



Genealogical Society of Vermont

Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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DONATIONS

Vickie Storlie of
Clarks Grove, Minnesota

Alan and Valerie Rogers of
Northfield,
Massachusetts

William E. Jessup, II of
Andover, Vermont

Gill Coates of
Hinesburg, Vermont

Janet L. Smith of
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Vermont has now passed 50,500 cases of COVID-19, resulting in 413 deaths. For the state's latest Covid-19 numbers and information see: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/85f43bd849e743cb957993a545d17170> and for a detailed accounting of cases on a town-by-town basis see: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/covid-19-communities>. Plans are underway to hold an in-person GSV membership meeting in the spring of 2022.

There is some very sad news for our membership. GSV's longtime former Secretary **Mary Pat Brigham** passed away on November 12, 2021. [*Mary Pat's full obituary on page 4*] Many of you will remember her from our membership meetings and her many years at the Vermont Historical Society, as a librarian and later a volunteer. She served as GSV Secretary from 1991 through 2010, making her one of longest serving elected officers in the history of the society.

As noted in the last Newsletter, the 17th **New England Regional Genealogical Conference** will be held May 4-6, 2023 at the MassMutal Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. The theme of the conference is "**Missing Branches are Not the End of the Line.**" Although NERGC 2023 is still in the early planning stages, things are beginning to already take shape. The "Call for Papers," for potential speakers will be sent out soon. GSV will be looking for plenty of on-site volunteers at the conference. More information will be available as we approach the 2023 conference. Look for more information on the conference in future Newsletters and online at <https://nergc.org>.

Unfortunately GSV has to increase our postage and handling rates, many of which have not been raised in several years. Back issues of *Vermont Genealogy* will now be a standardized \$3.50 for both the single and double issues. For multiple orders, please add \$1 for each additional 1 to 5 issues. The shipping on orders greater than 6 copies contact me stevens@vermontel.net for the postage, which will be based on the total weight of the order. Remember, the more you purchase in a single order, the more you can save on postage. The postage and handling on most of the hardcover publications will increase to \$5.50 and the *Index to Branches & Twigs* will increase to \$7.50 due to its size and weight. The softcover publication *A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy* will be \$3.50. Additional items in the same order will be \$1 per item. Please note that the GSV membership discount does not apply to already discounted sale items.

If you are moving (*or simply have a change in address*) please let us know. This saves GSV money in mailing publications that are returned to the society address, because the mail forwarding time period has expired. Please send all address changes promptly to GSV Membership Chairperson, Diantha Howard: Diantha.Howard@uvm.edu. Also let her know if you would like to receive this Newsletter via email rather than the traditional print form. That helps save the society money, plus the electronic version includes items in color and many clickable links.

Thank you to all of the GSV members who have made donations throughout the year. In these very challenging times, donations are even more critical than ever and help toward the expenses of producing our publications.

Jonathan W. Stevens, President

FAMILYSEARCH COMPLETES DIGITIZATION OF MASSIVE MICROFILM COLLECTION

Effort makes billions of global genealogy records freely available online

SALT LAKE CITY, UT—It is a milestone 83 years in the making. Today FamilySearch International announced the completion of a massive project to digitize its collection of millions of rolls of microfilm containing billions of family history records from around the world. The archive containing information on more than 11.5 billion individuals is now freely available to the public on <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>.

"We hope that all those who contributed to this milestone in the last 80 years feel a sense of humble accomplishment today," said Steve Rockwood, the CEO of FamilySearch International. "And we hope the millions of individuals who will discover, gather, and connect generation upon generation of their family members for years to come because of these efforts will have a deep sense of gratitude for the many unheralded contributors who made those discoveries possible."

"It's a game-changer for everybody in the world. So, instead of having to come to the library, people can start accessing these records from home," said Becky Adamson, a research specialist at the FamilySearch Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Over 200 countries and principalities and more than 100 languages are represented in the digitized documents. Completion of the project makes it much easier for individuals to make more personal and family discoveries.

To explore FamilySearch's free collections of indexed records and images, go to FamilySearch.org and search both "Records" and "Images". The Images feature enables users to peruse digitized images from the microfilm collection and more. A free FamilySearch account will be required to access the service.

History of FamilySearch Records Preservation

FamilySearch and its predecessors have been collecting, preserving, and providing access to genealogically significant historical records for more than 100 years. Those records include birth, death, marriage, census, military service, immi-



gration, and other types of documents.

FamilySearch began microfilming in 1938 as the Genealogical Society of Utah. It was one of the first major

organizations to embrace the use of microfilm imaging. That microfilm collection eventually grew to more than 2.4 million rolls.

For many decades, duplicates of the original rolls could be ordered and viewed at one of FamilySearch's more than 5,000 family history centers worldwide. The process of duplicating and distributing microfilm copies, and the laborious research that followed, seems excruciating by today's instant online research standards, but at the time, it was innovative and the easiest, most economical way available to help patrons worldwide find family information without having to travel to an archive holding the original records.

Watch "Billions of Microfilm Records Digitized"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DK4sbCXzRdY>

FamilySearch ended its microfilm distribution to family history centers in September 2017 when it began its transition to an all-digital, free, online access approach. The microfilm collection will continue to be preserved, but the information the rolls contain can now be easily viewed and searched online.

FamilySearch continues to capture images of original records at an ever-increasing rate, howbeit in digital form, bypassing the need to transfer the information from film.

The Microfilm Digitization Timeline

Digitization of the rolls of film began more than 20 years ago when FamilySearch purchased its first microfilm scanners in 1998. The project was expected to take over 50 years to complete, but advances in technology helped shorten the timeline by nearly 30 years.

(FamilySearch Completes Digitization, continued on page 3)

(FamilySearch Completes Digitization, continued from page 2)

The last of the microfilm scanning was completed this year. The project took a leap forward in 2006 when software and processes were developed by FamilySearch in conjunction with the Church History and the Information and Communication Services Departments of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The scanning began with about 5 employees. As the process was developed, up to 30 employees using 26 scanners were working on the process, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The digitization effort has been directed by the Church Historian and Recorder and executed by preservation professionals in the Church History Department. The last roll of film added to the collection was captured by FamilySearch's in-field cameras in 2018.

FamilySearch is committed to collecting, preserving, and providing access to the world's genealogical records to help individuals and families worldwide discover and connect with their family histories. FamilySearch will continue to increase the digitization of new records worldwide from its digital camera operations and partnerships. It will also begin digitizing 335,000 microfiches in its collections

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY EXPANDS HOURS OF OPERATION

SALT LAKE CITY, UT—The FamilySearch Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, has moved to Phase 2 reopening plans. On November 6, 2021, the library expanded its days of operation to include Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Phase 1 included Monday through Friday only). On the week of November 15, 2021, the library was opened on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. by appointment only.

Evening access will be limited to main floor services unless otherwise requested. Individuals, and youth, church, and genealogical groups will be able to make appointments. Group reservations for daytime hours are available now under the **Visit Us tab** on the Family History Library web page. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/family-history-library/>

Evening reservations will be available in the same manner as they become available. Appointments will be based on space and equipment availability for up to 150 people.

In recent months, the Family History Library has undergone major renovations and improvements to better serve guests. A newly completed visitor break room on the main floor provides more space and comfortable seating for guests to eat and relax and can comfortably accommodate groups. Tables and seating have been upgraded and additional vending machines provide a variety of food options.

The facilities on the research floors have been updated with more research materials, computer stations with multiple monitors, adjustable desktops, better ADA handicapped access, and an improved personal help system.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Phase 2 hours will continue through the holiday season, and holiday activities will include the library's traditional "Christmas Around the World" event. The library will be closed from December 23 through 26. It will reopen on Monday, December 27 and remain open with Phase 2 hours through New Year's Eve. The Family History Library web page will provide up-to-date information on hours and library activities.

FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS AND AFFILIATE LIBRARIES

FamilySearch family history centers and affiliate libraries around the world work in association with the Family History Library; however, their hours of operation are directed by their local ecclesiastical leaders and applicable government guidelines. If you plan to visit a local FamilySearch center soon, please call ahead to verify its hours of operation.

The Vermont Historical Records Program's Virtual Office Hours, held the last Tuesday of every month from 1 – 3 p.m..

To attend this month or any future Virtual Office Hours, please email sos.vhrp@vermont.gov.

Sally Blanchard-O'Brien,
CA

Roving Archivist
Vermont Historical Records Program
Vermont State Archives & Records Administration

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Montpelier, VT 05633
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The Virtual Office Hours are a time to get answers to questions, learn tips and tricks, and to connect with VHRP staff and other cultural heritage workers around the state. There's no obligation to stay for the entire time, just come when you like!

DEATHS.

☞ Marriages and Deaths inserted FREE.

Mary Pat Brigham 1931 – 2021

NORTHFIELD — Mary Patricia Carroll Brigham, 90, of Northfield, Vermont, died Nov. 12, 2021, after a short illness. Mary Pat was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on Aug. 7, 1931. She grew up in Newtown, Connecticut, graduating from Newtown High School in 1949 and then Wellesley College in 1953. She married her high school sweetheart, Eric Johnson, and together, they raised three children. She later married longtime Montpelier, Vermont, resident, Loriman Brigham, and was a resident in the Montpelier area since 1982, most recently in Northfield, Vermont.



cia Carroll and her children, Gus Carroll, Bernadette Carroll, Deidre Clune, Cassandra O'Connell, Max Carroll, Erin Begley, Finian Carroll and their families; cousin, Kathleen Gacso; and her husband's sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A Catholic funeral Mass was celebrated Friday, Nov. 19, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown, Connecticut. A burial followed in St. Rose Cemetery, also in Newtown. The Mass will be preceded by a viewing at 1:45 p.m. at Honan Funeral Home, 58 Main St., Newtown. In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to the Vermont Historical Society or another organization of your choice.

Mary Pat's interest in discovering her family genealogy led her to become a volunteer at the Vermont Historical Society. She trained as a librarian and later became an employee at the VHS Library. She enjoyed helping others track down especially obscure details about their ancestors. She also trained as a photo archivist, using those skills working with the VHS photo collection, and gave many seminars at genealogical conferences throughout New England.

Mary Pat was a member of the Catholic church. She enjoyed singing for many years in the choir of St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Montpelier. Mary Pat was active in the Girl Scouts while growing up, and then as a troop leader and district instructor as an adult. Mary Pat enjoyed bird watching throughout her life, creating annual and life lists, and traveling to unexpected places to look for different species.

She also enjoyed traveling, whether around the country or to family in Ireland or Italy, or on a world cruise with her husband. She was an accomplished seamstress, sewing clothing throughout most of her life, and doing embroidery and crewel work and some quilt making as an adult.

Mary Pat was predeceased by her husband, Loriman Brigham; her son, Robert Johnson; her parents, Patrick and Alice Carroll; her brother, James Carroll; and sister, Justine Geckle. She is survived by her daughter, Alice Johnson; son, Mark Johnson; her grandchildren, Callista Rasmussen, Marta and husband Nick Poling, and Karl Johnson; a great-grandson, Henry Poling; her brother-in-law, George Geckle and his sons, Geordie Geckle and Richard Geckle and their families; her sister-in-law, Patri-

Source: https://www.timesargus.com/obituaries/mary-patricia-brigham/article_20cb2ce4-b606-53f5-8e79-548ce1dbdb8f.html

Excerpt from the Vermont Historical Society E-News:

"Mary Pat started volunteering at VHS in 1971 when we had just moved into the then new Pavilion building. She was hired as a Library Assistant in 1979 and married VHS volunteer and board member Loriman Brigham in 1982. She worked at VHS until 1991 and later returned to volunteer in the library for another twelve years."

Editor's Note: Mary Pat was a longtime member of GSV and a familiar face at our membership meetings throughout the years. She served as Secretary of the society from 1991 until 2010. She was also known for her famous homemade soups. She was be greatly missed by all those who knew her.



Moving or change of address?

Please remember to send us any changes.

New GSV Postage Rates:

Starting December 1st 2021

Vermont Genealogy Back Issues and Bibliography: \$3.50
for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item in the same order.

**All Hardcover Publications
(except Index to Branches & Twigs): \$5.50**
for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item in the same order.

Index to Branches & Twigs: \$7.50
for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item in the same order.



Chief Weller A. Wentley
Castleton Sem
Vermont

**The publication no Vermont genealogy
collection or library should be without.**

A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy,
2nd edition

by John A. Leppman, softbound.
Item No. GSV 11.

Special Sale Price \$5

*Shipping and handling is \$3.50 for the first copy
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Winter 2021/2022 Sale Prices

Vital Records of Rockingham, Vermont and the Records of the First Church of Rockingham

Reprinted from the 1902 and 1908 first editions
Hardbound. Item No. GSV 3
Sale Price \$20

Georgia, Vermont Vital Records.

by Peter S. Mallet, ed.
Hardbound. Item No. GSV 4
Sale Price \$15

Sudbury, Vermont: Genealogies, Vital Records, and Census Records

by Mary Ann Z. Wheeler
Hardbound. Item No. GSV 8
Sale Price \$20

*Shipping and handling on all GSV
hardbound publications is \$5.50 (except) for the first item
and \$1.00 for each additional item in the same order.*

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on special sale prices.*

Vermont Genealogy Back Issues 1:1-26:1

**Buy One
Get One of Equal
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Please Note: Shipping and handling is \$3.50 for the first item
and \$1.00 for each additional item.

Issues 1: 4, 3: 3, 3: 4 and 4: 4 are out of print, however GSV
from time to time receives clean copies for our stock from
former members collections.

Please contact stevens@vermontel.net for availability.

For orders greater than 6 copies contact
stevens@vermontel.net for the postage, which will based on the
weight of the order.



G S V P U B L I C A T I O N S

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 \$5.50 for the first item (*except where noted*) 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, 2962 Vermont Route 12A, Braintree, VT 05060-8779

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.

(Continued on page 7)

Order Form

Item Number	Description	Quantity X	Price =	Subtotal
M 001	Membership: New or Renewal			
Surnames Researching (for New Members):				
D 001	Donation			
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For GSV publications return with a check payable in US funds to: Genealogical Society of Vermont 2962 Vermont Route 12A Braintree, VT 05060-8779		Membership: New or Renewal return with a check payable in US funds to: GSV Membership Chairperson 57 East Shore North Grand Isle, VT 05458		Order Total: _____ Shipping: _____ Total Due: _____

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News, articles and comments for the newsletter should be mailed to:

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stevens@vermontel.net

Newsletter deadlines are:
 April 15 — Spring issue
 July 15 — Summer issue
 Oct. 15 — Fall issue
 Dec. 15 — Winter issue

Vermont Genealogy, the GSV Journal contact information:
 Michael F. Dwyer, FASG, Editor
 389 Orchard Hill,
 Pittsford, VT 05763
michaelftdwyer@comcast.net

Send copies of relevant books for journal review to:
 John A. Leppman
 Book Review Editor
 20 Thwing Lane
 Bellows Falls, VT 05101-1640

Moving? Let Us Know

Please inform GSV if you move.
 Send notices to:
 Diantha Howard
 57 East Shore North
 Grand Isle, VT 05458

ADVERTISING POLICY

The GSV Newsletter accepts paid advertising at \$3.00 per column inch. It must relate to genealogy, preferably Vermont, and must be received before the deadline listed above. Checks made out to GSV are sent to 2962 Vermont Route 12A, Braintree, VT 05060-8779 along with the *exact* wording for the ad. *GSV offers no warranty on the services of advertisers.*

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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; **Sale Price \$20.** 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 index of nearly 1,000 names.

Georgia, Vermont Vital Records. Peter S. Mallet, ed., 1995, hardbound. Item No. GSV 4; **Sale Price \$15.** 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, 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 non-members. 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 non-members. (Mail orders should add \$7.50 for postage and handling, not the \$5.50 normally charged.) 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: Genealogies, Vital Records, and Census Records. Mary Ann Z. Wheeler, 2000, 416 pp., hardbound. Item No. GSV 8; **Sale Price \$20.** 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 11; **Sale Price \$5.** (Mail orders should add \$3.50 for postage and handling, not the \$5.50 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.).

Index to the History and Map of Danby, Vermont, Compiled by Joann H. Nichols. (1998), softbound, Item No. D1; \$3.50, plus \$3.50 shipping for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy. An index to J[ohn] C. Williams, History and Map of Danby, Vermont (Rutland, Vt., 1869; reprinted S.L. Griffith Library, 1976). **Limited Number Available.**

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 - 26: 1, are available for \$10.00 each. There is a mailing fee of \$3.50 (\$5.50 to Canadian addresses). 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.

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Dues are \$25.00 for US addresses.
Canada and Mexico are \$35.00
All other foreign addresses are \$50.00 in US funds.

Membership includes our journal *Vermont Genealogy* and four issues of our newsletter. These publications will keep you abreast of genealogical news and present current articles on genealogical source material, conferences and meetings, techniques and queries. If you would like to receive a membership card, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your dues.

Send membership dues and applications to:

**GSV Membership Chairperson
57 East Shore North
Grand Isle, VT 05458**

All other correspondence,
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The Brattleboro Reformer
(Brattleboro, Vt.),
issue 29 Nov. 1901, p. 7