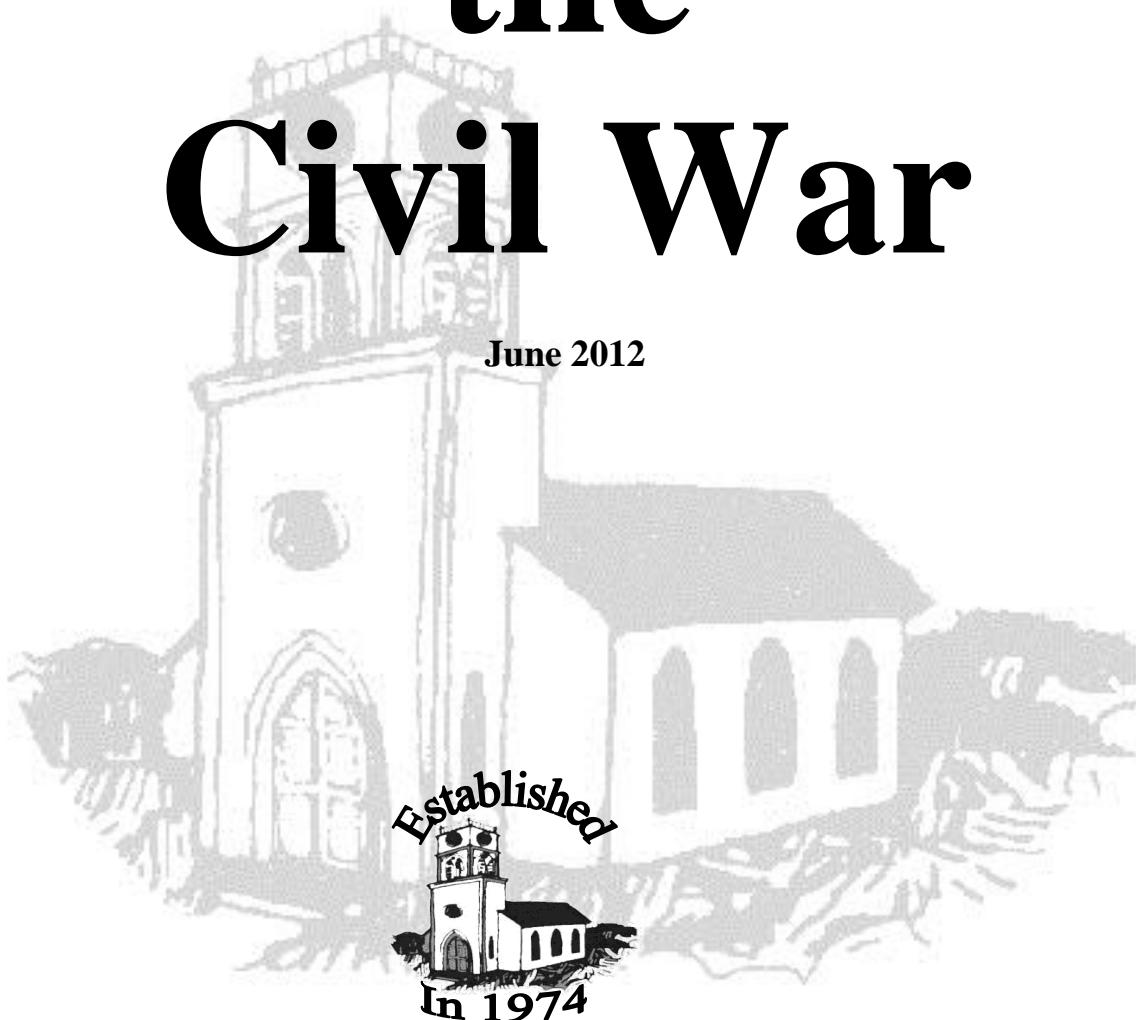


# Montgomery & the Civil War

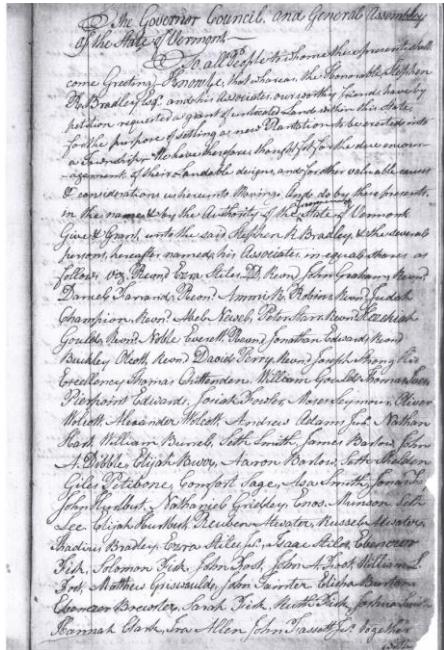
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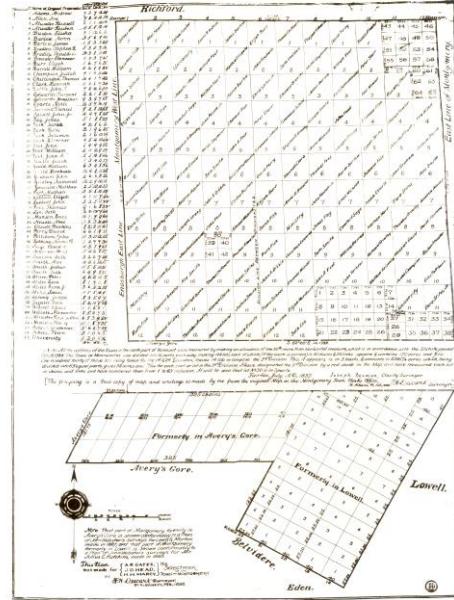
Montgomery Historical Society  
P.O. Box 47 Montgomery, VT 05470  
[pratthall@gmail.com](mailto:pratthall@gmail.com)  
[www.montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org)

## Pre War Montgomery: A Period of Organization and Growth

The Town of Montgomery was granted by the Legislature in 1780, but it took nine years for the charter to be approved by the Executive Council and the Governor.

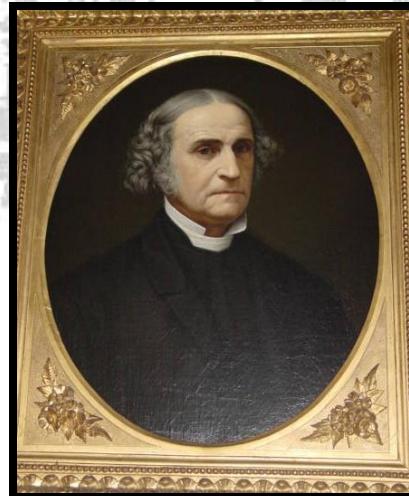


Pg 1 of 1780 Town Charter



Lotting Map Showing Grantees' Lots

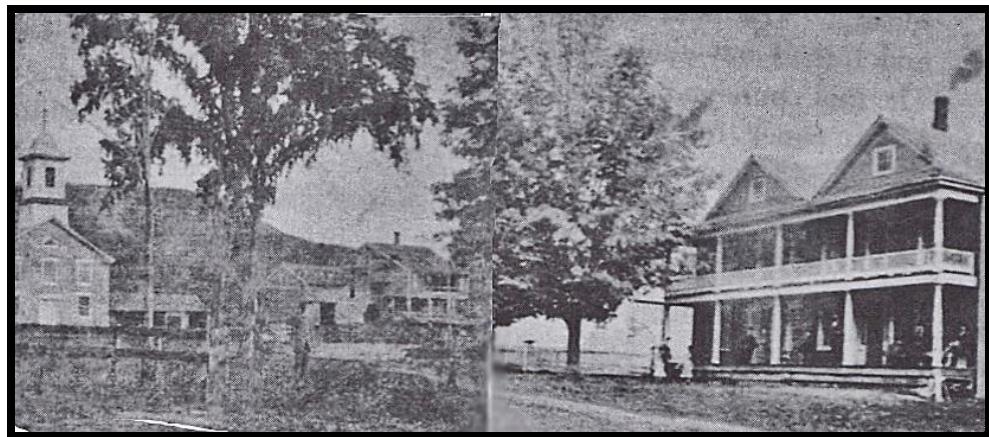
Montgomery's first settlers were Joshua Clapp and his new bride Naby Barnard. Joshua, a Revolutionary War officer, was 40 and Naby was 20. They moved to Montgomery in 1793 after Joshua was given land in payment for his service in the Revolutionary war. Their first child, Joel, and Montgomery's first native, was born in the fall of 1793. The family lived here alone for nearly two years, according to their family history. They also preceded settlement in every neighboring town according to early county histories. It's hard to imagine the isolation and hardship they endured.



Joel Clapp

Naby's father, Samuel, and his family would join them in Montgomery in 1795. Samuel Barnard would be a key figure in the organization of the Town and serve as its first Town Clerk (1802-04) before

becoming a County Judge. Other family and friends would follow and Montgomery's population would be recorded as 34 in 1800.



Pre Civil War Montgomery Village

The early part of the new century saw mostly farms and subsistence activities. Over the decades preceding the Civil War Montgomery would grow in population and as a community. Our population would increase from this first family to over 1,200. It doubled from 1840 (538) to 1850 (1001) alone, the greatest percentage increase in our history. This period saw the establishment of early churches, town government, sheep farming, and schools. Sheep outnumbered people in 1850. School districts grew from 2 in 1809 to 12 at the start of the war. Lumber mills sprouted in the hills and the manufacture of butter tubs and wool thread bobbins were established. Farms began transitioning to dairy cows. This period also saw the first immigration of French Canadians who were included in the census for the first time in 1840.

#### Montgomery Census

##### Prior to Civil War

Year	Population	Rank in County
1800	34	14
1810	237	14
1820	307	14
1830	460	14
1840	538	14
1850	1,001	14
1860	1,262	13

Montgomery was a small, thriving, and growing Town but war was on the horizon.

## 1861-1865 The Civil War Years: Somebody Pressed Pause.

Like many towns Montgomery felt the impact of the war in a variety of ways. In general it seemed to put everything on pause. The population grew slightly during the decade but other metrics indicate stagnation, including the Grand List, Tax Rate, and number of school districts.

### MONTGOMERY DURING THE CIVIL WAR BY THE NUMBERS

Year	Population	Grand List	Tax Rate	# of	# of	# of
			Road +	School	Special	Officers
			Contingent	Districts	Town	+
			Poor		Meetings	Enlisted
1830	460					
1840	538					
1850	1,001					
1860	1,260	\$2,134	0.52	12	0	
1861		\$2,970	0.52	11	0	21
1862		\$2,908	0.37	11	3	44
1863		\$2,579	0.27	11	1	19
1864			0.42	12	3	19
1865		\$2,335	0.55	10	2	1
1866			0.62			
1867		\$2,772	0.65			
1868		\$2,819	0.75			
1870	1,463		1.40	11		
1880	1,642					
1890	1,734					

**Sources:** Montgomery Town Records, "Montgomery, Vt The History of a Town"

Taylor, Branhoover, and Sherman, & U.S. Army Regimental Records & Histories

This is not surprising, nor unique to Montgomery, as the call for volunteers to serve in the Union Army drew on all. About 104 Montgomery men would serve, about 16% of Montgomery's male population. But this was about 32-40% of Montgomery's men between the age of 18 and 45 a key part of the farm, mill, and mercantile work force. About 20% of those who served, died.

## MONTGOMERIANS IN THE CIVIL WAR

	<b># of</b>	
<b>Regiment</b>	<b>Men</b>	
<b>2nd Regt</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>3rd Regt</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>5th Regt</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>6th Regt</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>7th Regt</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>8th Regt</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>9th Regt</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>10th Regt</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>11th Regt</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>13th Regt</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>17th Regt</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>1st VT Cav</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>3rd Battery</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Unassgined Recruits</b>	<b>1</b>	
	<b>103</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>KIA</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>Died While in Service</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b>Wounded</b>	<b>1?</b>	
<b>Deserted</b>	<b>11</b>	

**Equals about 16% of Montgomery's Total Male Population.**

**Equals about 32% of Montgomery's Male Population between the ages of 18-45.**

**About 20% died.**

### **SOURCE: U.S. Army Regimental Records**

According to vermontcivilwar.org when counting the men born in, credited to, and/or buried in Montgomery that served in the Civil War the number was about 160. Of them, the youngest was 14, the oldest were 45. The average age was 25, while the median was just 22. (The 14 year old was a Canadian who lied about his age and enlisted in Oct 1864 only to desert a few months later. He ended up settling in the Midwest.)

### **The Story of Charles Haile**

In 1806 Nathan Haile was born in Acton, Massachusetts. He grew up and married Mary Ann Tarbell (Tarble) and moved with her to Montgomery in 1826 where the population was less than 400. He was a farmer, and Mary Ann was a farm wife and mother. They lived on today's Rushford Valley Rd. just past the intersection of Regan Rd. Mary would give birth to five children over the next 12 years. Charles arrived in these hills in September of 1842.

The Hailes probably lived a normal, peaceful farm life but trouble was on the horizon, and in July of 1861 President Lincoln would issue his second requisition to the States. Lincoln called for the States to supply the Union Army with half a million men under this requisition, and Vermont would respond by forming the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Regiments of Vermont Volunteers which included 27 men from Montgomery.

Vermont's first regiments were comprised of three year volunteers and 151 years ago Charles Haile joined up. He was 18 and enlisted on September 4th. He would eventually travel to Camp Holbrook, a converted farm field just north of St Albans' present downtown (near the Vermont Federal Credit Union), mustering into the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Vermont Volunteers, an infantry unit, with 11 fellow Montgomerians on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. He would turn 19 there.

His unit received orders to move to Washington and they departed St Albans on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were just over 1,000 men and they filled two trains. They traveled to New Haven, CT and transferred to a steamer ship which operated in Long Island Sound and took them to Jersey City, NJ where they then boarded trains again for the final leg to Washington, DC. They arrived on the 25<sup>th</sup> and spent the night in a large and empty building used as transient quarters.

The Following is from "Vermont in the Civil War" the 1888 history by George Grenville Benedict;

"The next day the regiment marched out to Camp Casey, on Capitol Hill, then covered with the tents of the army as far as the eye could reach. On the 27<sup>th</sup> the regiment had a tedious march of seven hours in a driving rain, to Chain Bridge. The distance was only eight miles; but the guide, becoming confused in the darkness, led the regiment out of its way, and it was after ten o'clock at night when the men lay down to rest on the wet ground without supper or shelter. The regiment went into camp the next day at Camp Advance, on the Virginia side of the river, close by the camps of the Second and Third regiments. Here it remained ten days, devoted chiefly to drill and felling of the woods near the camps. On the 9th of October, the Fifth moved out to Smoot's Hill, so called from its former secessionist owner;—and went into camp at "Camp Griffin," surrounded by the camps of the Second, Third and Fourth regiments, and with the camps of nearly the whole of General Smith's division, of some twenty thousand men, in sight from the top of the hill.

Not a little impatience and anxiety prevailed at this time in the regiment over the delay in the clothing and equipment. Three companies were as yet without muskets, and all without overcoats. The weather, fortunately, was not severe; and during the last half of October, coats, overcoats and under clothing were received and distributed, and the deficiency in arms supplied."

Life in the military during the Civil War was hazardous, not only from combat, but from disease and exposure in the camps. Disease killed more soldiers than any other cause. In the Union Army 4 men died from sickness for every 1 man killed in battle, and deaths from disease were double those resulting from all other causes. According to an article on "Civil War Medicine" by Janet King, "Camps populated by young soldiers who had never before been exposed to a large variety of common contagious diseases were plagued by outbreaks of measles, chickenpox, mumps, and whooping cough. A simple cold often developed into pneumonia, which was the third leading killer by disease during the war, after typhoid and dysentery."

Charles Haile's regiment was particularly unlucky in this regard. Quoting Benedict again;

"During the fine October weather, the men were exercised in frequent drills and, largely by the efforts of Lieut. Colonel Grant... the regiment was brought into an excellent condition of drill and discipline.

With November came cold nights and frequent rains which soon affected the health of the command. On the 10th of November, the morning report showed 250 men... excused from duty on account of sickness, seventy of them being in hospital with typhoid and other fevers, and measles. Several deaths

occurred. The hospital tents were overcrowded with patients, and the sicker men were removed to a deserted mansion, two miles from camp.

The picket duty was lessened; and untiring efforts and care were exercised by the surgeons and officers to promote the health of the men; but the illness and mortality continued to be alarming. Up to the 23rd of November the deaths numbered seventeen.

From that time on, however, the health of the men gradually improved, and though there were occasional relapses, in times of exceptionally bad weather, the remainder of the winter was passed in comparative health and comfort, and with no harder service than occasional picket duty.”

Montgomery’s Charles Haile would not be so lucky. He died just three months after arriving in Virginia on Christmas eve from an unspecified disease. He hadn’t seen battle and wouldn’t see his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. (His death is not recorded in Montgomery’s vital statistics. His mother and father lived out their lives in Montgomery. His father, served in the Militia, and died in December of 1880 from complications of paralysis.)

Charles Haile was the first soldier from Montgomery to die in the Civil War. He is interred in the lower (older) Center Cemetery.



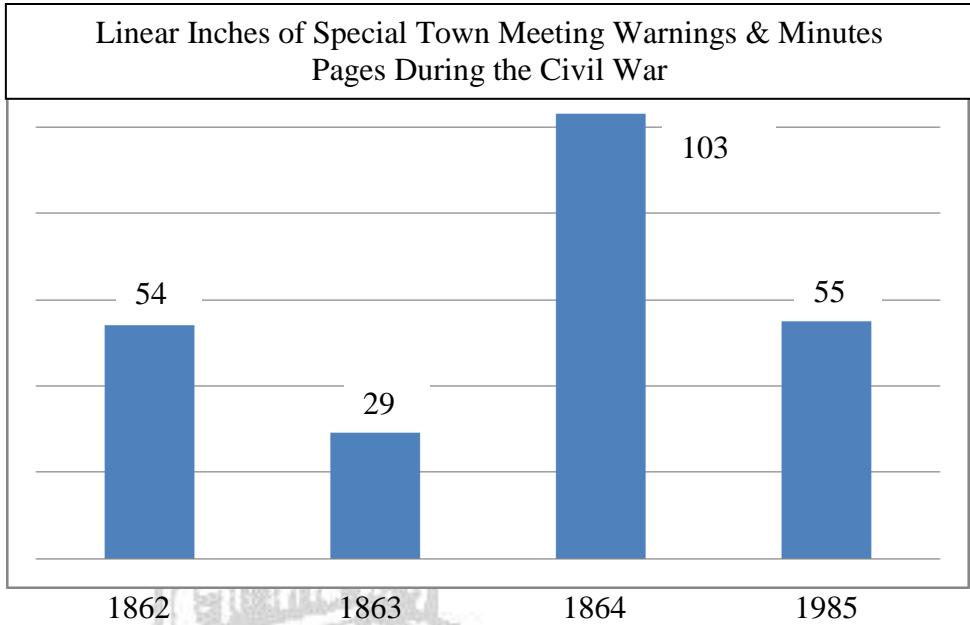
Charles Haile's Grave Monument

### **To Pay or Not To Pay? Montgomery Struggles With Bounties**

In Hamilton Childs’ 1882 “Gazetteer and Business Directory of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties” he says Montgomery was the only town in Franklin County not to pay any bounties except to draftees. This appears to be wrong, although just because the voters approved such bounties doesn’t mean they were actually paid.

Reading the Annual and Special Town Meeting minutes during the Civil War period provides little clear insight into the feelings of the Towns people on the war. Rather most of the War related discussions were about whether or not to pay bounties to incent “volunteering” to meet quotas or to help families of men drafted and sent off to service against their will. There seems to be a genuine concern to pay something, and they struggled to be fair.

Almost none of these discussions were held during the normal March Annual Meetings, instead Special Town Meetings were held, often by petition, for this sole purpose. During the Civil War years Montgomery held 9 of these special meetings.



There is no mention of Town bounties for any town men prior to August of 1862. On August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1862 a meeting was held and adopted the following resolutions:

“1. That we heartily respond to the call and furthermore that we pledge our aid and influence to raise money sufficient to make the pay of those that may enlist equal to those now in the volunteer service of the United States.

2. That we the inhabitants of Montgomery will vote the aforesaid sum of money upon the Grand List of said Town whenever a legal meeting shall be called for that purpose.”

That meeting was warned properly and held on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. In it the voters passed a motion to pay the recent 9 months men the same as earlier volunteers and instructed the Selectmen to raise the money on the Grand list not to exceed a sum of \$2,000.

Just three months later another Special Town Meeting was warned and held on December 6<sup>th</sup> with its sole article of business:

“To see how much money the Town will raise to pay bounties or extra pay to volunteers from this Town now in the service of the United States or to be hereafter mustered into the service aforesaid.”

According to the minutes of the meeting “after some preliminary remarks and explanation a motion was made and seconded to raise a tax not to exceed twenty five cents (.25) on each dollar of the Grand List to pay a bounty of twenty five dollars to each of the nine months volunteers who have enlisted from this Town thereby making their pay equal to those which had previously enlisted and the said tax if raised is to supersede the vote which was passed to raise a tax for that purpose at a Town Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Sept. last.” The minutes indicate there was a lengthy discussion of the motion but it passed 63 yeas to 4 nays.

There was just one such meeting in 1863, two days before Christmas. It was to “see how much money the Town will raise to pay bounties to volunteers who enlist and have enlisted to fill the quota of the Town for the old Regiments in the field and for delinquency in the draft, and to direct how said money will be appropriated”

The minutes show the quota in question was for 8 men. A motion was offered essentially saying to pay all men the same. An amendment was offered excepting the 9 month men. Both the main motion and the amendment were laid on the table. A motion to dismiss the article then failed. Another motion was made to pay bounties “to those who may hereafter volunteer to make up our quota under the last call” but not to raise the funds until the entire quota is filled. This motion passed as did a companion motion which instructed no bounties should be paid until the quota is filled.

1864 saw three special Town Meetings from August to October, all by petition, and all controversial. On August 17<sup>th</sup> a motion was made to raise \$2.50 on the grand list to furnish men under the call for 500,000. The money was to be deposited in the State Treasury to pay \$300 bonuses, to volunteer and draftee alike. An amendment was offered raising the amount to \$3.75 to include those drafted the previous year, or had furnished a substitute. Both the amendment and main motion failed and a motion to adjourn carried after “considerable discussion”.

Less than a month later on September 3<sup>rd</sup> another meeting was held. A motion was offered “that the Town raise a bounty of five hundred dollars to be paid to each man that may enlist for this Town or that may be drafted and enter the service for this Town under the present call” but the motion was withdrawn after some discussion. Another resolution was offered to pay a \$500 dollar bounty to volunteers and \$300 for draftees but it failed. Adjournment was called for but the moderator apparently allowed another motion to pay each volunteer, substitute or draftee \$100 and it passed.

1864’s meetings culminated in a lively meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. A motion was made to pay each draftee or substitute \$500. An amendment to make it \$400 failed as did a motion to stop debate on the main motion. Another amendment was offered to apply the \$500 to last year’s men but it was withdrawn, whereupon a vote on the main motion proceeded and it failed on a tie vote, 63 to 63. It’s noteworthy that the number voting was almost double the number in September of 1862. It also seems likely it was a very high percentage of Montgomery’s men eligible to vote. At this point in the meeting another motion was made to pay \$300 to draftee or hired substitute and it passed, as did another instructing the Selectman to raise the money by June 1865.

There were two special Town Meetings in 1865 which discussed Civil War issues. On Feb 13<sup>th</sup> one motion failed and two passed. The first to was to “equally distribute any money raised among citizens, or their heirs who have rendered service” in proportion to their time in service except those covered under the Oct 3, 1864 meeting. This failed.

The next motion was the first of several seen over the next few years to pay specific individuals, in this case a motion to pay two draftees \$300 bounties. It passed.

The third motion was to pay in \$100 installments a total of \$300 to each man drafted or furnishing a substitute. Individuals would be paid after passing a physical and being accepted into the service, after 6 months of service, and after completion of service. This motion passed.

The last such meeting was a mix of Civil War and non-war issues. It also included pay for specific individuals and reimbursement of H.H. Rawson of \$13.50 for transporting a deserter to Burlington.

As indicated at the beginning of this section all of these meetings and motions didn't guarantee payments were actually made. In fact, the following year The Town Selectboard appointed a committee to study the issue. After six months of deliberations the "Committee on Bounties" reported on September 4<sup>th</sup> "that in their opinion there is no legal claim against the Town for unpaid bounties" and a motion was passed accepting and adopting the recommendation.

There are many stories of men not being paid what they expected, as well as men who took the money, deserted, then joined again and collected more. After the war veterans also worked, often in vein, to receive Federal stipends and survivors benefits. This shared cause led to the formation of veterans groups, one of which figured prominently in Montgomery's post war community life.

### **After the War: New Traditions and Boom Times. Fast Forward?**

After the war the federal government paid pensions to veterans and their families. In a congressionally mandated report in 1883 there were 24 pensions being paid to Montgomerians, including 7 women (mothers and wives). These pensions totaled \$159/month, ranging from \$1.00 to \$16 with the average payment being \$7/month.

24 people receiving pensions in 1883

10 Village

14 Center

7 Women

Total Monthly Pensions = \$159, Mean = \$7/month

\$91/month Village, Mean = \$9/month

\$68/month Center, Mean = \$5/month

In May of 1886, Montgomery Civil War veterans would join a growing national movement, establishing Vermont Post 95 of the Grand Army of the Republic or GAR. They would honor Charles Haile by naming their Post after him. Charles Haile Post 95 lobbied for veteran benefits and organized the first formal Memorial Day commemoration in town in 1887, and for many years thereafter it was a much anticipated event.



Charles Haile G.A.R. Post 95 on the Steps of the Baptist Church 1889.

Memorial Day in Montgomery then usually started in the morning when veterans and townspeople would meet on the Village Green and form up. The East Berkshire band would play music. Everyone would then proceed to the Village Cemetery where a memorial service was held and people would walk the cemetery decorating the graves with flowers, flags, and ribbons.

Then at noon the whole thing would repeat, forming up at the Center Common near the Baptist Church (the normal meeting place of Post 95) and then marching down Main Street to the Center Cemetery. There were usually decorated floats, and food, and speakers after the cemetery services as well. Annual parades and speeches weren't the only after effect of the war. A new optimism and prosperity permeated the town.



Memorial Day Parade in the 1920s

Montgomery's lumber manufacturing took off and men returning usually found employment in farming or timber. Montgomery became the national leader in butter tub manufacture producing over 1.5 million tubs a year by the 1890s. Nearly 220 men would be employed by the two largest tub mills alone. Other wood products would pour out of the new mill neighborhoods like Black Falls, Hectorville, Hutchins and West Hill, place names still with us today. Mills built and owned as many as half of the houses in town to provide shelter for employees. They also met their needs through the company stores.



Butter Tubs leaving Hutchins Mill. Note covered bridge on the right.

Covered Bridges were put up all over town to ease access to the forests. More than 10 were built from 1863 to the 1890s. Prosperity carried over to other facets of the community. The Episcopal Church added 7 stained glass windows, and a new gothic steeple with a clock and bell from the 1870s to the 1920s.



Union Church with Renovations Underway ca 1870s

Montgomery's population would again take off, growing to its peak of nearly 1,900 by the turn of the century, including a second wave of French Canadians. Montgomery would become the 5<sup>th</sup> largest Town in Franklin County by 1920 before a decline set in. Mercantile activity also prospered and businesses multiplied. The 1871 Beers map shows 11 school districts, and business notices (paid advertisements?) for 1 lawyer, 2 doctors, 2 hotels, 4 manufacturers/mills, and 13 other enterprises (mostly dairy farms). There were many more. Civil war veterans would die and memories would fade. The Charles Haile GAR post would relinquish its charter and disestablish for lack of members on Christmas eve of 1898, 37 years to the day after Charles Haile died in Virginia.

#### Montgomery Census After the Civil War

Year	Population	Rank in County
1870	1,463	12
1880	1,642	8
1890	1,734	7
1900	1,876	6
1910	1,721	7
1920	1,658	5
1930	1,386	8

#### The Legacy Today

These developments left a lasting heritage for much of our community today. Memorial Day remained one of the Town's biggest events through the 1960s before tailing off.. The Historical Society has sponsored Memorial Day commemorations in their present form since the early 90s. Many of the houses remaining in our downtown were built to house mill workers, or their owners. Place names and

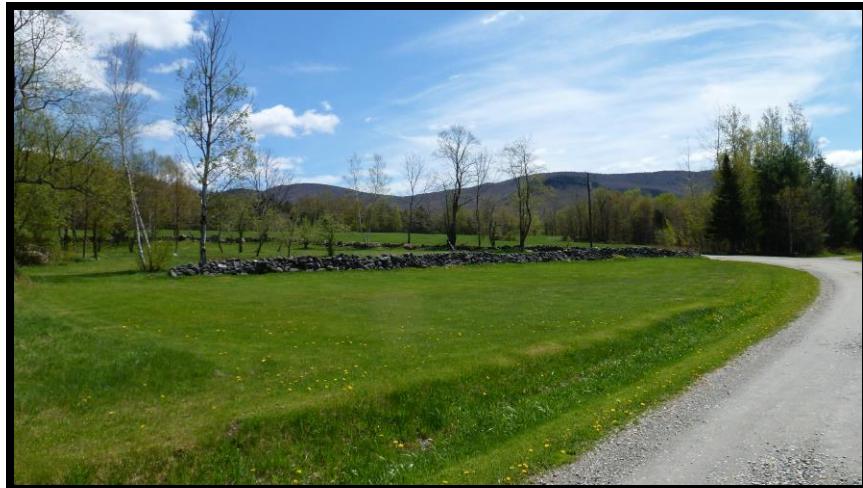
neighborhoods date to the mid to late 1800s and 6 covered bridges from the period still grace our area. All four of the earliest church buildings remain, although one became a Grange before repurposing into the Town Hall, and one other now is home to the Historical Society. Montgomery's cemeteries and hills are the final resting place of nearly 280 military veterans. Of those, 69 served in the Civil War, more than any other war, although WWII is close behind and may pass that number in the next decade. Montgomery did its duty.



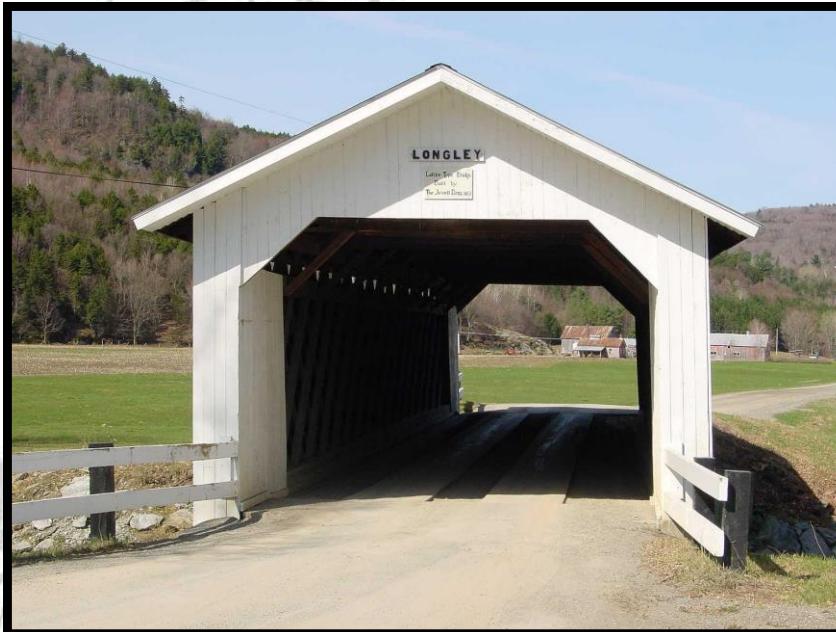
Memorial Day Commemoration 2012 at Hill West Cemetery



Mill Houses in Montgomery Center



Area of the Haile Family Farm (Rushford Valley Rd near Reagan Rd) Today



Longley Bridge Built in 1863

### Principal Sources:

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Wikipedia – Disease in the Civil War

“List of Pensioners on the Roll January 1, 1883: Volume 1”

Bureau of Pensions

Montgomery Historical Society Archives

Vital Records, Grand Lists, Miscellaneous Records, Town Of Montgomery