



Annual Report
of the
Montgomery Historical
Society
Presented at the 42nd
Annual Meeting
June 3rd 2016



Dear Members,

I am happy to report that our organization continues to be strong, mission focused, and effective. I thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm and wish I could be there in person but life has gotten in the way.

2015 was a busy year for us, we:

- Concluded of West Wall project on budget and schedule
- Reconfigured the Hall leaving off last two rows of pews for more functions and exhibits.
- Held the 2015 Annual Meeting celebration late June.
- Were Recognized with an Award of Excellence by the Vermont Historical Society (VHS).
- Hosted and Co-sponsored Woods Tea Company concert in August in partnership with Friends of the Library
- Hosted and Co-sponsored the town's first Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) event in October with the Conservation Commission, Garden Club, and Hectorville Bridge Committee and the Upper Missisquoi and Trout River WSR Advisory Committee. Gave a presentation on "Montgomery's Covered Bridges and The Jewetts".
- Put a new metal roof on the Chancel
- Saw Lutz and Elsie Saborowski recognized by VHS with a Lifetime Achievement Award
- Returned "Candles and Carols" after a three year hiatus due to ice storm and construction.
- Expanded our website

- Re-painted Heaton House
- Awarded our annual scholarship.
- Organized and sponsored annual Memorial Day commemoration.
- Received another TD Bank Affinity donation.
- Supported Baptist Church NRHP designation.

2015 Membership: Our 2015 membership rebounded from a slight dip below 200 in 2014, and it is off to a great start this year. Despite the small drop off in numbers, 2015 membership income was the second highest in over 10 years. My thanks to Marijke Dollois and the Board for the excellent work in this area. Membership donations remain our single largest source of revenue. A summary of our membership follows.

2015 Financials - June 2014 to 2015 Comparison: In June 2015 we had just over \$42,000 in cash compared to over \$121,000 the year before. The difference is accounted for with the wrap up of the West Wall project and the new roof on the chancel. This year's June balance is about \$54,000. My thanks to Sue Wilson, Mark Baddorf, and the Board, for their great work in this area. A June, year-to-year financial snap shot follows.

We continue to participate in the TD Bank Affinity and Amazon Smile programs and also continue to sell engraved pavers. Twenty two were added to the walkway last month! My thanks to Pat Farmer for his stewardship of this effort.

So far in 2016

The year started off with the sad news of Ken Secor's death. He was a founding member of the Men With Tools, always ready with ideas and energy. We miss him.

While we intended to exhibit at the VHS History Expo this year we just weren't able to develop an exhibit or marshal enough people to meet the logistical demand that traveling to Tunbridge brings. This is the first Expo we've missed in a long while but we will return.

On the project front, we intend to do the final prep and painting of the exterior of the West Wall this summer. We also hope to do some needed repairs to the clock faces and moldings which have rotted near the number 6, and the moldings/surrounds of the bell stage louvers. We have budgeted about \$18,000 for this work.

We will continue our normal programs, and just awarded our Annual Scholarship to Sam Dilner. We also purchased the NRHP plaque for the former Baptist Church which was unveiled two weeks ago. Later this month Jay Peak will be invaded for the annual Porsche Parade, a combination show, rally, and convention. The Society provided 1,500 copies of our Covered Bridges Pamphlet for their welcome packets. We may try to open the hall some during the five days they are here as well.

At his point in time there are no events (speakers or concerts) scheduled, although we will likely have an open house August 27th. We will host the Fall meeting of the Franklin and Grand Isle Historical Societies, and Candles and Carols as well.

Future Challenges

There are two areas that I believe need renewed emphasis and your help, our archives and programs. We need someone to take charge of our collection, that is, accession items, enter them into the data base and place them in a location so we can easily retrieve them. We have made great progress in this area but still have a long way to go. We also need someone to take on programs. It would be nice to have one or two events (concert, speaker, exhibit) each year. Please reach out to any Board member if you have questions or are willing to take on this important work.

A final word... As financial pressures mount on government, Non-profits are receiving increased scrutiny as possible sources of revenue. Historical and preservation groups, like ours, can't exist if liable for income and property taxes, fees or other costs.

We all should take great pride in what we've accomplished. I'm optimistic we will do even more.

Thank you,
Scott

Board of Trustees and Officers Presented for Election

Scott Perry, Chairman
Bill McGroarty, Vice Chairman
Marijke Dollois, Secretary/Membership
Mark Baddorf, Treasurer
Sue Wilson
Elsie Saborowski
Patty Perl

Bob Cummins
Tim Chapin
Andre LaBier
John Beaty
Jo Anne Bennett
Pat Farmer

2016 Annual Meeting Membership Report							<i>Previous</i>
						<i>So far in</i>	<i>5 Year</i>
	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>Average</i>
<i>Total Memberships</i>	221	220	209	192	201	136	209
<i>New Memberships</i>	15	11	9	14	8	7	11
<i>Business Memberships</i>	19	19	15	14	14	12	16
<i>Membership \$\$</i>	\$11,700	\$11,485	\$12,391	\$10,966	\$11,705	\$7,551	\$11,649
<i>Average Donation</i>	\$55	\$52	\$55	\$57	\$58	\$57	\$55
<i>Median Donation</i>	\$35	\$35	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$44
<i>Emails Addresses</i>	140	140	140	140	140	140	140

Last June 28th we had 144 memberships for a total of \$8,140

2016 Annual Meeting Treasurer's Report

Assets

Year	Jun 21, 2013	Jun 18, 2014	Jun 17, 2015	May 19, 2016
Accounts				
General Fund / Checking	\$7,104	\$2,003	\$1,935	\$2,085
West Wall / Savings / MMA *	\$26,394	\$119,451	\$40,083	\$51,655
Stained Glass Window Fund**	\$10,816	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$44,314	\$121,454	\$42,018	\$53,740

* Includes Affinity Donations

** Moved to West Wall Acct

Previously MHS property was assessed at \$378,400.00. However, per State law, MHS property is now assessed at an estimated insured Replacement Value of approximately \$1 million dollars (see attached letter to Montgomery Listers) . This could form the basis for property taxes if we ever lose our exempt status. Our tax bill would be about \$20,000/year if this were to occur.

Liabilities – None

Copies of our tax returns are available upon request.

Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting
Pratt Hall, Montgomery

Sunday, June 28, 2015 @ 4:00 PM

THESE ARE THE UNOFFICIAL MINUTES UNTIL APPROVED BY THE
MEMBERSHIP.

The Board and Members met at Pratt Hall at 4:00 P.M. for the Annual Meeting, social gathering and dinner.

Board Members:

Scott Perry, Sue Wilson, Marijke Dollois, Pat Farmer, Elsie Saborowski, Bill McGroarty, Mark Baddorf, JoAnne Bennett, John Beaty, Tim Chapin, Patty Pearl, Bob Cummins, Andre LaBier.

A total of 54 Board Members and members with friends attended.

Scott called the Meeting to order at 4:35 PM and welcomed special guest, Lawrence Ribbecke, the stained glass specialist.

This is the 41st Annual Meeting, as required by the by-laws.

2015 Lalia Pratt Hays/Amy Booth-Meyers Scholarship:

Miranda Ovitt – she received a \$500.00 check, a book and certificate, which were given to her at the last board meeting. Miranda is a Richford High School student and will be attending Johnson State College to study math.

2014 Minutes:

Sue Wilson made a Motion, seconded by Sabra Massey to approve the Minutes of June 29, 2014 as written; Motion was unanimously approved.

Membership:

2014 membership ended with 192 members for a total dues of \$10,966; to-date we have 149 new and renewed memberships for a total of \$8,340.

Marijke thanked the membership for their support.

Treasurer's Report:

Assets*	<u>June 18, 2014</u>	<u>June 28, 2015</u>
- General Fund Acct.	\$ 2,003.00	\$ 1,935.00
- West Wall Project	\$ 119,451.00	\$ 40,083.00**
- S Glass Window Acct.	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
	\$ 121,454.00	\$ 42,018.00

- Lois Lumbra thanked the Board for the job of cleaning up Pratt Hall.

Scott gave a 13-minute video presentation of the West Wall project from beginning to end.

Adjourn:

At 5:10 PM Jo Anne Bennett made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Cummins; Motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Marijke M. Dollois



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Board of Listers
Town of Montgomery
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March 31, 2016

Dear Listers,

This letter is for your file for our property at 2044 N. Main St. and is meant to supplement and explain our annual State Tax Form CR 001 which is supposed to document the “Insurance Replacement Value” of the former Episcopal Church and the adjoining building on Deuso Rd. used for storage.

The principal building was Montgomery’s first church. Its historical and cultural value, including the eight, large, 150 year old stained glass windows honoring Montgomery’s first settlers, make it irreplaceable. This makes it impossible to assign any estimate of Fair Market Value or true Replacement Value. Such values are not on our insurance forms.

The buildings on the property (church and storage building) are insured for circumstances where repairs are feasible, that is, situations falling short of total catastrophic damage. Our policy is capped at \$947,727 and is meant to deal with serious but partial damage. This figure is based on two figures derived by the insurance company:

Actual Cash Value	\$ 1,010,878
Reconstruction Value	\$ 1,204,453

We hope this is useful and meets the requirement. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for all you do for Montgomery!

Sincerely,
Scott Perry, Chairman

w/o Atch: 2016 CR 001