SPRING MEETING

This year's meeting will be held on Saturday, May 17, 1997 in the North Congregational Church, 72 Main Street, St. Johnsbury, VT. The church is near the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. The sanctuary is handicapped accessible, however there is a flight of stairs down to the meeting room where lunch will be served.

The program has not been completed at this time. We hope to include a special speaker of wide interest, and local speakers who will introduce us to the resources of the St. Johnsbury area.

The cost of the Meeting, morning coffee and the luncheon will be $9.00 for members, $11.00 for non-members. Reservations must be mailed by May 10, 1997.

Please mail your check, marked "spring meeting" to: Genealogical Society of Vermont, PO Box 1553, Saint Albans, VT 05478-1006

Meeting Schedule

9:00 Registration & coffee
10:00 GSV business meeting followed by morning speaker.

Noon Luncheon served by the United Workers Group of the Church.

1:30: The afternoon program will include an opportunity to visit the such resources in the St. Johnsbury area as the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum and Fairbanks Museum.

For the latest information on the Spring Meeting and GSV, please visit us on our Internet home-page at: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/induni_n_j.

The final details of the meeting will be sent to the membership by post card six weeks prior to the meeting.

This will be a beautiful time of year to explore this section of Vermont.

The Sheldon Museum Research Center
Middlebury, Vermont

The Research Center contains collections primarily devoted to the history of Addison County, Vermont. These include published town and county histories; Middlebury newspapers back to 1802, (partially indexed); family papers, some cemetery and church records, photographs; file of genealogical inquiries and material on local families contributed by members over the years, including some published genealogies; and 1857 and 1871 county maps showing names of landowners.

The Research Center, built in 1972, is attached to the Sheldon Museum, founded in 1872 and located in the 1829 Judd-Harris House in downtown Middlebury. The Research Center is open to the public free of charge; a donation is requested to assist with the cost of maintaining the collections. Hours are Tuesday through Friday 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Inquiries by mail are welcome. The address is: 1 Park Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 Telephone (802) 388-2117. Again, a donation is requested and there is a charge of $.20 a page for photocopies.

Nancy Rucker
Reference Librarian

N.B. PLEASE NOTE:

The Newsletter has been sent to you this past year by bulk-mail. However this has caused some members to receive their copy well into the month of issue. The Executive Committee has pushed the date of each issue one month later. The meeting notices will now appear in the February and August issues to allow ample time to make reservations.

See Page 2: Please Note

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FIRST QUARTER-CENTURY OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT

By John A. Leppman

The Genealogical Society of Vermont has made its purposes reasonably clear without emblazoning a formal mission statement on every publication. That suits me fine; I have seen organizations agonize far too long and loud about mission statements. Early publicity for GSV states, "Its purpose is to foster genealogical interest and activities; to assemble, preserve and make available genealogical records; and to assist those in need of genealogical information and help." There isn't much to argue with there, but with twenty-five years under our belts, I think we may do well to look at what we have done well and what we should try to do as well or better in the future. Coming into the presidency of GSV at a time when members are still adjusting to a number of changes in the Society's program and appearance, I would like to comment on a list of general goals which I see for us and make some more specific statements about how I would like to see them

GSV Newsletter ©
A quarterly publication of the Genealogical Society of Vermont

News, articles and comments should be mailed to:
Mrs. Margaret R. Jenks
24 Mettowe Street
Granville, NY 12832-1037
(518) 642-1894

Deadlines for information are:
Dec. 15, Mar. 15, June 15 & Sept. 15 for the February, May, August & November issues of the Newsletter.
advanced. I emphasize that the opinions expressed here are my own and are not official Society policy.

The following goals are ranked approximately in order of my view of their significance to our purpose:

I. To promote the preservation and dissemination of genealogical and family history information about Vermont and Vermonters

This goal has generally occupied the largest portion of our time and resources. We pursue it with published material in *Vermont Genealogy* and our special publications, notably the ongoing *Vermont Families in 1791* series. We must continue to encourage the publication of worthwhile primary and secondary genealogical resources about Vermont. Members everywhere can assist with this goal by considering publication in our journal for Vermont studies.

We have also provided financial assistance to projects to compile primary records or otherwise create materials which will assist Vermont research. We can lend the authority of GSV to advocacy for proper preservation of and access to government and institutional records for Vermont research.

II. To improve the quality and accessibility of resources for genealogical research of all kinds in Vermont

Recent Society actions with this goal in mind include the gift of our library of review copies of books and other materials to the Vermont Historical Society and to other public libraries around the state with genealogical collections. (Filles of bulletins received in exchange for ours have gone to the National Genealogical Society library because no Vermont library felt properly equipped to handle them. We still made a major contribution to the availability of these resources to the public.) We have felt that genealogists were better served by strengthening the best of Vermont's existing genealogical libraries, particularly the one at VHS, than by maintaining our own collection. We also provided VHS with the work station and CD-ROM's to add the vast *Family Search* CD-ROM resources of the LDS Family History Library to their available materials. We should continue to strive to make Vermont a good place to do genealogical research about anyone, Vermonters or otherwise.

III. To assist our members in their research, writing, and enjoyment of the pursuit of genealogy and family history

We have pursued this goal in a number of ways. Education at our twice-a-year meetings and through our publications (*Newsletter* and *Vermont Genealogy*) brings members in contact with some of the best minds at work in the genealogical world. (Your book review editor modestly declines to be placed in that category but hopes his efforts have been beneficial.) Cooperative efforts with other genealogical societies in New England and nationally have been useful. Members also call on GSV to help them make contact with others researching the same genealogical questions. The queries in *Branches & Twigs* and now *Vermont Genealogy* serve some of that purpose. Many members have expressed concern that by ceasing publication of the "Apple Orchard" feature in *Branches & Twigs* we have lost a useful means of communication. While the Publications Committee concluded that the slow pace of publication of this vast data base made it a cumbersome means of communication, we have discussed how to make the information readily available, probably through the LDS *Ancestral File* CD-ROM's, and we need to discuss further how to put people in touch with each other on matters of mutual interest.

IV. To provide social contacts among members

While few members look upon GSV chiefly as a social club, any organization benefits from a feeling that members enjoy seeing each other at meetings, and we should of course continue to encourage that hospitable feeling.

Members may have additional suggestions for this list. Good ideas will be welcome. Here are a few specific projects which are ongoing or have been proposed:

- *Vermont Families in 1791*. This is a well known project which can still use literally thousands of new submissions of completed data. Volume II is coming soon. There is no limit to how many volumes could be produced if interest in working on preparation and editing of material holds up.
- A brochure for Town Clerks on "How to Serve Genealogists' Needs Well." The best Town Clerks already know how to deal with us. New ones sometimes find us annoying or daunting or simply peculiar. We may need to explain to them why we are all of the above and what to do about it.
- A comprehensive index of *Branches & Twigs*. With good computer technology, this can be compiled by a committee of dedicated people spread out as far as need be. The twenty-four years of *Br&T* incorporated many thousands of names, and the lack of an index makes them unacceptably difficult to locate.
- A style manual for compilers of various sorts of primary records for genealogists. The Publications Committee has started work on this project; interestingly, we are unaware of any other organization's having done this, and standards of style would help both our members who might like to have us publish records, and others doing the same elsewhere. Rules for publication of primary records may not be etched in stone, but we can help communicate what we feel works best.
- Useful information to put on the GSV Web Page. Suggestions have included a frequently updated list of office hours of Vermont Town Clerks. Further in the future: perhaps access to the entire "Apple Orchard" data base, if arrangements can be made to computerize it.
- A program which would encourage research and writing about family history by students in Vermont's schools by offering technical and editing help and publishing particularly worthwhile work in *Vermont Genealogy*.

**PLEASE NOTE continued:**

In addition, your editor has changed the deadlines so that you will receive your *Newsletter* in a more timely manner. All material must be received before the deadline to be included in that issue. The *Newsletter* goes to the printer the first weekday after the deadline.
Bulk-mail has meant a considerable savings for the Society. Janet Induni reports that approximately 1190 individuals receive the Newsletter. At .32 (First Class mail) it would cost the Society $380.80 each quarter for a total of $1523.20. Mailed at bulk-rate, postage for the Newsletter costs the Society approximately $1.35 each quarter for a total of $540.00, a yearly saving of $983.20.

Peggy Jenkins, Editor

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Fiscal year ending September 30, 1996

GENERAL FUND
Income:
Membership Dues: $2,295.00
Contributions (Permanent and Computer Fund): 127.00
Interest 982.01
Program Fees (semi-annual meetings): 592.00
Miscellaneous: 147.89
**Total Income:** $24,143.90

Expenses:
Editor's fee: B&T $1,350.00
Vermont Genealogy 4,000.00
Newsletter printing (4 issues): 1,308.57
Newsletter postage & delivery (4 issues): 915.81
B&T printing (1 issue): 1,389.00
B&T postage & delivery (2 issues): 810.52
Vermont Genealogy printing (3 issues): 7,357.74
Vermont Genealogy postage & delivery (3 issues): 544.35
Program Expense (semi-annual meetings): 777.50
Promotional Expenses: 483.15
Postage (all but periodicals): 1,014.81
Office supplies: 211.20
Telephone: 22.14
Subscriptions to VMCTA, VOCA: 30.00
NERGC: 683.00
Bank service charges: 11.57
Computer Fund expense: 150.00
Miscellaneous: 857.57
**Total expenses:** $21,916.83

**Excess of Income over Operating Expenses:** $2,227.07

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Induni, Treasurer

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Name: Robert B. Chapman 2995
Geler Britton Barnes 4723
Katharine Melke 4724
Ann Bolles Johnson 4725
Charles McCosco 4726
Robert Wylie Park 4727
Robert M. Stone 4738
Marie McAndrew-Taylor 4729
Judy Smith 4730
Douglas W. Campbell 4731
Rosalie Roberts 4732
Donald C. Gillam 4733
Lois R. Smith 4734
John L. Buttolph 4735
Marjorie Stowe 4736
Sharon M. Donahue 4747
Karin M. Rose 4738
Bethel L. Marshall 4739
Larry Brooks 4740
Susan Littman 4741
Linda O. Brookman 4742
Gordon Leveille 4743
Sharon Karkut 4744
Kathy H. Stonecipher 4745
Mary Celine Scott 4746

Gifts to the Permanent Fund:

Name: Shirley Annand 1170
Gene Barlow 4238
Sherrill Bourn 2880
Mary Jane Cole 3728
Jean Oliviie Harvie 0828
Aletha Hubbell 4089
Gordon Lanes 0375
Carole Lee 3942
Wesley Marston 4451
Janine Maynard 2099
Joan Melton 3158
Anne Gates Miller 1189
Norma Mowe 4164
Pricilla Nielsen 3187
Guy Poir 2478
Elizabeth Post 4101
Bernice Powell 0959
Jane Roberts 3589
Marion Shea 2296
Evelyn Smith 0148
Anne Spencer (in honor of Margaret Jenkins) 3579

Page 3

Rev. Romeo Trahan, S.S.E. 0930
Shirley Watson 4022
Virgi Westcott 3699
Carlton Woodcock 4339
Nellie Goold Young 3304

Balance as of 1 Dec. 1996 is: $7,351.61

Gifts to the Computer Fund:
1st Quarter 1996-97

David Brown 4293
Ruth Douglass 3855
Pearl Farman 2878
Ronald Graham 4271
John Heath 4498
Merlin Packard 4290
Stanley Shaw 1925
Ralph Wilson 4325

Balance as of 1 Dec. 1996 is: $2,235.90

Janet Induni, Treasurer

B & T BACK ISSUES

VG BACK ISSUES
Each issue is $5 (including postage). Currently available: Volume 1:1-4

Your checks should be payable to GSV and sent to: GSV Back Issues, PO Box 1553, St. Albans, VT 05478

ARE YOU MOVING?
Please advise the Society of your new address as soon as possible. If your mail is forwarded to your new address, GSV receives notification from the Post Office in the form of a Postage Due Notice and a photocopy of the cover copy of Vermont Genealogy that was forwarded to you. Each one costs us fifty cents. Please help us cut down these expenses by notifying the Society at PO Box 1553, St. Albans, VT, 05478. The money can be better spent elsewhere.

Janet Induni, Treasurer

CORRECTION
GSV Newsletter, October 1996, page 3, column 3: The Internet address for the digital gazetteer should read:
http://www-nmd.usgs.gov/www/gnis/
REPORT OF THE GSV PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE


The Committee expressed heartfelt thanks to George Sanborn for his work as chairman for the past few years, during which time the Committee has been through considerable activity and change. George will step down as chairman after the coming GSV meeting. He emphasized the need to select a new Chairman and, optimally, about four other members for the Committee, in addition to the two editors ex officio.

Several potential new projects were reviewed. Scott Bartley reports that Volume II of Vermont Families in 1791 is slogging along but is going to be superb. Scott expects to proceed with Volume III.

The work on the style book for future publications is proceeding. Still needed are chapters on civic and church vital records; probate records; census records; Bible and other private records; diaries and account books.

John A. Leppman
Committee Clerk pro tem

BOOK REVIEW POLICY

Books for review should be sent to John A. Leppman, 29 Oak Hill Terrace, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. If you are interested in reviewing books, please contact John Leppman and indicate the type of book(s) you would review.

PAID ADVERTISING

The Newsletter is accepting paid advertising at the rate of $3.00 per column inch. All advertising must relate to genealogy, preferably Vermont genealogy and must be received before the deadline of the issue the ad is to appear in. Checks must be made out to GSV but sent to the Newsletter editor along with the exact wording for the add.

TWENTY-THIRD PSALM FOR GENEALOGISTS

Genealogy is my Pastime, I shall not stray.
It maketh me to lie down and examine half-buried Tombstones.
It leadeth me to ill Courthouses. It restores my Ancestral Knowledge.
It leadeth me into the Paths of Census Records and Ship Passenger Lists for my Surname's sake.
Yea, though I wade through the Shadows of Research Libraries and Microfilm Readers, I shall fear no Discouragement, for a Strong Urge is with me.
The Curiosity and Motivation, they Comfort me.
It demandeth preparation of storage space for the acquisition of countless documents.
It anointeth my head with burning Midnight Oil, my family group sheets runneth over.
Surely Birth, Marriage and Death Records shall follow me all the days of my Life; and I shall dwell in the House of the Family History Seeker Forever.

...Anonymous

Read by Joann Nichols at the 25th Anniversary Dinner. (ERIE-ROOTS users list)

NEHGS SEMINARS

DISCOVERING GENEALOGICAL CLUES IN 19TH-CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHS
22 MARCH 1997

Lectures by Chris Steele, curator of photography at the Massachusetts Historical Society; Maureen A. Taylor, NEHGS Director of User Access Services; and Nancy Rexford, consultant on historical costume.

FINDING YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS
19 APRIL 1997

Speakers will include David A. Lambert, Director of Voice and Data Services at NEHGS and James Owens, Director of the National Archives Records Administration in Waltham, MA. A slide lecture about Civil War photographs from the Medford Historical Society will be discussed by Noah Dennen and David L. Smith.

IRISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Genealogist Suzanne McVety of New York City will lecture on "To The Old Sad - Tracing Your Irish Roots" on March 11, 1979 at 7:30 pm at Contois Auditorium, City Hall, Church Street, Burlington, VT. Contact Patrick J. Mahoney, M.D., 4 Pheasant Way, So. Burlington, VT 05403 (802) 862-3402.

NEW ENGLAND SEMINAR


SPRING VOCA MEETING

The spring meeting of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association will be held on Saturday May 3, 1997. They are planning to meet in Bridgewater, VT. Registration & coffee at 9:00, business meeting at 10:00, luncheon at 4:00, and afternoon program at 1:15. Contact: Elizabeth Beckwith, P.O. Box 105, Underhill Ctr., VT 05490 (802) 899-4640 for final details and to make lunch reservations.

FAMILY REUNIONS

The Sikes/Sykes Families Association will be conducting a Spring Reunion in Charlottesville, VA, April 18-20, 1997. Contact Diane Scannell, 11317 West 1st Street N, Wichita, KS 67212-5435.

The Judkins Family Association is planning a day of Genealogy and a Texas Bar-B-Que June 20-21, 1997. Send SASE for information to: Jo Ann Weaver, P.O. Box 459, China Springs, TX 76633.

Announcements of family reunions must be received by the editor no later than March 15 each year to be included in the May Newsletter. Be sure to include date, place, name & address of contact person.
DON'T BELIEVE ALL YOU READ

Excerpt from Preface to
The Early Hunt Families of Vermont
by Mitchell J. Hunt
502 Church Street, Willow Grove, PA 19090-2701 (215) 659-8048

In this Mr. Hunt discusses some of the problems found in using documentary sources in Vermont and other records.

One runs into a lot of conflicting information in comparing data from different sources; the question is what to accept. There is no easy answer. One would expect census and vital records to be correct; the truth is that often they are not. Old records were written by hand in writing that is often illegible. The name Hunt was one easily and often misunderstood. Given fancy capitalization of letters, some vowels and consonants flowing like a wavy line, it’s not crossed, it’s not dotted, o’s not crossed, m’s, n’s, w’s, r’s, s’s, etc., not distinguishable, it is a wonder that interpretations of records have turned out as well as they have on the whole. The following are a few examples of names that have been interpreted as Hunt: Hand, Hart, Hirt, Hind, Hunde, Hurst, Hearst.

A REMINDER

Please look at your address label. Your membership expires on the date shown on the label. Send your check in US funds to:
Genealogical Society of Vermont,
PO Box 1553
Saint Albans, VT 05478-1006

Dues are $20 for US addresses
Canadian & Mexico $25, foreign $30

REGISTRATION FOR GSV SPRING MEETING

Name: ____________________________
Mailing Address: __________________

I am / we are members of: ( ) GSV and/or ( ) non-members and will be attending the May 17th, 1997 Enclosed please find a check for the meeting and lunch: $9.00 for GSV members ($11.00 for non-GSV members) made out to GSV and marked “Spring Meeting” for ___ person/people in the amount of: _______

Mail this coupon and your check (for GSV), postmarked by May 10, 1997 to: Genealogical Society of Vermont
P.O. Box 1553
St. Albans, Vermont 05478-1006
VERMONT FAMILIES IN 1791,
Volume 1
Edited by Scott A. Bartley

This award-winning first volume of a projected long series has already stimulated research and guided many people to sources useful to establish their own ancestry. Special Publication No. 1, 1992. xxvii + 281 pp.

Work is continuing on Volume 2. Scott has not yet set a publication date. Watch your Newsletter for further information.

VERMONT FAMILIES IN 1791
CHANGE OF ADDRESS

When submitting information for the 1791 project please write to Scott Andrew Bartley, Editor at 258 Shawmut Ave, #4, Boston, MA 02118-2143

See the July 1996 Newsletter for detailed instructions on how to submit data.

VITAL RECORDS OF PUTNEY,
VERMONT TO THE YEAR 1900
Compiled and edited by Ken Stevens

This is not just a verbatim listing of such events, but a complete, concise and accurate compilation from all primary sources available in the town. This material is augmented by the ministerial records of the pastors who served from as early as 1776. Special Publication No. 2, 1992. x + 406 pp.

GEORGIA, VERMONT
VITAL RECORDS
Edited by Peter S. Mallett

The first of its kind for northern Vermont, 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, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and Methodist Church of Georgia and North Fairfax. GSV Special Publication No. 4, 1995.

GSV Newsletter, February 1997

VITAL RECORDS OF ROCKINGHAM, VERMONT AND THE RECORDS OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF ROCKINGHAM

Reprinted from the rare first editions of 1908 and 1902, this is an important source for one of Vermont's oldest towns, chartered in 1752. The town records extend to 1845, church records from 1773 to 1839. New to this publication is an indispensable index of nearly 10,000 names, constructed by Christopher T. Norris and Scott A. Bartley. GSV Special Publication No. 3, 1994. 323 pp.

Each of these four books is $30.00. Please add $3.50 for postage for the first book, $1.00 for each additional book in the same order to the same address. Please add the Vermont Sales Tax of 5% ($1.50/book) for books mailed to a Vermont addresses. Mail your checks, payable to GSV, to:

Genealogical Society of Vermont
PO Box 1553
Saint Albans, VT 05478-1006

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