DATES TO REMEMBER
March 31 - April 3, 2005
New England Regional Genealogical Conference
Holiday Inn By the Bay
88 Spring Street
Portland, Maine
Registration materials have been sent out to all GSV members. If you need more information or a registration form, visit the NERGC Web site: www.NERGC.org. An outstanding program of speakers, exhibits, and special events, in a great location. GSV will have a booth in the exhibit area. (Let us know if you can spare some time to help staff the booth. It's a great way to meet people, find out what they are doing with their Vermont research, and promote Vermont's resources and GSV.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005
GSV membership meeting
Current plans call for a location in the White River Junction - Hanover, N.H. area. The usual program of speakers and luncheon will be planned. You will receive a post card mailing with details later. Save the date!

SATURDAY - SUNDAY, JUNE 25-26, 2005
Vermont History Expo
Tunbridge Fairgrounds
Tunbridge, Vermont
This annual event has become a can't-miss item on the calendar of enthusiasts of Vermont history, genealogy, and fun for everyone in the family. GSV will be there, as usual.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2005
GSV membership meeting
We plan to have this meeting at the Dog Team Tavern in Middlebury. More details later.

WHAT DOES GSV MEAN TO YOU
Over the past few years, the number of members in the Genealogical Society of Vermont has decreased by thirty percent or so. This does not come as a total shock or surprise. Genealogical organizations like ours have seen similar decreases all over. The biggest reason is probably the Internet. The sort of interaction that organizations have provided - sharing information, submitting queries, just getting together - is provided in considerable degree, and much more convenience, by Web sites and chat rooms and the like.

We feel that we are still providing useful services to our members, at a cost that has not gone up in years. (By the way, we are still financially solvent, but can't stay that way if our membership numbers continue to contract severely.) Our Newsletter tries to keep people up to date on matters of interest to Vermont genealogists. Our journal, Vermont Genealogy, publishes articles that have a permanent place in the literature of Vermont family history. We are committed to preserving in it a standard of editorial quality that assures that material published in it will be regarded as a reliable source by discerning genealogical scholars. We publish special publications of book length that belong on the selective Vermont bookshelf. We still have meetings twice a year, and members attend them at well-subsidized prices. We join with a number of other organizations in sponsoring the New England Regional Genealogical Conference, an event which has gained a reputation as one of the best of its kind in the nation.

So how do we maintain membership numbers which will keep the treasury intact without (we hope) calling for an increase of dues? The first and easiest suggestion is that we provide, as a benefit of membership, access to some sort of information on the Web which one can't get otherwise. The problem with that is that we have not discovered any block of information we can supply that way which anyone would have reason to want. Ideas from you, our members, about things of this sort that we could provide will be much appreciated. We mean that. What is there that you would like to see, and how do we get it to you? But please, avoid "I want a Web site that will tell me everything I need to know about my ancestors and always be completely reliable and I don't want to do anything to make it happen."

Another thing we can do is support the expanding number of local genealogy interest groups in the state. They serve a purpose we can't so easily do, by having frequent meetings and allowing people face-to-face contact while they work on their particular problems. (Yes, in spite of the Internet, there is still something to be said for face-to-face contact.) We try to let our Newsletter be a clearing house of information about such groups. We don't seem to be doing everything we might to encourage members of the groups to join and get the benefits of membership in GSV. How can we improve on that?

We continue to work on special publications, but aside from offering a discount on the price of our books, we don't use them to enhance membership numbers.

Parly responding to suggestions made by our members, we published a membership directory a few years ago, which provided cross referencing of members' interests in Vermont families. It was a modest success (although we printed far more of them...)

A quarterly publication © 2004
Genealogical Society of Vermont

News, articles and comments should be mailed to:

Mrs. Margaret R. Jenks
24 Mettowee Street
Granville, NY 12832-1037
(518) 642-1894
e-mail: mjenks@capital.net

Deadlines for information are:
Dec. 15, Mar. 15, June 15 & Sept. 15
for the February, May, August and November issues of the Newsletter.
that we ended up needing); suggestions that we do that again have met with mixed reviews. Some members have been uneasy about having listings of their names and e-mail access on a publicly accessible Web site or similar data base, because of privacy concerns. We certainly would do nothing like that to anyone without their permission.

Several years ago we distributed a questionnaire to all our members asking for candid observations about what people wanted from membership and how we were doing. We took some of the suggestions to heart, and we discussed the feasibility of others which didn't look so practical. We don't plan to repeat that effort now, but consider this article an informal questionnaire and respond to us, either at our mailing address (P.O. Box 1553, St. Albans, VT 05478-1006) or via e-mail to any of the officers:

John A. Leppman, President, john.a.leppman@dartmouth.edu
Robert M. Murphy, Vice President, rmm@sover.net
Mary Pat Brigham, Secretary, marypatb@verizon.net

Another Reply to:
Claim your 15 Minutes of Fame!

MY SLAVIC ANCESTRY

About 1900, as the water in the huge lake was being drawn down, a vast cemetery began to come into view. Soon, a large elaborate tomb appeared. But whose?

When the tomb was opened, many artifacts of an important person were exposed. Anthropology came to the rescue. George V. Vernadsky¹ says, "According to the recent examination of Jaroslav's skeleton, his cranium is not of the Nordic type; it is similar to the craniums of the Novgorod Slovenes." The examination showed a skull that is long front to back and narrower between the ears.

During the ninth Century AD the Eastern slaves were moving from their Black Sea communities to the Kiev area.²

Jaroslav's grandmother was Malucha, a Slav. She was the second wife of Svatislav, prince of Novgorod. Svatislav was of Danish origin. Jaroslav was the Grand Prince of Kiev when he died on February 1053/54. He married, his second wife, Ingered, the daughter of Olaf III of Sweden and his second wife Oboirite Princess Astrid who was living on the shore of the Baltic Sea in Mecklenburg.³ The Oboirites were also a Slavic group.⁴ Jaroslav's daughter Anna married Henri I of France.⁵ They became the ancestors of my mother, Ruth Lucy, the daughter of Arthur Carlos Stoddard and Effie May Woodmansee of Wolcott Town, Lamoille County, Vermont.⁶

¹ George V. Vernadsky, Kievan Russia [New Haven: Yale University Press (1947)
⁵ Donald Lincs Jacobs, Ancestors of Obadiah and Mary Breen TAG (1950) v, 26, p.20
⁶ Wolcott Town, Lamoille County, Vermont Vital Records

Clyde A. Bridger, King City, OR, 97224, 8 Sept. 2004, Member # 2249

ARE GENEALOGISTS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY?

The answer to that question might have seemed in the affirmative, given the proposed language in HR10, better known as the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. Tucked into that proposed bill was language that would have placed greater restrictions on "public access to birth certificates and information gathered in the issuance process to ensure that access is restricted to entities with which the State has a binding privacy protection agreement". The intention of this part of the proposed act was apparently to reduce the ability of people to get a certified birth record and pass it off as their own (a.k.a. identity theft, sometimes employed by would-be terrorists). However, the language went much farther, and had the genealogical community anticipating the worst. Indeed, included was the following provision: "Subject all persons with access to vital records to appropriate security clearance requirements". The mind boggles at how that provision might have been interpreted and implemented!

Fortunately, the language that survived the legislative process, that passed both houses of congress, and was signed into law by the President last week, has been stripped of what appear to be its most onerous provisions. The law now seems to be relatively innocuous, and should not result in much of a change for genealogical researchers here in Vermont. The end result, of course, will depend on how the law is implemented. Rule making will have to occur first at the Federal level, and those rules distributed to the States. Once that happens, then the States will have to develop procedures to comply with the Federal mandates.

Proposed rules at the Federal level are usually posted in the Federal Register, and interested parties are given an opportunity to comment on the rules before they are made effective. Genealogical organizations around the country will be most interested in ensuring that the rules do not go beyond their intent to frustrate identity thieves and instead impinge on legitimate genealogical research. The Federal Register is available online at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/. You may wish to follow the progress of rulemaking on this bill in the near future. I know I will!

Bob Murphy

RESEARCHING YOUR GERMAN-SPEAKING ANCESTORS?

Pal-Am is a national genealogical society for genealogists researching German-speaking immigrant ancestors from Europe and their descendants in North America. The society maintains a large library, on-line catalog, research and copy services, immigrant ancestor register, ancestor index, a quarterly newsletter, The Palatine Immigrant and chapter newsletters.

Palatines to America
National Headquarters and Library
611 East Weber Road
Columbus, OH 43211-1097
614-267-4700 Pal-Am@Juno.com
http://www.palam.org
**Twenty Dollars and Fifty Cents**

Enos Clark settled in Middletown, Vermont in 1790. He was a mason but also carved beautiful marble gravestones. Major Zebediah Dewey died 28 Oct. 1804 and was buried in East Poultney cemetery. Enos Clark was paid $20.50 for the Dewey stone.

Recently I was asked: Just what could $20.50 buy in 1804? The 1800 inventory of the general store of Rann & Sloan gives the value of many new goods. Inventories of estates of the deceased gave the value of the possessions; however, most would be used goods.

Joseph Rann was born in New Hampshire in 1752, died 23 May 1800. He was buried in the East Poultney cemetery. His gravestone is of the same quality and type as the Dewey stone carved by Enos Clark of Middletown. Unfortunately the executor's accounts fail to mention the cost of the stone. Joseph Rann settled in Poultney in 1778 and married Olive, daughter of Nehemiah Howe and widow of Isaac Ashley.

Joseph Rann and a William Sloan were in partnership in a general store. When

\[ \text{Joseph died, every item in the store was listed in the inventory. The list is many pages long. [Rutland County Probate, Fair Haven District 3:222-31.] } \]

Unfortunately, for calculating the value in dollars it was listed in British pounds, but a dollar total was included. The store inventory totaled £875-4-2 equal to $2913.64. In 1800, one £ = 20 shillings, 1 shilling = 12 pence, one cent = 10 mills.

Because many items were worth only a few pennies, the value in many cases has been carried out to the 4th decimal place and rounded off to the 3rd place. A pound was worth $3.3291 or $3.33, a shilling .1665 cents and a pence 0138 cents.

The following are examples of what could be bought for a total $20.50:

**Clothing:**
- 1 pair blue worsted pantaloons $5.66
- 1 pair worsted gloves .291
- 1 pair ladies leather shoes .832

**Fabric & notions:** [The more expensive cloth may have been imported.]
- 1 yard ticking .62
- 1 yard linen .499
- 1 Dutch blue blanket 2.87
- 1 yard cotton denim .75
- 1 yard brown surge .416
- 1 dozen pewter coat buttons .166

**Household goods:**
- 1 sugar dish .18
- 1 pair of candle sticks .314
- 1 tea pot .28
- 1 mouse trap .114
- 1 dozen enameled cups & saucers .371
- 1 chair .125
- 1 broom .194
- 1 dozen knives & forks 1.06

**Supplies:**
- 1 pound tea .56
- 1/4 pound pepper .09

**Personal items:**
- 1 Psalm book .36
- 1 razor .24
- 1 tooth brush .078
- 1 pair spectacles .194

**Tools:**
- 1 hand saw 1.56
- 1 carpenter's compass .146
- 1 nail hammer .353
- 1 iron shovel 1.058
- 1 iron spade 1.120

**Total $20.50**

PS. Abraham Lincoln walked miles to return a penny he had mistakenly failed to give a customer. That was a lot of money back then!

The following are a examples of other items listed in the store:
- 1 pair long kid gloves .541
- 1 pair men's silk hose 3.593
- 1 felt hat 1.17
- 1 pair plain worsted children's hose .833
- 1 white pocket handkerchief .734
- 1 yard wide chintz 1.004
- 1 yard velvet .862
- 1 yard blue flannel .44
- 1 yard light broadcloth 1.897
- 1 yard mixed coating 2.04
- 1 doz. coat buttons .076
- 1 yard oil cloth .46
- 10 sewing needles .022
- 1 pair knitting needles .051
- 1 pair women's shears .125
- 1 doz. shoe bindings .125
- 1 snuff box .048

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**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.

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**Families of Georgia, Vermont**

Contains 86 families, 924 pages $35.00 plus $5.00 postage.

Order from: Peter Mallett

P.O. Box 2001, Georgia, VT 05468

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**Cemeteries of Georgia, Vermont**

Contains all gravestones, 362 pages $15.00 plus $5.00 postage, soft cover.

Order from: Peter Mallett

P.O. Box 2001, Georgia, VT 05468
Robert Todd Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln.

Join VOCA and keep up with Vermont <br> cemetery news. The dues are $5 for <br> 1 year, $20 for 5 years. The meetings <br> are held around the state on the first <br> Saturday of May and October.

Are you searching for an ancestor's burial <br> place? VOCA's publication, Burial <br> Grounds of Vermont may help you find a <br> "lost" cemetery. The book contains a page <br> listing the known cemeteries for each <br> town in Vermont and map page showing <br> where each cemetery is located. The <br> actual inscriptions are not listed. VOCA <br> does not answer genealogical questions.

Membership includes VOCA News. If you <br> know of any goings on in a Vermont <br> cemetery, editor Robert Hooper would <br> like to hear from you at 44 Charity St., <br> Burlington, VT 05401, 802-862-0708 or <br> at Hooper9999@aol.com

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC <br>GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY <br>PROGRAMS AND TOURS <br><br>GETTING STARTED

This program is held the first Wednesday <br> of every month, at 12 noon and 6 p.m. <br> at 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA. <br> This free program gives an introduction to <br> NEHGS, its services and ways to help you <br> find your family roots, tips on how to begin <br> your own family research, a tour of the <br> library, and a chance to meet the library <br> staff. Non-members will receive free <br> entrance to the library. No registration is required.

GEOLOGY IN A NUTSHELL
"Nutsell" classes are short (one hour) <br> lectures on a variety of geological topics. <br> They are held at 101 Newbury Street <br> from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Wednesdays <br> and repeated on Saturdays from 10 a.m. <br> to 11 a.m. Registration is not necessary.

RESEARCH GETAWAY
Fulfill your dreams and your fan chart <br> during the Spring Research Getaway, <br> April 7-9, 2005. The three-day program <br> offers lectures, consultations with expert
## Financial Statement

**Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2004**

(FY 2003 in shaded area for comparison purposes)

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<th>FY 2004</th>
<th>FY 2003</th>
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<th>Expenses</th>
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<td>Bank Service Charges</td>
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| Permanent Fund: $20,170                           |          |          |
| Emergency Fund: $15,448                           |          |          |
| Publications Account: $34,606                      |          |          |
| Checking Account: $1,143                           |          |          |
| Savings Account: $26                               |          |          |

Respectively submitted, Janet E. Induni, Treasurer

## Are You Moving?

**Replacement Copies**

Please notify the Society in advance of any address changes (including summer and winter addresses) at GSV, PO. Box 1553, St. Albans, VT. 05478-1006. Please do not send them to the Newsletter editor. 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

## Book Review Policy

Books for review should be sent to John A. Leppman, 20 Thwing Lane, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. Please note the new mailing address.

## Family Reunions

Announcements of family reunions must be received by the *Newsletter* 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 Sept. 1.

## B & T Back Issues

Each issue is $2 (including postage). Currently available are: Volumes 12: 5, 14:1,3; 16:2, 18:1,2,3; 19:4; 20:1,4; 21:1-4, 22:2,4; 24:1-4.

## VG Back Issues

Diphtheria is an acute, communicable disease caused by the Corynebacterium diphtheriae bacillus, characterized by the formation of a false, adherent membrane on mucous membranes, usually of the pharynx, larynx and trachea, and rarely of the conjunctiva and vagina. Locally, the disease produces pain, swelling, and obstruction; systematically, the toxin causes fever, prostration, cardiac damage, in some cases paralysis, and often death. [Blackstone's New Gould Medical Dictionary, 1949, p.300] A typical example of the disease hit Oxford, Mass. between 1767 and 1770. Oxford lost 12 percent of its population in one of the worst diphtheria epidemics in New England history. One hundred forty-four persons died, mostly children ages two to fourteen. Richard and Mary Moore lost eight of their eleven children. [Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, A Midwife's Tale, p.12] In some cases, in the old records, deaths attributed to throat distemper, may be due to diphtheria.

The majority of the Whitehall deaths were in the first election district with 34 diphtheria deaths & 1 of croup out of a total of 52 deaths. Tuberculosis caused 6 deaths. There were 14 diphtheria deaths in the second election district out of 55 deaths, with 12 deaths due to tuberculosis, 1 due to croup.

The epidemic wiped out the children in a number of families: Murray [8 children in 12 days, the eldest survived]; Monark [6 from Sept. 10-26]; Fortin [5 from Dec. 2-6]. Two adults died, both having a young child who also died.

Vermont did not take a 1875 census, so it is unknown if the epidemic spread to the neighboring Rutland County towns of West Haven, Fair Haven and Poultney. When you find a gravestone for several children in a family dying within a few days, there is a good chance the deaths were from diphtheria.

Peggy Jenks
**Vermont Families in 1791, Volume 1**
Edited by Scott A. Bartley

This award-winning first volume of a projected long series has stimulated research and guided many people to sources useful to establish their own ancestry. The goal of this series is to describe in detail the families listed in the First Federal Census taken in Vermont in 1791, the year Vermont joined the Union. Special Publication No. 1, 1992. xxvii + 281 pp., hardbound, $30.00. Out of print.

**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. xxvii + 406 pp., hardbound, $30.00

**Vital Records of Rockingham, Vermont and the Records of the First Church of Rockingham**
Reprinted from the rare first editions of 1908 and 1909, 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., hardbound, $30.00

**Member Research Directory**
Compiled by Janet E. Induni

The directory lists addresses and interests of a majority of GSV members. Each member listed provided up to five surnames of Vermont families on which he or she might like to share information. Published in 1998 for GSV members only. 63 pp., $3.00.

**Windsor County Vermont Probate Index, 1778-1899**
Compiled by Scott Andrew Bartley and Marjorie J. Bartley

A comprehensive index of all files in the Probate Courts of the two districts (Windsor and Hartford) in Windsor County, Vermont, between the earliest records (1778) and the end of the nineteenth century. More than 20,000 files are indexed by the name of the major party in the case, place of residence, district, type of record, year, and volume of the bound records in which the record(s) will be found. Special publication No. 6, 2000, 560 pp., hardbound, $50.00.

**A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy**
By John A. Leppman

A reprint, with updates and some format changes, of the series recently completed in *Vermont Genealogy*, listing over 500 books and other published sources about Vermont and its counties and towns which are of particular use to genealogical researchers. (Family genealogies are not included in its coverage.) A useful reference work for any Vermont researcher. Special publication No. 8, 2000, 66 pp. soft cover, $7.50 plus $1.50 postage

**Sudbury, Vermont: Transcription of Vital Records and Genealogies of Residents**
By Mary Ann Z. Wheeler

A comprehensive transcription of vital and census records for this Rutland County town, plus carefully compiled genealogies of families. This book will take its place among the very best genealogical resources available about a Vermont town. A cooperative publication of GSV and Picton Press. Special publication No. 9, 2000, 416 pp., hardbound, $49.50

10% discount for GSV members. Please add $3.50 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% for books mailed to a VT address. Mail your checks, payable to GSV, to:

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

Please look at your address label for membership expiration date. Your membership expires on the date shown on the label.

Dues are $20 for US addresses
Canada and Mexico $25, foreign $30 in US funds.

Membership includes four issues of Vermont Genealogy and the GSV Newsletter. These publications will keep you abreast of the genealogical news of Vermont and present current articles on source material, genealogy and your queries. Include a SASE if you wish a new membership card.

All Correspondence, except submissions and queries for Vermont Genealogy and items for the Newsletter, should be sent to the address below.

For the latest information on meetings and GSV, visit us on our web site at: http://www.rootsweb.com/~vtgsv

Name:

Mailing address:

Telephone number: ____________________________ GSV membership number:

e-mail address:

Mail this coupon and your check to:

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PO Box 1553
Saint Albans, VT 05478-1006