PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dates to remember
Saturday - Sunday, June 25-26, 2005
Vermont History Expo Tunbridge Fairgrounds Tunbridge, Vermont
A classic Vermont event, not to be missed. (See page 2)

Saturday, October 22, 2005
GSV meeting
Dog Team Tavern
Middlebury, Vermont

Thursday - Sunday, April 26-29, 2007
New England Regional Genealogical Conference
Hartford, Connecticut
Plans are already underway to hold NERGC two years from now at the newly developing conference center in Hartford. You will hear more about this as the event takes shape.

Newsletter editor needed
Peggy Jenks has capably seen every issue of the GSV Newsletter to completion since soon after we started making it a separate publication. She has asked to be relieved of the job when a new editor can be found. Someone - or more than one someone - out there has the skill to do this job, and we are looking for you. You need some technical skill with preparation of copy for electronic or camera-ready submission to a publisher. Most of the actual writing is done by contributors. The job does not require editing of complicated genealogical copy; that sort of thing goes into Vermont Genealogy. Compulsive attention to deadlines, however, is very much an asset for the time-sensitive material which goes into the Newsletter. Knowledge of the world of genealogy and its events and issues will be an asset.

Anyone interested in working on this job is urged to contact GSV at our St. Albans mailing address, or send an e-mail to john.a.leppman@dartmouth.edu.

New printer
Sharp Offset Printing in Rutland has done our printing, including Vermont Genealogy, the Newsletter, and special publications, for many years now. They have closed their business, so printing has moved to Daamen Printing Company in West Rutland. They are already showing their skill in getting the job done. We thank the folks at Sharp for the fine work they did for many years and for assisting in a smooth transition to a new printer.

A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy, Second Edition
A new edition of A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy was unveiled at New England Regional Genealogical Conference in April 2005. It includes about ten percent more listings than the first edition, mostly of material newly published since 2000. It is keyed to Drew Bartley's Genealogies Found in Vermont Histories (Vol. 10, no. 1 of Vermont Genealogy, also designated GSV Special Publication No. 10). And it has a different picture of a tree on the front cover. The price is $10.00; member discount makes that $9.00. Mail orders should add $1.50 for postage and handling.

SO WHY LOCK UP THE BIRTH RECORDS?

[Note: The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2005 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at http://www.eogn.com.]

It seems that every week we hear of one more situation in which some politician or bureaucrat is trying to restrict access to public domain vital records. Everybody is trying to lock out everyone, including genealogists. Our right to access to public domain birth, marriage, and death information is being threatened constantly under the guise of "preventing identity theft."

Balderdash!

(That's as strong a word as I will use in this family-oriented publication.)

I am sure that the politicians love the limelight back home when they can brag that they have taken action to "prevent identity theft." Heck, nobody is in favor of identity theft, right? Therefore, just proclaiming to have taken some token action under the smoke screen of "preventing identity theft" is sure to win a few more votes in the next election.

"Facts? What facts? Don't bother me with facts. I've got a re-election campaign to win."

Well, now a new study has provided genealogists with some hard facts. These facts should serve as pinpricks to any inflated claims of preventing something that never existed.

A new survey of 4,000 consumers, about 500 of whom were identity theft victims, was recently conducted by Javelin Research and the Better Business Bureau for CheckFree, Visa, and Wells Fargo Bank.

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News, articles and comments should be mailed to:
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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.
This study is based on cold, hard facts, not the rhetoric or conjecture of someone who makes pronouncements not grounded in reality.

According to the people who were victims of identity theft, here are the eight most common sources:
1. Lost or stolen wallet: 29%
2. Fraud that occurs during an in-store or telephone transaction: 12.9%
3. Corrupt employees: 9%
4. Stolen mail: 8%
5. Spyware on the computer: 5%
6. Sifting through garbage: 2.6%
7. Computer viruses: 2.2%
8. "Phishing" through fraudulent e-mail: 1.7%

Take a close look at the above. Please note the rating for "obtained a record from the vital records department." Do you see it? I don't. The full report is quite lengthy. Here are a few other random facts extracted from the Better Business Bureau's announcement:

- Among cases where the perpetrator's identity is known, half of all identity fraud is committed by a friend, family member, relative, neighbor, or in-home employee - someone known by the victim.
- A wide variety of metrics confirm that identity fraud problems are NOT worsening. In fact, the total number of victims is declining. The number of identity fraud victims dropped from 10.1 million in 2003 to 9.3 million in 2004.
- The median value of identity fraud crimes remained unchanged at $750; however most identity fraud victims incurred no out-of-pocket costs.

You can read the full report on the Better Business Bureau's web site.

The next time someone claims that access to public records needs to be restricted in order to "reduce identity theft," let's ask an embarrassing question: "Show me some proof." Then, in the awkward silence that follows, let's ask that person to read the facts as proven by the Javelin Research and the Better Business Bureau report.

Here's a bit of advice to politicians and bureaucrats: please focus on real issues where there is a demonstrated need. Otherwise, someone may just deflate your balloon.

My thanks to Peter Parkhurst for alerting me to the results of this new study.

Posted by Dick Eastman on February 22, 2005

**Vermont History Expo**

All the Vermont genealogical and ethnic genealogical organizations, heritage societies, archival repositories will be represented at the Expo. There will be a quilt documentation and appraisal booth and the Vermont History Expo's "antique road show."

For full details visit www.vermonthistory.org/expo/pages/special.htm. The admission is $8.00 for adults, children & students $4, each day with a special 2 day deal. Hours 10-5 each day.

**Meetings**

**Fall VOCA Meeting**

The fall meeting of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association is planned for Saturday October 1, 2005.

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

If you know of any going on in a Vermont cemetery, editor Robert Hooper would like to hear from you at 44 Charity St., Burlington, VT 05401, 802-862-0708 or at Hooper999@aol.com

**New England Historic Genealogical Society Programs and Tours**

**Getting Started**

This program is held the first Wednesday of every month, at 12 noon and 6 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, a tour of the library, and a chance to meet the library staff. Non-members will receive free entrance to the library. No registration is required.

**Genealogy in a Nutshell**

"Nutshell" classes are short (one hour) lectures on a variety of genealogical topics. They are held at 101 Newbury Street from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and repeated on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Registration is not necessary. Visit www.NewEnglandAncestors.org for details.

**Come Home to New England**

June 19-26, 2005
July 31-August 7, 2005

This intensive week-long program is a special opportunity for all serious genealogists to immerse themselves in research at the NEHGS library. Highlights include lectures on methodology and genealogical research and one-on-one consultations.

**Research Tour to Salt Lake City**

October 16-23, 2005

Participants will be aided in their research by experienced and well known genealogists from the Society's staff who have frequently used the Family History Library and its resources.

Pre-registration is required for the above programs. Contact the NEHGS Education Department, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116-3007; phone 1-888-286-3447 or 617-536-5740, ext. 226 or by e-mail education@nehgs.org or visit www.NewEnglandAncestors.org. Click on Education, then on NEHGS Events for full information.

**The Society of Mayflower Descendants**

The Vermont Chapter of the Society of Mayflower Descendants holds two meetings a year. The next meeting will be on Saturday, June 25, 2005, at The Steak House in Barre, Vermont. The fall meeting will be on October 22, 2005 at The Dog Team Tavern.

If you have Mayflower ancestry and would like to join, contact Ms. Sharon A. Matyas, Historian, 6126 Bennett's Corner Road, Memphis, NY 13112-9780, 315-572-5882. e-mail: SAMatyas@aol.com.
THE ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVESTONE STUDIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The twenty-eighth annual conference and meeting will be held June 22-26, 2005 at St. Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This is the first international conference.

The conference will feature lectures, guided cemetery tours, slide presentations, exhibits, classes, documentation and conservation workshops. A feature this year will be the "Disaster Cemetery Tour" including the R.M.S. Titanic (1912) and the Swiss Air Flight 111 (1998) cemeteries.

Visit www.gravestonesstudies.org for further details, printable registration forms and pictures of past conferences; or info@gravestonesstudies.org. Conference pre-registration is required.

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.

The next annual convention of the Chapman Family Association will be held at the Holiday Inn, Williston Road, South Burlington, VT during June 3-5, 2005. All persons interested in the history and genealogy of the various Chapman Families are invited to attend. For information regarding the convention contact Mr. M. Chapman Morgan, PO Box 2325, Orcutt, CA 93457-2325 or Robert Chapman, 220 MacFarlane Dr., #904, Delray Beach, FL 33483. Those who wish to make reservations at the Holiday Inn, call 1-800-799-6363. Mention the CFA convention to obtain preferred rates.

The Hildreth Family Association will hold its annual reunion September 28 - October 5, 2005 in the Canadian Rockies. Please contact Ron Hildreth at 516-248-7877 or RonaldBHildreth@aol.com for more information.

Loveland-Howland Reunion. The descendants of Robert (1765-1856) and Ruth (1775-1848) Loveland, and Caleb (1798-1859) and Elizabeth (1787-1876) Howland, Jr. of Pittsforder/Brandon, VT area are invited to a family reunion August 6-7, 2005. Contact Grace Calvin by phone 802-273-2242; by e-mail Amzgrace2@aol.com; mail 6514 Monument Hill Road, Castleton, VT 05735 for further details.

The 2005 reunion of the Sanborn Family Association will be held at the Pittsfield, Vermont Recreation Area, north of Rutland, on Saturday and Sunday, August 6-7. For more information contact Mark Sanborn, president of the Association, e-mail: snbrn1953@yahoo.com


The annual meeting of the Towne Family Association will be held September 29 - October 2, 2005 at the Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT. Contact the Executive Office, 15237 Fine Drive, Renton, WA 98058, 206-227-8824, vtowne@cas.washington.edu.

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.

BOOK REVIEW POLICY

Books for review should be sent to John A. Leppman, 20 Thwing Lane, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

B & T BACK ISSUES


VG BACK ISSUES

Each issue is $5 (including postage). Currently available are: Volumes 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1, 7-1, 8-1, 2-4.

Your checks should be payable to GSV and sent to: GSV Back Issues, PO Box 1553, St. Albans, VT 05478-1006.

Contributions to the Permanent Fund

None

All donations to the Permanent Fund will be gratefully acknowledged.

Please send your donations to GSV, PO. Box 1553, St. Albans, VT 05478-1006. Please mark your check "Permanent Fund".

Janet 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

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
SMITH AND JONES AND BROWN

I've pointed 'em in Savage, I've run 'em down in Burke,
Through Hotten's lists and others I've
warmed into the work,
Till now I've got 'em sorted and set out
row by row,
Two, four and eight, and so on, as far as
they will go.
As they lie spread before me my pride is
taken down
By an over great proportion of Smith and
Jones and Brown.
I've stalked a herd of nobles and backed
into a king,
So that ancestral corner is quite a proper
thing,
And as for lesser liars, celebrities or
cranks,
I've resurrected all I own, to decorate theanks.
But they make no impression when they
are reckoned with
Humiliating numbers of Brown and Jones
and Smith.
I have no foolish scruples about making a
missing link,
But forge 'em quite as deftly as Mr.
Burke, I think,
My flying leaps and guesses are always to
the good
And fill a link as nearly as any old liar
could.
But still with all my efforts my heart is se-
cret owns
That mainly I'm compounded of Brown
and Smith and Jones.
My Smiths are not connected with famous
of their kind,
My Browns and Jones did nothing much
so far as I can find;
But I've a consolation when tempted to
ask why
It seems to me quite likely they were just
as good as I.
And how can I be doubtful about my kin
and kith
If I'm a living sample of Brown and Jones
and Smith?

By "Anonymous," it first appeared on the
back of the front cover of Pelliana, 2:2,
January 1939, p. 192.
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 ex-
tend to 1845, church records from 1773 to
1839. New to this publication is an indis-
penable 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

INDEX TO BRANCHES & TWIGS
1972-1995

Edited by Robert M. Murphy

Publication No. 4, 1995. hardbound,
$30.00

The long-awaited every-name index to
GSV's Branches & Twigs, published for
24 years, 96 issues. The 180,000 name
entries include every name mentioned in
every issue, except those cited in connec-
tion with Society business, those men-
tioned in purely casual historical context,
and the ancestry service ("Apple Or-
chard") feature, which was alphabetically
arranged. Separate sections of this work
list the coverage of each installment of
the Apple Orchard, and provide a full
author-title index to book reviews.
Branches & Twigs included immense
quantities of information of interest to
Vermont family historians. Special pub-
cation No. 7, 2000, 572 pp., hardbound,
$65.00.

SUDBURY, VERMONT: TRANS-
SCRIPTION 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 ge-
nealogies 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:
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