Springtime in Vermont, means a few things: mud, black flies and the GSV spring meeting. It is great to be able to get out into the cemeteries, that is right up until the moment when the black flies find you. Then it is always a quick rush back to the car. Rest assured that the mud has dried up and the black flies will not be invited to our meeting. This year we will meet on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at the Friends Meeting House, 17 Bellows Falls Rd. (Route 5) in Putney. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. and the first speaker at 11:00 a.m. will be Steve Anderson, “The Putney Perfectionists.” John Humphrey Noyes and the Perfectionists operated a church and several small businesses in Putney. Noyes went on to lead one of first communal societies in the United States—the Oneida Community. It should be a fascinating talk. A luncheon will be served at 12:00 noon, catered by the Putney General Store, consisting of a variety of sandwiches, salads, beverages and a dessert. The second speaker at 1:15 p.m. will be our own John A. Leppman, “Quakers in Vermont.” This will be a discussion with emphasis on migration patterns, records, etc., only briefly touching on the theology. Another interesting and informative talk. The third speaker at 2:30 p.m. will be yours truly, “The 1940 U.S. Census and the FamilySearch Indexing Project.” The 1940 Census was released on April 2, 2012, and this discussion will include what information is contained in that census and the current indexing project. We will adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

The cost to attend this meeting is $20 for GSV members and $25 for non-members; this includes the luncheon. Checks must be received by May 11, 2012. For further details on the program, please see our website [http://www.genealogyvermont.org](http://www.genealogyvermont.org) (under “upcoming events”), or contact me stevens@vermontel.net. I have to thank John A. Leppman for procuring the facility and agreeing to be a speaker. Also an especially large thank you to Barbara A. Taylor, Putney Assistant Town Clerk and GSV member who has been most helpful, throughout the entire process of organizing the meeting.

Just a reminder to everyone that GSV will have a presence at the Vermont History Expo. We will once again be in the Floral Hall and have copies of GSV publications for sale and provide assistance to those who stop by our booth. Unfortunately, due to new strict regulations from VHS, we will no longer be able to sell any of our used non-GSV materials, as we previously had done. The Expo, held at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, is slightly earlier this year on June 16-17, 2012. This year’s theme is Vermont in the Civil War. I look forward to seeing you there.

The 1940 U.S. Census indexing project is well underway and while there is still much work still to be done, the indexing of Vermont is nearly complete. A very large thank you is certainly in order to GSV members: Nancy Duffy, Valerie Rogers and Barbara A. Taylor, as well as non-members Debra Cullen and Darrell A. Martin who all have helped in the indexing of Vermont. Their efforts will help make the index a valuable resource for researchers everywhere.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President
USED BOOKS & CDs FOR SALE

GSV is offering the following used books and CDs for sale. All are used, but in good condition and have been donated to GSV. Please contact GSV president Jonathan W. Stevens 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 books is the standard rate of $3.50 for the first item and $1.00 for each additional item. 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.

BOOKS


CD-ROMS


Note: This CD contains many typographical errors in the material, that were not present in the original printed version.


Note: this item consists of 9 CD’s [8 CD’s of images of originally pages of Register, Volumes 1 through 148, plus consolidated index on CD 9] The shipping on this item is $5, as the CD’s are all contained in a special case.
SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION ON VERMONT SOLDIERS IN THE 9TH U.S. INFANTRY IN THE MEXICAN WAR

Robert Grandchamp of Essex, Vt., is currently engaged in writing a regimental history of the 9th U.S. Infantry in the Mexican War 1847-1848. Raised in the New England states and led by Norwich president Col. Truman Ransom, the 9th fought with General Scott in his campaign against Mexico City, including Churubusco and Chapultepec, where Col. Ransom fell. Vermont contributed one company to the 9th Infantry, Company D, which was recruited from throughout the state. Below is a roster of Company D, with the names of the men who served and the towns they enlisted from in 1847. Please note, that these were the towns where they lived in 1847, many moved from these towns to other parts of Vermont afterwards. Mr. Grandchamp is searching for any information on these men or the Mexican War in general and can be contacted by email at rgrandchamp40@aol.com.

Capt. E. A. Kimball’s Co. D - report from the Mexican American War of 1848 in 2 parts July 13, and July 20, 1848.

Note: E. A. Kimball was the editor of the Spirit of The Age newspaper in Woodstock from 1845 – 1847.

July 13, 1848  The report includes notes on the following individuals:

- E. A. Kimball (Woodstock)
- Jesse A. Gove (residence?)
- William A. Newman, Jr. (residence?)
- Dean Fairbanks (Woodstock)
- Eugene S. Parker (Clarendon)
- Newton C. Miller (Hanover, NH)
- John S. Dodge (New Boston NH)
- George Hatch (Norwich)
- James Maxwell (Norwich)
- Lyman N. Grou (Elmore)
- Charles M. Stowe (Montpelier)
- Horace Needham (Shrewsbury)
- Luther Smith (Danby)
- Oliver H. Sheldon (Danby)
- Isaac T. Hooton (Royalton)
- George House (Williamstown)
- Henry O. Brigham (Norwich)
- Darwin E. Ballard (Danby)
- Thomas Beedle (Lebanon, N.H.)
- Abel Blanchard, Jr. (Barnard)
- Charles T. Bonnel (Norwich)
- David Briant (Hanover, N.H.)
- Elisha Bradley (Danby)
- Henry L. Burdge (Bridgewater)
- Peter Butler (Rutland)
- Rodney I. Ball (Sharon)
- Moses Chaplin (Clarendon)
- Horace Chamberlin (Norwich)
- Joseph Connor (Montpelier)
- Daniel Cutler (residence?)
- Adam D. Craige (Hardwick)
- James Crangle (Barnard)
- John Cota (Hanover, N.H.)
- Henry H. Crossman (Clarendon)
- Richard Dodge (Montpelier)
- Henry Downs (Rutland)
- Philip Frye (Montpelier)
- Charles Gettins (Norwich)
- William Guinan (Montpelier)
- Arza Grinald (Clarendon)
- Stephen M. Hatch (Hartland)
- Daniel A. Hilliard (Danby)
- George Hinkley (Rutland)

Marshall Hoaghton (Rutland)
Joseph Huse (Berlin)
Andrew Jackson (Berlin)
Elish[vic] B. Jones (Shrewsbury)
George W. Kilbourn (Rutland)
Harry H. Kimball (Sharon)
Guy F. H. Kiser (Bakersfield)
Benjamin Lawrence (Plainfield)
Joseph Mack (Hardwick)
John Morris (Hartford)
Jeremiah W. Marston (Berlin)
Chauncy Maxham (Danby)
Galen C. Maxham (Barnard)
James McCue (Lebanon, N.H.)
John Morway (Rutland)
John J. Moody (Hanover, N.H.)
Elisha S. Partridge (Glover)
Charles Pettingale (Barre)
Damon Preston (Danby)
Barnabas Porter (Bakersfield)
Enos Rowell (Norwich)
John D. Robinson (Williamstown)
Caleb M. Roberts (Danby)
James Roden (Hartland)
George W. Royce (Sharon)
Myron T. Strong (Hartford)
Wesson Sowle (Danby)
David Stickney (Berlin)
Luther Stockwell (Williamstown)
Henry Tufts (Chester)
James A. Templeton (Worcester)
Josiah W. Tuttle (Rutland)
Hiram C. Wait (Danby)
Amos Williams (Arlington)
Oliver O. Willard (Bridgewater)
Stephen Woods (Danby)
Willard Woods (Danby)
Marcellus L. Wright (Ludlow)

Editor’s Note: All of these spellings are from the information Mr. Grandchamp has provided and I have not verified them through my own research.
DEATHS.

ESTHER MONROE SWIFT 1923-2012

MONTPELIER - Esther Munroe Swift of South Royalton, Vermont, died peacefully on Saturday, March 10, 2012. Esther was a sixth-generation Vermonter, born in 1923 and brought up in Montpelier. Though she lived in and traveled to many other places, she returned to Vermont for the last three decades of her life. She wrote the seminal text, "Vermont Place-Names," restored a 1782 farmhouse in South Royalton and served as librarian and archivist for the Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock. In 2007, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Center for Research on Vermont.

She was preceded in death by her son, Alexander. She will be greatly missed by her surviving son, Brian Swift, her daughter-in-law, Bonnie Swift, her loving grandchildren, Alexander, Jason, Jennifer, Katherine and Andrew, her five great-grandchildren, and her many friends and admirers. Those wishing to make memorial contributions are encouraged to consider Friends of the West Hartford Library, 242 Carousel Court, White River Junction, VT 05001; or the Center for Research on Vermont at UVM.

A website, www.esthermunroeswift.com, is planned for those who would like more information about this remarkable woman. Those wishing to express online condolences may do so at www.guareandsons.com.

A graveside service was held 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13th, in Green Mount Cemetery in Montpelier.

A memorial service will be held later in the spring at the Green Mount Cemetery Chapel. An announcement will be published prior to the service.

Originally Published in Rutland Herald.

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Donations

Mary Bowman Paulson of Edina, Minnesota
Edith Lillie Bartley of Brooklyn, New York
Judith Gale of Raleigh, North Carolina
National Society Sons of Colonial New England
BOOKS NOTED

Books that have not been submitted for review in Vermont Genealogy.


Let’s start with the very most simple fact. Ethan Allen never had anything to do with the furniture business. Now move on. Maybe he didn’t announce to the commandant of Fort Ticonderoga that he was seizing the fort “in the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress.” Maybe he did. Maybe the commandant had heard of either of those entities. Maybe he hadn’t.

A Vermonter, or anyone wanting to understand much about Vermont, should know about Ethan Allen. Generations of Vermonters and others have had books about Ethan, sometimes with additional coverage of his brothers and their various other relatives, to read and get an idea of who this complex man was. A quick check of my Vermont shelf reveals around twenty such books, with various historical viewpoints, intended audiences, and degrees of reliability. (The dust jacket claim on this book that it is the first “full biography” of Allen in half a century is contrived if not downright specious.) But make absolutely no mistake about it: Willard Sterne Randall, who lives near Burlington and has written authoritatively on Benedict Arnold, the family of Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and other subjects, has taken on Vermont’s favorite founding father in a large, readable, and certainly worthwhile new biography.

On the whole he has done his homework well, and on the whole the reader who wants a perceptive understanding of the emergence of Vermont in the years from, say, 1760 to 1790 will have a good resource here. The central concerns which dominated Ethan’s life and thought throughout his adult life were the conflict, mostly with the colony of New York, over what government had jurisdiction over the territory now called Vermont; the separation of the American colonies from British rule; and the elements of conventional Judeo-Christian belief which seemed to him to violate well-reasoned, rational thinking. Randall does a fine job of setting the scene for each of these dramatic conflicts and helps us understand, not only why they were important to Allen, but why his advocacy got him into so much difficulty.

Perhaps inevitably, the book so ambitious as this one has its stumbling points. Purely from a genealogical standpoint, it gets off to a very shaky start, as Randall accepts a commonly repeated nineteenth-century notion of the beginnings of Allen’s patrilineal American ancestry. Samuel Allen, Ethan’s great-great-grandfather, made his first recorded appearance in New England at Windsor, Connecticut in 1641, and it is not likely that he was a brother of fellow Connecticut colonists Matthew and Thomas Allen. Randall’s account of Samuel as one of three brothers emigrating with Thomas Hooker (pp. 45-7) is suspect from the start: accounts of three brothers emigrating together must always be taken with a grain of salt. This particular story is carefully pulled off its pedestal by the eminent genealogist Donald Lines Jacobus, who published his findings in Hale, House and Related Families Mainly of the Connecticut River Valley (co-authored with Edgar Francis Waterman, Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1952, pp. 447-452).

I am quite comfortable with accepting that good biographers are not necessarily meticulous genealogists, so I trust that Mr. Randall can accept that genealogists might pick up on a mistake. There are quite a few other lapses of research or editing which teeter on the edge between nitpicking and real problems. Confounding of Increase Mather and his son Cotton in the account of Ethan’s defiant acceptance of inoculation for smallpox (pp. 140-141) clouds the effort to connect the Allen story to a cornerstone of American medical history. Randall accepts without question the story that the printing press used at Dresden, Vermont – now Hanover, New Hampshire – to produce the first Vermont imprints in 1778 (and now proudly displayed at the Vermont Historical Society) is the very same one used by Stephen Daye to print the Whole Booke of Psalms at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1640, the first book printed in what is now the United States (p. 477). Not only does Randall get the name of the book wrong, but he ignores the fact that the Vermont Historical Society has long since abandoned any claim that this press has roots so deep in American printing history. The tree on Vermont’s state seal and coat of arms is a pine, not a walnut (p.469). (Oh, and by the way, the cow grazing next to it isn’t supposed to be rendered with spots, in particular with a spot in the shape of a pig, especially when the coat of arms is on the door of a State Police car, but I do digress.) Ethan Allen’s narrative of his Revolutionary War capture and imprisonment was very popular from the time of its first publication (1779) into the nineteenth century, but it had about nineteen separate editions before the Civil War, not sixty (p. 535). And the town of Westminster is by no measure in the southwest corner of Vermont (p.299). There are some other editing problems having to do with compass directions; there is no point in enumerating them all here.

I am certainly aware of the danger that a “gotcha” list of this sort will suggest to some readers that I consider the book under consideration to be unworthy, and/or that I am trying to display my own supposedly superior erudition. The latter criticism is certainly not appropriate: I learned a great deal by reading this biography and can claim only a foolishly small fraction of Randall’s understanding of his subject. I do hope that all of us can remember that the best scholars can pick up inaccurate stories from unreliable sources and perpetuate poorly documented history, or that they can be the victims of less than meticulous editing. Perfect truth is always elusive.

Reviewed by John A. Leppman
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)
Want To Contact Us?

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Vermont Genealogy, the GSV Journal
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Send copies of relevant books for journal review to:
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Please inform GSV if you move.
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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: 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 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
Address Service Requested

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