Women in Vermont: A Bibliography

Compiled by Marilyn S. Blackwell

Abundant resources exist for the study of women in Vermont. The following bibliography lists sources for exploring the condition of women's lives and their contribution to Vermont’s cultural heritage. It extends Faith Pepe's “Bibliography of Women in Vermont,” published in Vermont History in 1977, by supplementing the list of nineteenth-century sources and adding twentieth-century materials. It focuses on women's daily experiences and their activities in social organizations.

I have selected materials that would be useful for a wide range of research projects. The bibliography includes both primary sources for scholarly work and secondary material, some of which may be of limited value. I included some biographical sources under various subject categories to highlight the variety of women's achievements but do not intend the list to be comprehensive, especially for women in the arts. I chose manuscript listings based on the size and significance of the women's content.

Almost all sources listed below can be found at the Vermont Historical Society Library (VHS) or in the Wilbur Collection, Bailey-Howe Library, University of Vermont (UVM). Rare printed materials and manuscripts are specifically identified by location. The manuscript section also includes a selection of materials at the Sheldon Museum, Middlebury, Vermont. Private family papers in these repositories contain significant material relating to Vermont women, but they have not always been catalogued to highlight women’s content. Researchers should consult the libraries' descriptive indexes for these family papers to determine the exact nature and quantity of women’s material. I included the dates, location, and careers of women if they are identified through the manuscript indexes.

This bibliography should be used in conjunction with Faith Pepe's work and Vermont: A Bibliography of Its History, edited by T. D. Seymour Bassett (Boston: Committee for a New England Bibliography, 1981). I also recommend to researchers The Vermonter, the first state magazine,
which printed many articles about Vermont women and women’s organizations, especially from 1895 until 1907. Faith Pepe’s and Vivian Bryan’s “Bibliographical and Biographical Index of Vermont Women,” on cards at the Vermont Historical Society Library, is a valuable tool for investigating individual careers. The Wilbur Collection holds a number of undergraduate papers with women’s content, which may be useful as secondary sources.

Additional locations of material relating to Vermont women include some local and regional historical societies in the state, local church and town archives, and women’s history collections in other New England states. The local history material at Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro includes secondary sources on individual women and Brattleboro’s women’s organizations. The Sophia Smith collection, Neilson Library, Smith College, has a limited amount of material relating to distinguished Vermont women, i.e. Myra Colby Bradwell, Sarah Cleghorn, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Mary Wilkins Freeman, and others. The Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, houses a small amount of primary material relating to Harriet Beecher Stowe (in Brattleboro, 1846-47), Clarina Howard Nichols, and collections of the Bradley and Gamble families of Westminster and Brattleboro.

I would like to thank Faith Pepe for her helpful comments and suggested additions to this updated bibliography. Connell Gallagher at the Wilbur Collection, University of Vermont, and Polly C. Darnell at the Sheldon Museum provided invaluable assistance on the manuscript listings. Ellen Blackmer of the Vermont Historical Society staff deserves special praise for her patience in typing numerous drafts of the final bibliography. As we gather information on women in Vermont, we anticipate a lengthy discussion of their place in the state’s past.

MANUSCRIPT SOURCES

Vermont Historical Society

PRIVATE PAPERS

Brown, Helen Tyler (1864-1935), Brattleboro, Vt. Papers. 7 cartons.
Carter, Georgia Amelia (Cleveland) (1880-1949). Papers. 1 carton.
Clement Family, Rutland, Vt. Papers, 1820s-1960s. 9 cartons.
Davis and Rich Families, Calais, Vt. Letters, 1820s-1880s. 1 carton.
Freeman, Lucy West, South Royalton and Brookfield, Vt. Diaries, 1871-1924. 2 boxes.
Joy, Sarah, Morristown, Vt. Papers, 1834-1875. 1 folder and 1 vol.
Landon, Flora. Letters, 1917-1926. Landon was overseas during World War I. 1 box.
McDermid, Nancy and Nettie McDermid Wells, Middlesex, Vt. Diaries, 1866-1916. 1 carton.
Paul, Mary S. Letters, 1850s, from Lowell, Mass. and North American Phalanx, a Fourierist colony in New Jersey. 1 folder.
Reed, Hezekiah H., Montpelier, Vt. Family letters, 1835-1881. Correspondence of Reed's daughters, Mary, Cornelia, Emily, Eliza, and Gertrude. 2 boxes.
Sabin Family, Windsor, Vt. Papers, 1820s-1890s. 1 box.
St. John, Grace Evans (b. 1890), Hardwick, Vt. Papers, 1855-1928. 5 folders.
Vail-Congdon Family, Danby, Vt. Papers, 1819-1880s. 1 box.

ASSOCIATION RECORDS

Benson Female Cent Society, Benson, Vt. Records, 1815-1834.
Benson Young Ladies Bible Society, Benson, Vt. Record Book, 1816-1835.
Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont. Papers, 1936-74. 1 carton.
Female Religious Society, Shelburne, Vt. Articles of Organization, [1816?]
Ladies Aid Society of the East Hardwick Baptist Church, East Hardwick, Vt.
Ladies Benevolent Society of Ludlow, Vt. MS history.
Ladies Mite Society of the Methodist Church of South Hero, Vt. Records, 1883-1900.
Ladies Reading Club of Christ Church, Montpelier, Vt. Records, 1891-1899.
Ladies Social Circle Library, East Montpelier, Vt. Record Book, 185?
Vermont League of Women Voters. Papers, 1908-1920. 3 cartons.
Vermont Society of Colonial Dames. Papers, 1897-1906. 1 carton, 1 box.
Wolcott Congregational Church, Ladies Congregational Aid Society, Wolcott, Vt. Records, 1880-1890. 1 box.
Woman's Relief Corps. Vermont. Papers, 1890-1911. 1 box.

**Wilbur Collection, University of Vermont**

**PRIVATE PAPERS**

Dutton, Lucretia W. Family Letters, 1824-1855. 1 box.
Hagar Family, Burlington, Vt. Papers, 1840-1924. 3 boxes.
Hoyt Sisters Vaudeville Team, Manchester, Vt., 1896-1901. Scrapbook.
Hunt, Dorothy B. Papers, 1927-87. 5 cartons.
Peake Family, Bristol, Vt. Papers, 1793-1955. 5 cartons, 3 boxes.
Rutherford, Hannah Chase. Correspondence, 1839-1865. In Dr. Joseph Rutherford Papers. 2 boxes.
Savage Family, Stowe, Vt. Papers, 1768-1902. 5 boxes.
White, Sadie. Papers, 1966-84. Legislator. 4 cartons.

ASSOCIATION RECORDS
Vermont Baptist Historical Society. Papers, 1786-1920; local church records. 5 boxes.
Vermont State Nurses. Records, ca. 1900-1960. 10 cartons.

Sheldon Museum, Middlebury, Vermont

PRIVATE PAPERS
Battell, Philip, Middlebury, Vt. Minutes of conversations with older residents of the area, 1848-1854. 2 vols.
Clarke, Hannah Lucy. Letters, Brandon, Vt., 1845-1889. 84 documents.
Cooke, Mary A. B. Diary, 1879. 1 vol.
Currier, Mrs. C. B. Account book, 1872. 1 vol.
Curtis, Elizabeth. Compositions written at Middlebury Female Seminary, 1835. 1 vol.
Davenport, Jason, Middlebury, Vt. Time books of a woolen mill, 1843-1844; 1847-1851. 4 vols.
Drake, Sylvia and Charity Bryant, Weybridge, Vt. Personal papers, 1797-1855; Diaries of Sylvia Drake, 1821-23, 1835-36, 1838. 2 boxes.
Leavitt, Sophia, Vergennes, Vt. School notes taken at Mount Holly Female Seminary, 1841. 1 folder.
Reed, Bernice Douglas (b. 1886), Shoreham, Vt. Memoirs, 3 folders.
Seymour, Emma Hart, Middlebury, Vt. Correspondence, 1821-1841, including ten years of letters between her and her fiancé (Philip Battell). 2 boxes.
Stewart Family, Middlebury, Vt. Papers, 1790-1940, including housekeeping records and letters of Cynthia Stewart in the early nineteenth century. 1 carton.
Stowell/Brewster Families, Middlebury, Vt. Papers, 1808-1870. 1 box.
Weeks Family, Litchfield, Ct. and Salisbury, Vt., 1777-1850. Family papers. 2 cartons.
Wolcott, Lorette (1842-1867), Shoreham, Vt. Correspondence, 1861-1865. 48 letters.

ASSOCIATION RECORDS

SECONDARY SOURCES

PIONEERS


Hastings, Susannah Willard Johnson. *A Narrative of the Captivity of Mrs. Johnson: Containing An Account Of Her Sufferings, During Four Years with The Indians And French...* (1796). Windsor, Vt.: Thomas M. Pomeroy, 1814.


Vermont Society of Colonial Dames. *Dedication of the Monument to Ann Story...Salisbury, Vermont, 1905.*


**BLACKS**


IMMIGRANTS

DAILY LIFE
Green Mountain Whittlin’s, 1948-.


A chronological list of diaries.


Tait, Margaret E. “1865 Diary of a Vt. Maiden.” Typescript. [VHS].


**MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE**


**DEATH AND MURDER**


Nimblet, Daniel. *Life Of The Late Lucy Chaffee; With An Historical Account Of Her Insanity And Trial, And The Mysterious Circumstances Attending Her Last Sickness, Death and Burial.* Hinesburgh, 1857.


**EDUCATION**

*Teachers and Students*


Finnegan, Mary T. "Fifty Years Of Teaching In Vermont." *Vermont History* 23 (October 1955): 332-335.

Harvey, Dorothy Mayo. *Teachers of Stature.* [Fort Myers, Fla.: the Author, 1982].


**Schools**


Ripley Female College. Poultney, Vt. *A Quarterly Journal Devoted To Female Education.* Poultney, Vt.: Ripley Female College. [Vol. 1, no. 4 (1866); vol. 2, nos. 2, 4 (1866) at VHS].

Sage, Margaret Olivia. *Emma Willard and Her Pupils or Fifty Years of Troy Female Seminary, 1822-1872.* New York: Mrs. Russell Sage, 1898.


**Higher Education**


"Diary of the Women's College." *Middlebury College Newsletter* 10 (June 1936): 16-17, 21.


“Thirty Years of Athletics for Women at University of Vermont.” *Vermont Alumni* 10 (Apr. 15, 1931): 357.


**RELIGION**

*Autobiographical and Biographical*


Clarke, Ethel H. *Mary E. Chynoweth: Missionary to India.* Chicago: Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Free Methodist Church of North America, 1915.


Lawrence, Margaret Woods. *Light On The Dark River; Or, Memorials of Mrs. Henrietta A. L. Hamlin, Missionary In Turkey.* Boston: Ticknor, Reed, and Fields, 1853.


**Associations**

*Congregational Vermont,* 1889-. (Titled *The Vermont Missionary* until March 1935).


McKeogh, Mary E. The History of the Catholic Daughters of America in Vermont. [Rutland, Vt.]: Catholic Daughters of America, 1946.

Rawson, Mary S. "The Women of the Church." in The One Hundredth Anniversary of the Organization of the Congregational Church in Craftsbury, Vermont and Dedication of the Remodeled Church Building, Wednesday, November 17th, 1897. [Craftsbury, Vt.: The Church, 1897].

[Smith, Susan H.] "Our Field Workers." Typescript, 1903. Vermont Woman's Home Missionary Union. [VHS].


WORK

Autobiographical and Biographical


Barnes, Valerie. "The Indisputable Miss Bertha Eastmond or You Can't Keep Score Without a Program." Yankee 39 (Dec. 1975): 96-97, 200, 203, 205. Eastmond was editor of The Social Register.


Home and Farm Work


1940 Vermont Farm Women's Week; Fletcher Farm, Proctorsville, Vermont, June 16-21, 1940. Burlington, Vt.: Agricultural Extension Service, University of Vermont.


Thomas, Sherry. We Didn't Have Much, But We Sure Had Plenty: Stories of Rural Women. Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor Books, 1981. Marion Welsh and Marie Copp operate a dairy farm, pp. 149-163.


General


Vermont Woman: For Vermont Women of Achievement. Vol. 1, 1985-.


GOVERNMENT


Cleghorn, Sarah Norcliffe, and Dorothy Canfield [Fisher]. Miss Ross's Girls. Lena Ross was head of the Vermont House of Correction for Women, Rutland, Vt., [VHS].


The Vermont Woman Republican. Vermont Women's Republican Club, 1926-1929. [VHS].
The Women's Republican Club of Vermont. *Constitution and By-Laws*, 1933. [VHS].

**MEDICINE**

**Doctors and Midwives**

Baldwin, Lydia Peters. Diary. 1768-1821. Typescript. Baldwin was a midwife. [VHS].


Leach, Clara Chase. *In Quietness and Confidence Shall Be Your Strength*. Burlington, Vt.: First Baptist Church, 1981. Leach was a missionary and physician in China.


**Health**


**Hospitals**


Soule, Arthur Bradley. “One Hundred Years of Patient Care, Teaching and Research: Miss Mary Martha Fletcher and Her Hospital.” *Hall A* 15 (Spring 1979): 14-18.


**Nursing**


**REFORM**

*An Appeal To Females of the North, On The Subject Of Slavery By a Female Of Vermont.* Philadelphia: John Thompson, 1838. [VHS].


Webster, Laura Josephine. *The Vermont Children’s Aid Society, Inc.: The First Fifteen Years, 1919-1934.* [Burlington, Vt.]: The Society, [1964].


Woman's Christian Temperance Union. *Minutes of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Vermont, held in North Bennington Sept. 27th and 28th, 1882 . . .* St. Johnsbury, Vt.: C. M. Stone & Co., 1882; also 1883, 1890. [VHS].


**WOMEN’S RIGHTS**

*The Advance.* Equal Suffrage 1 (1914) 17: 1-16; Woman’s Suffrage 2 (1915) 40: 1-16. [VHS].


Vermont Woman’s Suffrage Association. *Minutes of the Ninth Annual Meeting.* 1893; also 1902, 1904. [UVM].

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THE ARTS

Collecting

Drama

Literature

Music

Trapp, Maria Augusta. *Maria*. Carol Stream, Ill.: Creation House, [1972].

**STATE ASSOCIATIONS**

*DAR Magazine*. Vol. 1, 1892-.


Daughters of Vermont. *Constitution, By-laws*, 1896; 1902-03; [VHS].


Reed, Grace W. W. *Fifty Years of Achievement: A History Read At the Fiftieth Annual Meeting of the Vermont Society of Colonial Dames*. 1947.


Woman’s Relief Corps. Vermont Department. *Proceedings*. 1885-1901, 1910, 1918; *Roster*, 1922; [VHS]; 1926 [UVM].

**LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS**

“A ‘Female Reading Society’ in Derby Seventy-Five Years Ago.” *Newport Express and Standard*, Apr. 1, 1890.


[Newport, Vt.] Fortnightly Club. *Constitution and By-laws*. [UVM].


St. Johnsbury Woman’s Club. *1914 Souvenir* . . . [St. Johnsbury, Vt., 1914?] [VHS].
COLLECTIVE BIOGRAPHIES


Bryan, Vivian, and Faith L. Pepe, comps. “Bibliographical and Biographical Index of Vermont Women.” [Card Index at VHS].


WOMEN'S STUDIES


