PRESIDENT'S REPORT
G.S.V. NEWS

FALL 1998 MEETING

As previously announced, our fall meeting in 1998 will depart from the usual October date in order not to cram too many genealogically interesting meetings into too short a time span for those attending the New England Regional Genealogical Conference in Portland, Maine on October 22-24, 1998. We will therefore be meeting on Saturday, September 19, 1998 concurrently with the annual meeting of the Vermont Historical Society. The meeting will be held in the State House and will offer an opportunity to visit and use the facilities of Vermont's premier public building. Luncheon will be served in the State House cafeteria. Speakers will include essayist and commentator Ron Powers. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. GSV will hold a separate business meeting and will have its usual bulletin board and book table, but we will join VHS for speakers and general sessions.

Watch for a mailing with details of the schedule and registration cost, which will be about the same range as usual for our meetings; registrants who pay through GSV will have distinctive GSV name tags.

Last Call for Book Sale Books
Please think of GSV’s used book sale if you have books of genealogical and/or Vermont interest to sell. See details in the previous Newsletter. Send books to Janet Induni or John Lepman or bring them to the September meeting. Label them as instructed with the price you would expect GSV to sell them for. You get half of the proceeds, and GSV gets half.

Membership Directory
The directory is published and has been a best-seller among GSV members. Contact us at our post office box address for a copy. $3.00 for members.

Vermont Historical Society News
The Vermont Historical Society library will be enforcing a previously voluntary donation of $5.00 per day for non-member users of the library. If you are a regular user of the VHS library, the best way of saving money is to join VHS, which is exactly what they would like you to do. Membership also gives you a discount at the VHS book shop; subscriptions to their journal Vermont History and their newsletter; and various other benefits, and you will be supporting the organization which maintains some of the most important facilities for Vermont family history research.

As many GSV members know, the current facilities of VHS are too small for their ever growing library and museum collections. In addition, the location is constantly threatened by the possibility of a repeat of the Montpelier flood a few years ago; on that occasion, luck and hard labor by staff and volunteers barely averted disastrous damage to collections. VHS has its eye on the former Spaulding School building in Barre, which would provide ample space for the library, administrative offices, and educational programs. The VHS Board of Trustees has been studying potential financing of such a move. It shouldn’t come as a surprise to anyone that projects like that cost quite a bit of money. The alternative to finding the necessary funding is the potential weakening or loss of an institution which all Vermont family historians need and treasure. We will be hearing more about this as plans develop.

TOWN CLERK OF THE YEAR
Please let us know of nominees for the 1998 Town Clerk of the Year by September 1, 1998.
A great project of the FGS is called the Stern NARA Microfilming Project. Since this project was started in 1983, the following records are now available to genealogists: Microfiche street indexes to 39 of the largest cities in the 1910 U.S. Census, which were not soundexed; Duplication of enumeration districts description for the 1920 U.S. Census; Index to the War of 1812 Prisoner of War Records; Canadian Border Crossings, 1895-1954; Galveston Passenger Arrival Records, 1896-1948. Additional projects for which funds have been raised are: Burial registers of Army Quartermaster General, 1828-1829; Card records of headstone contracts and soldier burials, 1861-1903; Letters received regarding impressed seaman by Department of State, 1894-1915.

The newest fund raising drive wants to raise money to microfilm the following: War of 1812 pensions and bounty-land warrant records, and United States Colored Troops Compiled Service Records. This will cost a lot of money, close to 1.75 million dollars, but if each member of each member society donates just a little bit, the goal can be reached. Anyone wishing to donate to either of these funds should make their checks payable to the GSV and designate whether it is for the War of 1812 project of for the USCT project and send them to the Genealogical Society of Vermont, P.O. Box 1553, St. Albans, VT 05478-1006.

Since the GSV is a member of the FGS it is possible for individual members of GSV to subscribe to the FORUM at a cost of $11.00 per person (as opposed to $17.00 for someone who does not belong to a member society.)

The FGS has a web page at http://www.fgs.org

Submitted by Joann H. Nichols
GSV delegate to FGS

ARE YOU MOVING?
REPLACEMENT COPIES

Please notify the Society in advance of any address changes (including summer and winter addresses). Your copies of Vermont Genealogy and The GSV Newsletter are forwarded to you by the Post Office with additional charges to the Society if you have filed a forwarding notice with the Post Office.

We will send you replacement copies of Vermont Genealogy by first class mail for a small replacement fee of $3.25 for each issue. Replacement copies of The GSV Newsletter will be forwarded at no charge. Thank you for letting us know of any address changes in advance. This helps keep costs down.

Janet Induni, Treasurer

B & T BACK ISSUES

VG BACK ISSUES
Each issue is $5 (including postage). Currently available are: Volumes 1:1-4; 2:1-4

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

BOOK REVIEW POLICY
Books for review should be sent to John A. Leppman, 29 Oak Hill Terrace, Bellows Falls, VT 05101

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum was built as a public library and presented to the townpeople of St. Johnsbury by Horace Fairbanks in 1871. A nephew of the man who invented the platform scale, Horace was a partner and later president of the E. and T. Fairbanks Company the scale manufacturing company whose development so much influenced the history and growth of St. Johnsbury. Mr. Fairbanks also served a Governor of the State of Vermont. This elegant Victorian building was designed by John Davis Hatch of New York. The building is characterized by high cathedral ceilings, tall windows which brighten the interior, elaborate woodwork, floors with alternating strips of ash and walnut and a spiral staircase.

In 1873, an Art Gallery was added to the main building. Horace Fairbanks acquired a number of copies of classical paintings during his trip to Europe and was also collecting works by contemporary American Painters primarily members of the Hudson River School of painting. The design of the gallery itself was determined by his purchase of an enormous ten by fifteen foot painting by Albert Bierstadt, "The Domes of the Yosemite." This landscape, prominently situated opposite the narrow entrance to the gallery, overwhelms the viewer with a panorama of nature. The natural light provided by an arched skylight enhances the effect of looking down into the valley from the artist's vantage point.

Time Magazine (August 20, 1965) described the gallery as the "United states' oldest unaltered art gallery still standing" and indeed there has been a conscious effort to retain its original style and atmosphere. Paintings in the heavy gilded frames of that era hang one above another. White marble statues and busts sit atop pedestals. Oak bookcases contain gold tooled leather bound books. This gallery is truly an authentic period piece.

Donations of paintings by Horace and other members of the family over the years enlarged the collection from two and a half dozen to what is now a permanent collection of one hundred works. The Hudson River School is well represented.
by such artists as Asher B. Durand (the father of American Landscape painting), Joseph Copey (known for autumn landscapes), Sanford Gifford (a Luminist painter), James and William Hart (pastoral landscapes with cattle), Samuel Colman and Worthington Whittredge (Western views).

The fact that a large number of the nineteenth century American paintings were painted to order or purchased directly from the artist has been pointed out by S. Morton Vose II, formerly of the Vose Galleries of Boston, as a unique aspect of this particular collection. An article in March 1980 Antiques Magazine describes in detail some of the significant American Paintings in the Art Gallery.

The library's book collection, originally consisting of 8,000 finely bound volumes selected with the advice of the noted bibliographer W.F. Poole, has been augmented and now includes approximately 45,000 volumes. In addition to books, the library has magazines, newspapers, records, video and audio tapes, reproductions of famous paintings and original works by local artists for home borrowing, a complete set of the local newspapers on microfilm, pamphlets and hardbacks. Although in actuality an independent private corporation governed by a Board of Trustees, the Athenaeum does receive an annual appropriation from the town and in effect serves as the public library for St. Johnsbury. Library cards are available for residents of other towns.

The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum stands as a permanent reminder of the generosity of the Fairbanks family and an invitation to temporarily reenter the gracious world of the nineteenth century. The public is cordially invited to visit the Library and Art Gallery.

The library is located at 30 Main Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819-2289 (802) 748-8291 and is open Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Photocopying is $0.20 per copy. Interlibrary loan available except for reference books.

The Athenaeum collects materials on the town of St. Johnsbury including printed material, newspapers, directories, annual reports and photographs. Titles on St. Johnsbury History. Newspapers include: The Caledonian and successors, 1837-present, original and microfilm; Farmer's Herald, 1828-1832, original and microfilm; The Friend, 1829-1830, original; St. Johnsbury Republican, 1888-1889, 1918, 1920-1931, 1932-1956; The Vermont Chronicle, 1895-1896; The Vermont Journal, 1871-1873. Documents such as the St. Johnsbury school department annual reports, town annual reports, village annual reports for many years.

Manuscripts/Archives: Scattered materials from Fairbanks family property transactions, letters to Fairbanks family members on acquisition of paintings for the Athenaeum; nothing on the business or political careers of Fairbanks family. Some GAR records 1889-1940.

There are boxes of photographs pertaining to St. Johnsbury and Civil War portraits primarily of later members of GAR Chamberlin Post.

Many of us who attended the May 17, 1997 GSV meeting in St. Johnsbury were fortunate to be able to visit the Library and Museum that are located near the meeting place. Others visited the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in St. Johnsbury.

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

For the latest information on Meetings and GSV, please visit us on our Internet home-page at:

GSV Newsletter, August 1998

GSV SPRING 1998 MEETING

The well attended meeting was held on May 16th, a very warm spring day, at the Brandon Inn in Brandon, VT. After a brief business meeting we enjoyed several speakers. Jerome E. Anderson's talk on "Seventeenth to Nineteenth Century Handwriting" was most interesting. A hand-out was distributed with a good bibliography and some examples of early writing. He carefully explained how to read this old writing. He was followed by David Kendall Martin explaining how he was solving some unusually difficult problems where there were confusing records.

After lunch, Tom Johnson spoke on the "Points of Interest in the Town of Addison", and Mary Peete Green's wonderful tales about Cornwall and its settlers, and Charlotte Tatro spoke on Ferrisburgh. They were followed by Larry Anderson, a volunteer at the Sheldon Museum in Middlebury.

Contributions to the Permanent Fund:
June Dobbe 4493
Dorothy Larson 4368
Joan Melton 2099
Noreen Mobb 3476
Lois Richardson 1288
James Rogers 4568
Vickie Lynn Storlie 4014
Berenice Powell 2478
Shirley Annand 1170
Dwight Hurlbert 3239

Contributions to the Computer Fund:

The Computer Fund represents the Society's support of the LDS Family Search research station located at the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier. The 1996 license renewal, which allows us to keep the program going, cost us $150. Contributions to the fund this fiscal year total only $29. This is just a friendly reminder that donations to the Computer Fund are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please send your donations to GSV, P.O. Box 1553, St. Albans, VT. 05478-1006. Please mark your check, "Computer Fund."

Janet Induni, Treasurer
STANDARDS FOR USING
Records Repositories And
Libraries

Recommended by the
National Genealogical Society

Recognizing that how they use unique records and fragile publications will affect other users, both current and future, family history researchers habitually:
- are courteous to research facility personnel and other researchers, and respect the staff’s other daily tasks, not expecting the records custodian to listen to their family histories nor provide constant or immediate attention.
- dress appropriately, converse with others in a low voice, and supervise children appropriately.
- do their homework in advance, know what is available and what they need, and avoid ever asking for “everything” on their ancestors.
- use only designated work space areas, respect off-limits areas, and request permission before using photocopy or microform equipment, asking for assistance if needed.
- treat original records at all times with great respect and work with only a few records at a time, recognizing that they are irreplaceable and that each user must help preserve them for future use.
- treat books with care, never forcing their spines, and handle photographs properly, preferably wearing archival gloves.
- never mark, mutilate, rearrange, relocate, or remove from the repository any original, printed, microform, or electronic document or artifact.
- use only procedures prescribed by the repository for noting corrections to any errors or omissions found in published works, never marking the work itself.
- keep note-taking paper or other objects from covering records or books, and avoid placing any pressure upon them, particularly with a pencil of pen.
- use only the method specifically designated for identifying records for duplication, avoiding use of paper clips, adhesive notes, of other means not approved by the facility. Unless instructed otherwise, replace volumes and files in their proper locations. Before departure, thank the records custodians for their courtesy in making the materials available.
- follow the rules of the records repository without protest, even if they have changed since a previous visit or differ from those of another facility.

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STANDARDS FOR SOUND
GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Recommended by the
National Genealogical Society

Remembering always that they are engaged in a quest for truth, family history researchers consistently:
- record the source for each item of information they collect.
- test every hypothesis or theory against credible evidence, and reject those that are not supported by the evidence.
- seek original records, or reproduced images of them when there is a reasonable assurance they have not been altered, as the basis for their research conclusions.
- use compilations, communications and published works, whether paper or electronic, primarily for their value as guides to locating the original records.
- write something as a fact only when it is supported by convincing evidence, and identify the evidence when communicating the facts to others.
- limit with words like “probable” or “possible” any statements that is based on less than convincing evidence, and state the reasons for concluding that is is probable or possible.
- avoid misleading other researchers by either intentionally or carelessly distributing or publishing inaccurate information.
- state carefully and honestly the results of their own research, and acknowledge all use of other researcher’s work.
- recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research by making their work available to others through publications, or by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories, and by welcoming critical comment.

her with open minds new evidence or the comments of others on their work and the conclusions they have reached.

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Coming Events


FAMILY REUNIONS

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.

Announcements received after March 15 will be used in the August Newsletter if they are for reunions held after September 1.

The Harlow Family Association will hold its Annual Meeting and reunion August 29 & 30, 1998 at The Harlow House, Plymouth MA. Contact: Mr. Elmer G. Harlow, Jr., Genealogist, P.O. Box 259 (correction of error in last Newsletter), South Easton, MA 02375 (508) 238-6328 or Mrs. Deborah L. Wheeler, Secretary, 66 Aspen Road, Springfield, MA 01118 (413) 782-8651

The Nims Family Association will hold its annual reunion Saturday October 3, 1998, at 10 A.M. at the White Church, Old Deerfield, MA. Contact John H. Schultz, 1085 Bowen Drive West, North Tonawanda, NY 14120-2828 or N.F.A., P.O. Box 99, Deerfield, MA 01342-0099, or e-mail: aa157@freenet.buffalo.edu.
CATY FAMILY

A Cady Family Organization is being formed. The organization is based around Nicholas Cady who married Judith Knapp in Watertown, MA around 1650. The purpose of the organization is to coordinate research by descendants. Contact George Cady, 21 Laurel St., Apt. 2, Barre, VT 05641.

MEETINGS

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION SEMINAR

A genealogical seminar will be held on Saturday, 26 Sept. 1998 at Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, MA.


For additional information, write to Berkshire Family History Assn., P.O. Box 1437, Pittsfield, MA 01202-1437, (413)445-5521
E-mail: bfh@berkshire.net.

FALL NYSCOGO CONFERENCE

All genealogists interested in New York State are invited to join the New York State Historical Association at The Farmers' Museum, Cooperstown, NY on October 2 & 3, 1998. Vermont emptied into New York State with the opening of the Erie Canal in the early 1800s. The Farmers' Museum holds the many rare documents the State Library has not cared to keep. Besides numerous speakers, the Rare Document Room will be open for research. The cost is $55.00 that includes the dinner. For registration & full details, contact Ruth Horton Metzler, 235 Belcoda Drive, Rochester, NY 14617-2948 (716)544-5483.

FALL VOCA MEETING

The fall meeting of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association will be on October 3, 1998 in Peacham, VT. The spring meeting will be held on May 8, 1999 in New Haven, VT. Please visit VOCA's web page at: http://homepages.together.net/~brtrutor/voca/vocahome.htm

CONNECTING TO YOUR COUSINS

The New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be held October 22, 23, 24, & 25, 1998 in Portland, ME at the Holiday Inn By the Sea. See your May Newsletter for the yellow brochure. One more talk has been added: Thursday 3:00-4:00 Gary Bagley will speak on "Canadian Census".

GETTING STARTED

This program is offered the first Wednesday of every month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

This free program gives an introduction to NEHGS, its services and ways to help you find your family roots. Tips on how to begin your own family research, tour of the newly renovated library and a chance to meet the library staff. No registration is required.

GENEALOGY 101 AT 101 NEWBURY STREET

October 1, 8, 15, 29 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

This course is lead by professional genealogist Marcia D. Melnyk and covers many ways to become organized and how to find various records. Registration is required. The Seminar costs $90 for the four class sessions and a course syllabus. Registration is required.

COMPUTER RESOURCES FOR THE GENEALOGIST

Saturday September 12 or Sunday September 13, 1998

Held at the Women's Educational & Industrial Union, 356 Boylston Street, Boston, MA. Topics will include: Techniques for Advanced Searching on the Web; The Pros and Cons of Using CD-ROMs; What's New in Computer Genealogy; Ask the Experts: An Open Question and Answer Session. Registration is required.

For fees, information and to register for the above NEHGS programs, call the Education Department, (617) 536-5740, ext. 202 or (800) 286-3447.

NEHGS NEWS:

The New England Historic Genealogical Society has named Thomas J. Kemp to the position of Library Director. Mr. Kemp will assume responsibility for the Society's library, located in Boston's Back Bay, featuring the region's most extensive collection of family history materials and the nation's largest collection of

PAID ADVERTISING

The Newsletter is now 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 ad. GSV offers no warranty on the services of the advertisers.

A Complete Listing of Gravestones in Putney, Vermont, by Ken Stevens, 1994 $16.50 post-paid, NY residents add sales tax Order from & checks to: Margaret R. Jenks, 24 Mettowee St., Granville, NY 12832

Pages of the Past
Vermont Books & Maps
Sales and Research
Tel 802-644-2480
E-mail: mbevins@sover.net
http://www.sover.net/~mbevins/pages.htm
genealogical manuscripts. Mr. Kemp will also oversee operation of the Society's circulating library, a collection of 25,000 volumes available by mail to the organization's 18,000 members around the world.

He is the author of many books and articles and a widely recognized lecturer.

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

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research interests: Bartlett, Barnes

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GSV Newsletter, August 1998
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c/o J. Antle
PO Box 186
Stanbridge East, Quebec
Canada JO 2 H0
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.

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.

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, compiled by Christopher T. Norris and Scott A. Bartley. GSV Special Publication No. 3, 1994. 323 pp.

Each of these five 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 address. Mail your checks, payable to GSV, to:
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