers and what, if anything, we are planning to do.

Q1. Would you like to get Newsletter by email?

Yes 39, No 67. Comments were typically from those voting no, and often indicated no computer.

Board response: *Despite the fact that 2/3 of those responding said they would not like to get the Newsletter by email, we focused on the 1/3 who said yes. If that is representative of members at large, then we could save 1/3 of our printing, assembly and postage costs if those members were to select that option. We intend to offer that alternative via our website as a cost-saving measure. What are the benefits to members who get the e-mail newsletter? First, they get the newsletter before anyone else; second, they have the option of printing out important information should they wish to do so; and third, they will be helping GSV save unnecessary expense.*

Q2. Would you prefer 2 issues of VG per year rather than 4?

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Yes 85, No 9. This seemed very lopsided. Some questioned the postal savings. Others commented that they preferred 4 issues per year. It was an ok idea for most.

Board response: *I will be candid. Although this is an alternative that some other entities have adopted, and savings can result, the Board members are not particularly keen on the idea. We like 4 issues per year (as some of the respondents mentioned) and think it is important to GSV to maintain a quarterly publication. Still, with such a lopsided vote in favor, we will study the issue and delay making any decision on this for the time being.*

Q3. If VG were at a higher membership level, would you still want it?

Yes 65, No 19. This question created confusion in the minds of many, so the vote may not be particularly meaningful. Seems like most want VG in any event.

Board response: *The intent of this question was to gauge whether there were significant numbers of members that might be interested in an option to be a member but not receive the quarterly journal. Suffice it to say that the responses made it clear that almost all members value Vermont Genealogy as their primary member benefit. Nothing more will be pursued on this issue.*

Q4. Would you be willing to pay extra for 1st Class delivery of VG?

Yes 46, No 46. Again, there seemed to be confusion among respondents. Some comments indicated that this was proposed as a money-saving measure. Others seemed to interpret this as an all-or-none issue; that all would receive VG by 1st Class.

Board response: *There is concern that many did not understand the question. There are other societies who offer 1st class delivery of their quarterly by charging a fee for that benefit (Maine Genealogical Society charges \$5 extra, for instance). Considering the recent postal increases, we would have to charge an additional \$10 for first class delivery of the journal, and we don't believe that many members would opt for that as a way to receive the journal (usually) a few days earlier. We will not pursue this further unless there is a grassroots movement to do so.*

Q5. Would you be interested in a life membership category?

Yes 46, No 46. A few indicated they were already life members. Many comments were from those too old to worry about a life membership. Others said it depends on cost.

Board response: *We have been urged by many to be cautious in this, as other organizations have offered life membership and it turned out that they shot themselves in the foot by doing so. They failed to take in sufficient funds to cover anticipated future per-member costs, and reduced their subsequent dependable annual dues income from members. I will not say this issue is dead, but it is on life support. We will need to get an actuarial involved if we are to offer this to make sure we don't do something that turns out to be counterproductive.*

Q6. Should we eliminate morning food and just serve beverages at our meetings?

Yes 32, No 22. Many did not vote yes or no because they are unable to come to meetings. Others pointed out that a little food is good for those coming from a distance (the majority of attendees at many of our meetings!).

Board response: *see Q7.*

Q7. Should we eliminate dessert from the lunch menu at our meetings?

Yes 28, No 21. Again, many are too far away to come to meetings, so did not vote. Those with a sweet tooth suggested maybe going for a less expensive dessert as an alternative.

Board response: *Both Q6 and Q7 were related. Food has been an expensive part of recent meetings, and we were interested to know what was important to members. Lots of folks think a morning snack is imperative for those who have traveled a distance to get to the meeting. Re dessert at lunch, many of us would hate to give up desserts completely. The board is interested in eliminating the financial risk involved in arranging for a catered meal and is exploring other options. That may involve "lunch on your own", much simpler catered fare (box lunches), or luncheons at church halls. Recent experience at restaurants and hotels has been disappointing on many occasions, so look for changes at future meetings.*

Q8. Should we reduce our conferences from 2 to only 1 per year?

Yes 13, No 48. Many did not vote, as they do not attend the meetings. However, among those who did, it seemed pretty much in favor of 2 per year, giving members more opportunities to attend and network with other members.

Board response: *The Board agrees with the majority on this. We feel it is important to continue to offer stimulating programs twice a year at various venues in geographically diverse settings.*

Q9. Do you prefer a hotel/restaurant setting for our meetings?

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Yes 20, No 23. Many comments received on this question. Many indicated it was the program that was important, not the venue. Others suggested alternating between hotels and church halls.

Board response: *As indicated in Q7 and Q8, recent experience at hotels and restaurants has not always been positive. We will be looking more seriously at other alternatives in the future. Because there are often a few people doing most of the work to pull together meetings, convenience for those doing the work has often led us to catered events, where the hotel or restaurant "takes care of everything". If that is to change, we will need to get more people involved in helping to set up meetings, perhaps arrange for food, assemble equipment to support the presentations, etc. Handicap access will be an important consideration for any location to be considered.*

Q10. Do you use the GSV website?

Yes 32, No 62. Despite our efforts to publicize it there were a surprising number who either did not know it existed, and others who have not yet visited it. Still others do not have access to a computer.

Board comment: *The new GSV website is only about a year old. Many members are just beginning to realize that it is there and that there is real Vermont genealogical content being added weekly. As time goes on, it is hoped that many more will find it useful and will begin contributing information that other Vermont researchers will find useful as well.*

Q11. What is your impression of the GSV website?

Looks great 7, Looking better 12, Looks good 10, Needs more work 5, Long way to go 1. Some pertinent comments included (1) need better directions to the members-only section, (2) can the sidebar on the left disappear so the screen gets bigger and (3) should list the URL prominently in the Newsletter.

Board comment: *see Q12*

Q12. What else would you like to see on the GSV website?

Suggestions were varied, and included scanned letters, typed manuscripts, help aids for researchers, digitized town reports, cemetery transcriptions, maps, vital records, freemen's lists, all issues of B&T, message board, queries and answers, pay dues online, etc. Many ideas for us to consider!

Board comment: *Many great suggestions were made for information that could be included on our website. We have a large number of members who may be able to offer some information that could be added to the website. The things that we can do we will, but we are relying on the efforts of many to make our website of great value to all users.*

Q13. Are you interested in a vital records transcription project?

Yes 75, No 15. Not surprising, most were interested. Equally not surprising, very few indicated an ability or willingness to assist, most due to age, distance, etc. A few, though, did indicate a willingness to help.

Board response: *Although many indicated they could not assist in a project like this, the names of those who said they might be able to contribute will be passed along to whoever steps forward to get this project underway.*

Q14. Are you interested in a cemetery transcription project?

Yes 80, No 10. Again, an overwhelming number are interested in seeing GSV do something, and again, only a relative few indicated an ability or willingness to help.

Board response: *There has been a bit more interest in this project, and some indicated they had already transcribed some graveyards. I will be assembling a list of those expressing interest and will attempt to hook those people up to members who eventually agree to be County coordinators for a transcribing project.*

Q15. Do you have other suggestions for GSV projects?

Yes 17, No 30. The yeses and nos seemed kind of irrelevant to this question. The meat was in the comments, and they seemed to mirror, in large part, the suggestions for website content. Other ideas mentioned were deed and probate indexes, summaries of talks given by speakers at meetings, republish town histories, grand lists, digitize court records, immigration/naturalization records, digitized newspapers, name changes, newspaper abstracts, church records, etc. A few mentioned a continuation of the Vermont Families in 1791 project.

Board comment: *There were lots of good ideas, and it is hoped by sharing the results of this survey that members will begin one or more of these projects to add to the store of information available to researchers. It is significant to note that Jonathan Stevens announced at the Fall Meeting in Barre that he intends to take on the Vermont Families project and is now working toward publication of volume 3.*

Q16. Are you able to volunteer to assist with any project?

Yes 9, No 55, Maybe 22. Lots of reasons offered for not being able to help, but there were some who were willing (the glass is 8% full?).

Board response: *As with many organizations like ours, the members are our greatest resource. Because we*

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New England Meeting Announcements

March 1, 2008: Deadline for the 2009 New England Regional Genealogical Conference call for papers. The conference will be held April 22–26 in Manchester, NH. Details can be found at their website: <http://www.nergc.org/>

March 5, 2008, 10:00 am Wednesday: *DNA and Genealogy*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

March 22, 2008, 10:00 am Saturday: *Preparing for Research in Quebec*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

March 27, 2008, Thursday: *Massachusetts Archives Research Day*, New England Historic Genealogical Society at Massachusetts Archives, Columbia Point, Boston, MA.

April 1, 2008: Deadline for the National Genealogical Society call for papers for the May 2009 conference *From the Lost Colony to the West, North Carolina and the Building of a Nation*. The conference is scheduled to be held May 13 to 16. Details for the call for papers can be found on their website at www.ngsgenealogy.org/2009callforpapers.cfm

April 9, 2008, Wednesday: *Salem Witch Judge*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

April 17-19, 2008, Thursday-Saturday: *Navigating the Past: Charting a Course for your Family Tree*, Ohio Genealogical Society, Cincinnati, OH.

April 19, 2008: *UK and Irish Seminar*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

May 17, 2008: Genealogical Society of Vermont Meeting, Bennington Museum, Bennington, VT.

May 14-17, 2008: *Show Me the Nations Records*, 2008 National Genealogical Society Conference and Family History Fair, Kansas City, MO. Details are available at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>.

May 17, 2008: *The Boston Italians*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

May 22, 2008, Thursday: *National Archives Research Day*, New England Historic Genealogical Society at National Archives and Records Administration, Waltham, MA.

June 15—June 22, Thursday—Thursday: *Quebec*

New Journal Announced

The Bennington Museum has announced plans to publish an annual scholarly journal titled the *Walloomsack Review*. Executive Director Stephen Perkins has appointed Bill Budde as the editor of the new publication. The *Review* is dedicated to the presentation of scholarly articles relating to the social, artistic, cultural and historical development of Bennington County, the State of Vermont, and adjacent areas in New York and Massachusetts. In addition to full length articles there will be book reviews, highlights from community collections and photographs.

Submissions will be selected by an editorial review board consisting of three to five members. Authors are encouraged to submit articles of 2,500 to 3,000 words or 1,000 to 2,000 words. Authors are encouraged to submit two or three relevant photographs or illustrations that will be printed in black and white. Queries, requests for author guidelines or submissions should be sent to the Bennington Museum, *Walloomsack Review*, 75 Main Street, Bennington, VT 05201 or e-mailed to info@benningtonmuseum.org, subject: Walloomsack Review

Research Tour, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

June 17, 2008, Saturday: *Urban Genealogy*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

June 23—28, Monday—Saturday: *Come Home to New England*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

July 16, 2008, Wednesday: *Preserving Family Records*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

September 3-6, 2008: *Footprints of Family History*, Philadelphia, PA. Early information is available at www.FGSCconference.org/pdf/early-registration.pdf.

September 19, 20, 21, 2008, Friday—Saturday: *New Hampshire Highland Games, Scottish History, Culture and Genealogy Seminars*, Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH.

September 20, 2008, Saturday: *Life in the Past Lane V* will be presented by the Friends of the National Archives, Pittsfield, MA. The conference will be held at the Williams Inn, Williamstown, MA. See their website for more details: <http://www.narafriends-pittsfield.org/index.htm>.

October 3, 4, 5, 2008: Sikes/Sykes Reunion, Suffield, CT. Plans include visits to historic Sykes family sites in Dorset, VT and Springfield, Ma. For information go to www.sikes-sykesfamilies.rootsweb.com.

results of that survey, and how your Board is responding to your comments.

Our Spring Meeting is beginning to shape up; it will be held at the Bennington Museum on Saturday, 17 May 2008 (mark your calendars now!), and by the time you get this newsletter, speakers will probably have been nailed down and other details finalized. As we begin to look for good alternatives to holding meetings in hotels and restaurants (convenient, but often expensive), we will need to hear from you, our members, as to good locations for meetings. Send your suggestions to me or any other Board member so that we can consider your ideas as we plan our future meetings. Also, if you have ideas for speakers that you believe would interest attendees, let us know that, too.

I made a lot of noise a few Newsletters ago about GSV finances. The Board was very concerned about the direction in which our finances were heading; we saw a need to make some changes, and your responses to our questionnaire have been helpful in guiding us. In addition to reducing our meeting costs, we have also decided to offer our Newsletter to members via e-mail rather than regular mail. Look for a notice on our website to sign up for that option. Also, we are going to experiment with assembly and mailing of the Newsletter using volunteer members rather than paying the printer to do it all. Details of how we will accomplish that are still being worked out. We will try to keep you informed so that those living in the area that are willing to help can do so.

That's it for now. See you at the Bennington Museum in May.

Bob Murphy

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are spread out geographically across the broad expanse of our nation, it would seem to preclude "getting together" to work on projects. However, that is exactly what happened with the Branches & Twigs indexing project (mail and email were used to communicate with members at great distances from one another). Another recent experience was Alden Rollins' book Vermont Religious Certificates. He was in Alaska, but managed to do much of the work himself, and coordinate with others close to Vermont repositories to accomplish what he couldn't at such a distance. All we need is a team leader and an idea for a project. Others will step forward to assist.

Thanks to—

Gloria P. Watts, member #1020 for her donation.



Wiki Genealogy

The availability of the internet has encouraged the growth of websites run by citizens with varied backgrounds. The widest known citizen's site is Wikipedia—an online encyclopedia composed of contributions by anyone with knowledge of a subject. Just as important is the ability of anyone with greater knowledge to correct errors or update the previously posted information. There are several 'wiki' genealogy sites you may want to visit:

[WeRelate](http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Main_Page) In partnership with the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN.

www.werelate.org/wiki/Main_Page

[Genealogy Wikia](http://www.genealogy.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page)

www.genealogy.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page

[WikiTree](http://www.wikitree.org/index.php?title=Main_Page)

www.wikitree.org/index.php?title=Main_Page

[Rodovid](http://www.en.rodovid.org/wk/Free_family_tree_portal) Fast growing international genealogy.

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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 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 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-

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Please include your membership number for renewals and member discounts.

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

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Arlington, VT 05250-8573
(802) 375-9296
E-mail: 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

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

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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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: 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.).

VHS Library Acquires Early Vital Records

The Vermont Historical Society library has acquired 287 reels of microfilm containing the state's vital records from the beginning of record keeping through 1870. "This is a very positive development for genealogical researchers using our library," said VHS librarian Paul Carnahan. "Now they will have access to more resources under one roof."

The vital records microfilm at the library is actually an index to records at the local level. The original records are, in most cases, still kept in the town clerks' offices across the state. Many original town records up to 1850 are also on microfilm at the state's research facility in Middlesex.

Recording of vital events was not required until 1857, but some events were not recorded or were indexed

with errors. Researchers are advised to not rely on one source of information.

The VHS's recent acquisition only includes the oldest records. The state has 578 additional microfilm reels that contain indexes to the state's vital records from 1871 to 1954. These additional microfilms are available in Middlesex and at a select group of libraries in the region. With this addition the VHS and Bennington Museum Libraries have made access to the vital records available to researchers in mid- and southern Vermont. (The Bennington Museum Library collection includes vital records from 1760 to 1907.)

Purchase of the film was made possible by the library's Richard J. Fowle Fund and individual donors.

Newsletter of the

Genealogical Society of Vermont

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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.

Challenge Answer & New Question

The challenge in the November 2007 issue was a matching question which asked you to match the occupation or civil position to the definition. Definitions were taken from Ancestry's *Concise Genealogical Dictionary*.

We had one winner— member Maudean Neill. Maudean will receive a copy of Patricia Law Hatcher's book *Producing a Quality Family History*. Correct answers were also submitted by Georgia LaBatt, Stephanie Mullen O'Rourke, and LuEllen Pettengell.

The correct answers are: **Culler of staves** — Barrel inspector; **Whitewing**—Street sweeper; **Vulcan**—Blacksmith; **Piper**—Innkeeper; **Stockinger**—One who knits, weaves or deals in stockings; **Baxter**—Baker; **Headswoman**—Midwife.

New Challenge—One important clue used to trace lost ancestors involves knowledge of migration patterns. But migration patterns change over time, so it is also important to know the preferred migration route at a specific time in history.

1. What was the preferred migration route into Vermont in 1750?
2. What was the preferred westward migration route out of Vermont in 1795?
3. What was the preferred westward migration route out of Vermont in 1827?