



# Genealogical Society of Vermont

## Newsletter

Volume 29, Issue 3, Whole No. 115

[www.genealogyvermont.org](http://www.genealogyvermont.org)

Fall 2022

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### DONATIONS

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Moving  
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address?



*Please remember to send  
us any changes.*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The GSV Board decided against holding a fall membership meeting in 2022. This is for a variety of reasons, and we are looking into the possibility of having a mid-winter virtual meeting. However, we still need to hold the biennial election of officers of the society. Therefore this Newsletter includes a copy of the ballot. By holding the elections by a mail-in ballot, this gives all members, rather than just those who attend a meeting, the opportunity to vote. Please return your completed ballot by December 20, 2022. Either mail to the address: **Genealogical Society of Vermont, 2962 Vermont Route 12A, Braintree, VT 05060-8779** or scan and email to me at: [stevens@vermontel.net](mailto:stevens@vermontel.net). See page 5 for the 2022 GSV ballot and voting instructions.

This Newsletter includes a couple of recent press releases. The first is from FamilySearch on **RootsTech**, described as “the world’s largest family history gathering,” which will be held on March 2–4, 2023. The second is the **Civil War Bluejackets**, “a major new project to reveal new insights into 19<sup>th</sup> century sailors in the U.S. Navy.”

The next important event on the horizon that GSV is participating in is **the 17<sup>th</sup> New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) 2023—Missing Branches are Not the End of the Line**, will be held on May 3-6, 2023 at the MassMutal Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. The featured speakers are Rich Venezia and Dr. Michael Lacopo. See <https://nergc.org/2023-conference/2023-featured-speakers/> for additional information. GSV’s sponsored speaker will be Paul Searls entitled “**Major Valentine’s Swedes.**” In 1890, Vermont’s Commissioner of Agricultural and Manufacturing Interests, Alonzo B. Valentine, launched a program to repopulate Vermont’s “abandoned” farms with farmers recruited from Scandinavia. GSV will be producing the NERGC Conference Newsletter, plus we will need plenty of on-site volunteers at the conference to meet our allocation of required volunteer time. GSV has purchased an Exhibit Hall booth for the conference where we will be selling a wide array of historical and genealogical publications with an emphasis on Vermont. Stop by our booth, you never know what you might find. More information will be available as we approach the date of the conference and the second **NERGC 2023 E-Zine** is now available. <https://nergc.org/e-zines/> If you are interested in receiving a paper copy of the NERGC 2023 brochure when they are available. Please email me at: [stevens@vermontel.net](mailto:stevens@vermontel.net) and I will send you one.

Thank you to everyone, whether you are a longtime GSV member or just recently joined the society, who made recent donations to the society. Your donations are always greatly appreciated and help with cost of producing our publications.

Scott Andrew “Drew” Bartley, will be returning to editor position of *Vermont Genealogy* beginning with the Spring 2023 issue. Drew also served a term as GSV President in the mid-1990s and is currently the lead genealogist of the Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 project for NEHGS. Unfortunately, due to the transfer in editorship of *Vermont Genealogy*, issues have been delayed. The Spring 2022 issue is currently nearing completion.

A note to newer members: back issues of the GSV Newsletter from 1994 to date can be found online at: <https://genealogyvermont.org/newsletters.htm>. Though much of the material is dated, there is still contain a wealth of information in the old newsletters. Also of interest to those that don’t have a complete run of *Vermont Genealogy*. topical index courtesy of Bob Murphy, can be found online at: <https://genealogyvermont.org/VTGen/VG%20Topical.pdf>. Most back issues of the journal are still available for purchase.

Enjoy the rest of the fall; winter is just around the corner.

*Jonathan W. Stevens, President*

## Query

I am searching for information about my 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather **Franklin Ford**, believed to have been born in Benson, Rutland Co., Vermont, on 18 January 1801 (according to *Vermont, US Vital Records, 1870 and Prior*). Per this source, his parents were John and Dorcas (Olmsted) Ford. Franklin was the eldest of their 14 children. (Franklin's father, John, was presumably born in Massachusetts, but his family moved to Vermont when he was quite young. Dorcas was born in Benson, Rutland Co., Vermont, on 17 December 1782.)

I am especially searching for information about my 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandmother, Franklin Ford's wife, **Oliva/Olivia or Eliza Pitts**. She is believed to have been born in 1798 in Vermont, according to various censuses taken in the latter half of the 1800s. From this same source, both of her parents were also born in Vermont. I have no background information on her, who her parents/siblings were or when and where she married Franklin Ford. I presume this to have occurred in Vermont around 1823.

I believe John and Dorcas (Olmsted) Ford's other 13 children, siblings of my Franklin, were all born in Benson, Rutland Co., Vermont. They were: John Jr. b. 1802, Richard Falley b. 1803, Huldah Maria b. 1805, Simeon b. 1807, Harriet b. 1809, Lucy b. 1811, Electa b. 1812, Laura A. and Almira Louisa b. 1814, David b. 1817, Harry b. 1819, Rufus Dennis b. 1821 and Barbara b. 1823. Franklin's parents and many of his siblings then moved around this time (1823/4) to New York then Pennsylvania.

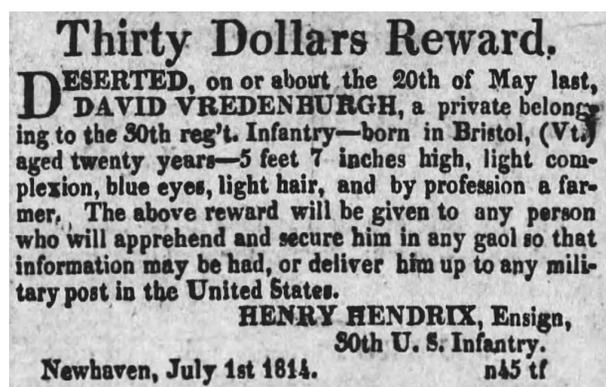
Back to Franklin and Oliva (Pitts) Ford – they had also left Vermont by 1824, having had their first child, my 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather George Washington Ford, in Pennsylvania in June of that year. They went on to have three additional children and ultimately Franklin died in Pennsylvania, Oliva following her children on to Michigan where she eventually died.

Again, I am curious as to who Oliva Pitts was, who her ancestors were and whether Franklin and Oliva married in Vermont. This would have likely occurred around 1820-1823.

I have a good understanding of the Olmsted family from which Dorcas hailed (good resource material on the Olmstead family famous for landscape architecture denotes Dorcas is from that line). As well, the Ford family is well documented as they were descended from Mayflower passengers. I have had no success with the Pitts family and Oliva specifically.

I am also interested in the life and times of the Ford and Olmsted families while they lived in Vermont for what appears to be almost two generations. Once identified, I would appreciate information on the life and times of the Pitts family.

Submitted by: Allison Dennis [allidennis9@gmail.com](mailto:allidennis9@gmail.com)



*National Standard* (Middlebury, Vt.), issue 13 July 1814, p 4.



## CIVIL WAR BLUEJACKETS

### MAJOR NEW PROJECT TO REVEAL NEW INSIGHTS INTO 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SAILORS IN THE U.S. NAVY

A new project will help tell the stories of sailors in the American Civil War in ways never before possible. The “Civil War Bluejackets” Project—so named because of the distinctive uniform worn by U.S. Civil War sailors—is a collaboration between historians at the Northumbria University, information and data scientists at the University of Sheffield and the University of Koblenz-Landau, and partners including the United States Naval Academy Museum. Funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, the project launches on 6 September 2022 with a call for citizen volunteers to help transcribe tens of thousands of Civil War “Muster Rolls”, documents that were carried on board U.S. ships and which capture the personal details of the c.118,000 men who fought on water for the Union between 1861 and 1865. The project team are making use of the online Zooniverse platform to share tens of thousands of these Muster Rolls, and are asking the public to help in revealing their contents. Principal Investigator Professor David Gleeson of Northumbria University said:

“We are calling on “people-power” to help us tell the story of common sailors in the Civil War in a way never before possible. We estimate that over 30 percent of these men were British or Irish immigrants—another 15 percent were African American. With your help, we aim to create a new freely available database of these men, and use the information generated by citizen scientists to explore the social and military experiences of these ordinary people in a way never before possible.”

As well as using public transcriptions to decipher the Muster Rolls, the team also hope to develop new software to allow computers to “read” 19<sup>th</sup> century hand-writing. Co-Investigator Dr Morgan Harvey of the University of Sheffield commented:

“By comparing the public’s transcriptions with the original 19<sup>th</sup> century hand-writing, we hope to “train” computers to assist in the reading and deciphering of historic documents, thereby creating a major new tool in the armory of anyone interested in uncovering the past.”

Included among the stories the team hope to reveal are those of thousands of immigrant and African American men who helped the U.S. battle the Confederacy on water. Many of these sailors were new arrivals, drawn from the lowest economic strata in American society- thousands more had only recently escaped the clutches of enslavement. When complete, the project will provide us with more detail about the lives and circumstances of these men than has ever before been possible.

Those interested in finding out more about the project can visit the [civilwarbluejackets.com](http://civilwarbluejackets.com) website, or go direct to the Zooniverse Civil War Bluejackets page at [www.zooniverse.org/projects/bluejackets/civil-war-bluejackets](http://www.zooniverse.org/projects/bluejackets/civil-war-bluejackets).

<https://civilwarbluejackets.com/2022/09/05/press-release-major-new-project-to-reveal-new-insights-into-19th-century-sailors-in-the-u-s-navy/>

# ROOTSTECH IS BACK! REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR WORLD'S LARGEST FAMILY HISTORY EVENT

## Global Online Conference Adds In-person Experience March 2-4, 2023



**SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**—RootsTech, the world's largest family history gathering, is back March 2–4, 2023, with an in-person event in Salt Lake City, Utah, to complement its massive online conference. Millions of virtual and in-person attendees will gather for inspiring keynote addresses, instructive classes, innovative technologies, and the opportunity to connect to their family—past, present, and future. Registration is now open for the 2023 event. The online event is free. The 3-day, in-person experience is \$98. Register now at: [www.familysearch.org/rootstech/](http://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/).

### What Is RootsTech?

Jen Allen, director of events at FamilySearch, said “RootsTech really is about uniting and connecting. We help you connect with your family first and foremost, but also to connect with stories and discovery experiences through your family history. On a grander scale, we connect like-minded people who want to gather and learn similar things. We also connect you with new knowledge, learning, innovation, and services that will help you make new connections to your family history.”

Already the world's largest in-person family history conference, the global pandemic forced RootsTech to reinvent itself as a totally virtual experience in 2020, 2021, and 2022 and an online learning source year-round. Unprecedented growth followed, and today, millions of online attendees eagerly anticipate the next installment of this virtual worldwide gathering. The 2023 return of the in-person option will fuel the excitement even more.

“Imagine creating content for the world!” said Jonathan Wing, creative manager for RootsTech. “The incredible blessing and miracle of the RootsTech virtual experiences is that we were able to confirm that there are so many more people worldwide who are interested in learning more about their family history, stories, and connecting. It has enabled us to widen our reach, and our RootsTech family has gotten so much bigger.”

### The RootsTech 2023 Theme

The theme for RootsTech 2023 is “Uniting.” RootsTech is all about bringing people, stories, memories, technology, innovation, communities, and ultimately—families—together.

“Families are the foundation of society,” said FamilySearch CEO Steve Rockwood. “Connecting and uniting families across generations strengthens individuals and nations alike. We are amazed and gratified to see the role RootsTech has been able to play in helping literally millions of individuals connect with their family, past, present, and future.”

### What to Expect at RootsTech 2023

RootsTech 2023 marks the 13th year of this global gathering. In 2022, over 3 million people participated online. Since the beginning, innovation has been a guiding principle for RootsTech. Each year, the event organizers adapt the content to appeal to people worldwide and to stay current. The 2023 event will be no different—except it is bringing the best of the virtual and in-person experiences and morphing them together.

“I think it would be really easy for people to assume we are having 2 separate events happening at the same time,” said Wing. “But we will be connecting what’s happening virtually with what’s occurring in-person. We’re creating ways for virtual attendees to participate with some of the in-person activities.”

There will be inspiring keynotes, fun entertainment, and more than 200 new classes. The vibrant Expo Hall will also return with over 200 exhibitors, helpful product demonstrations, and interactions with research specialists.

### In-Person RootsTech Registration Will Fill Quickly

Registration for the online event is free. It will enable you to create personal playlists, interact, and receive updates. For the in-person conference, registration is \$98 for a pass that includes all classes and keynote addresses for the entire 3-day event. Access to the Expo Hall is free to all.

## New Members

### Allison Dennis

8415 42nd Ave SW  
Seattle, WA 98136  
email: [allidennis9@hotmail.com](mailto:allidennis9@hotmail.com)  
researching: Pitts, Ford, Olmsted, Meacham, White

### Russell Alvin Martin

6 Whispering Pines  
Freeport, ME 04032  
email: [RMartinPE@comcast.net](mailto:RMartinPE@comcast.net)  
researching: Martin, Badger, Wood, Gale, Tuttle

### Loretta McDonald

951 Gold Nugget Circle  
Lincoln, CA 95648  
email: [lorjim@att.net](mailto:lorjim@att.net)  
researching: Boon, Boone, Gunnison, Emery, Beedy

### Thomas Myers

9014 Stickney Ave  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226  
email: [Tom.John.Myers@gmail.com](mailto:Tom.John.Myers@gmail.com)  
researching: Prichard, Corey, Wheeler

### Julianne Adamik

2382 Outlook Ct.  
Carlsbad, CA 92010  
email: [Julieadamik@icloud.com](mailto:Julieadamik@icloud.com)  
Researching: Remington

### Kay Bowman

4235 N. Winchester Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60613  
email: [kbowman@aol.com](mailto:kbowman@aol.com)  
researching: Bowman

### Patricia J. Quinn

810 East Basin Road, Apt F4  
New Castle, DE 19720

### Charles Carey Faison

12490 Ascot Close Drive  
King George, VA 22485  
email: [ccfais53@gmail.com](mailto:ccfais53@gmail.com)  
researching: Gorham, Sturgis, Wakeman

### Candace Braksick

11262 Wellman Rd.  
McLouth, KS 66054  
email: [kcsr1@gmail.com](mailto:kcsr1@gmail.com)  
researching: Bates, McNitt

### Anne Borg

155 Winchester Street  
Newton, MA 02461  
email: [absborg155@mac.com](mailto:absborg155@mac.com)

### *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

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

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

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

### *A Bibliography for Vermont Genealogy, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*

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

*Special Sale Price \$5*

*Shipping and handling is \$3.50 for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy in the same order.*

*Note: member discount is not applicable on special sale prices.*

## GSV Postage Rates:

*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.*

*Whereas Keziah my wife has eloped from my bed and board, (without any reasonable cause) this is therefore, to forbid all persons harboring or trusting her on my account, as I will pay no debts of her contracting after this date.*

*RUFUS CORSE.*  
*Wilmington, August 23, 1804.*

*The Reporter (Brattleboro, Vt.), issue 25 Aug. 1804, p 3.*

# BALLOT

## FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT FOR THE TERM ENDING FALL 2024

**PRESIDENT: JONATHAN W. STEVENS**  
OF CHESTER, VT

WRITE IN: \_\_\_\_\_

**VICE-PRESIDENT: CAROLYN L. ADAMS, ESQ.**  
OF SOUTH RYEGATE, VT

WRITE IN: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECRETARY: ALICE BLAKELY MARSH**  
OF JERICHO, VT

WRITE IN: \_\_\_\_\_

**TREASURER: JANE BELCHER**  
OF BRAINTREE, VT

WRITE IN: \_\_\_\_\_

### -BALLOT DIRECTIONS-

*Feel free to photocopy (if you would like to leave your Newsletter intact)  
or for those members, who receive the Newsletter via email,  
print page 5 of the PDF.*

*Please vote and mail to the society address:*

*Genealogical Society of Vermont, 2962 Vermont Route 12A, Braintree, VT 05060-8779*

*or scan and send as an attachment to email to [stevens@vermontel.net](mailto:stevens@vermontel.net)*

*by December 20, 2022.*



## GSV PUBLICATIONS

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	<b>Digital Membership:</b> New or Renewal \$25			

M 002	<b>Print Membership:</b> Please Refer to Last Page for Price			
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Surnames Researching (for New Members):

D 001	Donation			
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			*There is no tax on GSV material.
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			Order Total: _____
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**WANT TO CONTACT US?**

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<http://www.genealogyvermont.org/>

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Genealogical Society of Vermont  
 2962 Vermont Route 12A  
 Braintree, VT 05060-8779  
[stevens@vermontel.net](mailto: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:  
 Scott Andrew Bartley  
[drew@yourgenealogist.com](mailto:drew@yourgenealogist.com)

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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 2, 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.

**Genealogical Society of Vermont  
2962 Vermont Route 12A  
Braintree, VT 05060-8779**

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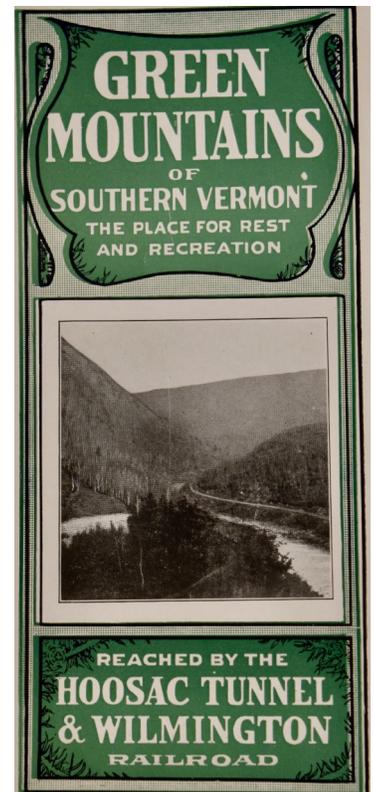
Membership includes our journal *Vermont Genealogy* and four issues of our newsletter. These publications will keep you abreast of genealogical news and present current articles on genealogical source material, conferences and meetings, techniques and queries. If you would like to receive a membership 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,  
except for submissions and queries to *Vermont Genealogy*, should be sent to

**Genealogical Society of Vermont,  
2962 Vermont Route 12A, Braintree, VT 05060-8779.**



Hoosac Tunnel & Wilmington Railroad.  
*Green Mountains of Southern Vermont:  
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