



Montgomery Historical Society
P.O. Box 47 Montgomery, VT 05470
pratthall@gmail.com
www.montgomeryvt.us/mhs.htm

The Montgomery – East Berkshire Stage



How did someone living in Montgomery in the late 1800's and early 1900's get to Boston or parts south? How did goods shipped make their way into the stores of Montgomery? The Montgomery – East Berkshire stage offered passenger and freight service for many years to the railroad in E. Berkshire. Not many details are known but from photographs, we believe there were at least two, and probably more stages. There was a least one, one horse model, and one two horse model. We know these provided service year round as the wheels were replaced in the winter with runners, as documented in the diaries of some of our forebears.

The picture above is in front of the Parker Store in the Village. The driver is Peter McElroy (also known to be one of the few Democrats in town at that time!). The canvas cover has canvas doors that rolled up and a step for people to board and disembark. Passengers sat on wooden benches once inside.

The Montgomery Historical Society has had the chassis of one of these stages in the cellar of Pratt Hall, disassembled for years, and decided it would be fun to attempt to reassemble it as part of our celebration of our 35th anniversary. While putting it together we found hair, probably from a horse's tail embedded in a wheel hub. Once together we wheeled it around the building and were surprised how easily it moved. The chassis and wheels are painted yellow and there is decorative black pin striping on the metal work, spokes and axles.

Upon close inspection we discovered one of the axles was stamped with the name “D. Arthur Brown”. We were able to determine that Mr. Brown was an axle manufacturer in Concord , New Hampshire, the area famous for the Concord Stagecoaches. His namesake axle company changed its name to the “Concord Axle Company” after 1880, which probably dates our chassis to 1880 or before.

If you have any knowledge, stories, pictures, or connections to the Montgomery stages we would love to hear from you. We would like to restore the stage’s deck and canvas cover at some point when resources and expertise allow, and we can figure out where to store it out of the elements.



The Reassembled Stage Chassis in Action, Summer 2009

Likewise if you have any stories, pictures or other artifacts you would like to donate to our collection of Montgomery’s heritage we would love to hear from you. Contact any member of the Board of Directors below.

Thanks,
The MHS Board

The Montgomery Historical Society Board is...

Scott Perry, Bill Branthoover, Marijke Dollois, Sue Wilson, Bill McGroarty, Tim Chapin, Ken Secor, Parma Jewett, Elsie Saborowski, John Beaty, Jo Anne Bennett, and Pat Farmer.