



**Montgomery Historical Society**  
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MONTGOMERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Minutes of Meeting  
Pratt Hall, Montgomery

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 @ 5:30 PM

THESE ARE THE UNOFFICIAL MINUTES UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

**Board Members and Members present:**

Board Members – Scott Perry, Bill McGroarty, Sue Wilson, Marijke Dollois, Pat Farmer, Tim Chapin, Elsie Saborowski, Patty Perl

Scott called the Meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

1. **Recognition visitors/guests:**

None

2. **This Month In History:**

1793 Joel Clapp born; 1881 Chester Arthur inaugurated

3. **History Quiz:**

Who was Sarah Burnham and why was she famous in 1920 in Vermont? **First woman to vote in a State or Federal election in VT.**

The same year changes were made to one polling place which included which of the following?

- a. **Adding chairs**                      b. **Banning smoking**  
c. **Banning swearing**                d. **Removing sawdust from the floor**

(See article attached).

4. **Show and Tell:**

Scott presented a video which showed the process of the removal and storage of the stained glass windows in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Brattleboro. The work was done by Stained Glass Resources in Hampden, MA.

On September 28<sup>th</sup> the Vermont Covered Bridges Society will hold their Annual Meeting at the Town Hall. Scott will give them a guided tour of Pratt Hall; he showed the Board information gathered by him and Parma about the building of the bridges and the Jewett family.

5. **The Main Event:**

**Minutes:**

Pat made a Motion, seconded by Sue to approve the Minutes of August 21, 2013; Motion was unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer's Report – 09/18/13:

Checking balance..... \$ 4,587.86

Stained Glass- West Wall Savings Account ..... \$ 51,708.73

80 Affinity members

Marijke made a Motion, seconded by Patty to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; Motion was unanimously approved.

**Membership:**

198 members - \$11,816.00.

**Old business:**

A. West Wall Capital Campaign

1) Financial Report – see Treasurer's Report above

2) Committee Reports

- a. Institutional (Private/Government) – By invitation, Scott made a presentation on work the Society has done since acquiring Pratt Hall in 1974 to the Preservation Trust of VT retreat on saving sacred places. It was very well received. Tim accompanied Scott and while there PTV reviewed the third draft for a \$20,000 VT Div. for Historic Preservation grant. The deadline for the grant is October 7.

Other grant possibilities are:

- Vermont Community Foundation Walter Cerf Grant.
- **Vermont Community Foundation** Small & Inspirational grants are awarded every month
- Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Division; Bill has contacted Bernie Sander's office and is waiting for the name of the right person to get in touch with.

- b. Commercial/Corporate – no report yet; Marijke prepared a list of ±45 potential corporate donors; an individualized letter with color brochure and other photos will be sent possibly next month.

c. Retail/Fundraisers/Events –

- 1) Tim and Scott met with Mary-Anne Ficociello, Don McGowan, Daniel Picotte to discuss a possible "Canadian" night; Daniel Picotte would bring in people to underwrite the event.
- 2) Marsha will put up fliers at Jay. It was suggested that Scott and Tim approach Bill Stenger personally to ask for a donation as a letter will simply be disregarded.
- 3) On Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> ±600 letters were mailed to town residents and second home owners; the letter included a brochure with donation form, application for a brick purchase and a return envelope.

4) As per Ken's suggestion, Scott and Pat obtained a brick from Trowel Trades and had them engraved by XTreme Graphics; however, even after 3 passes the lettering did not come out as well as the sample received from Bricks 'R Us and would be at a greater cost.

d. Oktoberfest Dinner – this will be a prepaid dinner (\$20 pp) with beer and wine provided by Greg Lucas of the Black Lantern Inn (cash bar). There will be a beerstein auction and other fundraising opportunities. John and Sandra Beaty donated a banner made by Sandra to be displayed in front of The Grange.

3. Administrative – no further report

B. Town History Book update – The latest version from the printer has been reviewed by Scott and Marijke and has now been sent to the printer. They will be working on the index in October.

C. Pratt Hall Clock / Tower Painting / Clock Face Molding

1. The clock has stopped working which could be a result of fluctuating temperatures and moisture content; Scott, Pat, and Ken Scheffler are investigating.
2. Tower painting/Clock face molding – the tower will be retouched when the clock face moldings are put into place. These moldings were donated by Tim Murphy – the cost for the 4 moldings is ±\$4,500. The Board decided to acknowledge his donation with a special plaque on the “Wall of Fame”. Sue made a Motion, seconded by Pat to place a brick with “Thank You Sam and Tim”; motion was unanimously approved.

D. Wedding September 28<sup>th</sup> – time is 10:00 AM. Cleaning will be Thursday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> @ 10 AM; Bill will open Pratt Hall on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Marijke will check when the rehearsal will take place.

E. VCBS Meeting September 28<sup>th</sup> – see Show and Tell above.

F. Former Baptist Church – no further report.

G. Heaton House – the consensus was to wait until next Spring to do the repainting – “Black Lantern” color with off-white trim.

Z. Reminders:

- 1) Heaton House Paint
- 2) Possible Beers Atlas and large Franklin County map acquisition – Scott to follow up.
- 3) Stanton Memorial Gift – no report
- 4) MHS Sign
- 5) June 21 – 22, 2014 VT History Expo
- 6) LLHS Annual Meeting Nov. 1

6. **New business:**

None

7. **Adjourn:**

Pat made a Motion, seconded by Patty to adjourn at 6:45 P.M. Said Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marijke M. Dollois

# MHS 2013 EVENTS & DATES

Directors meet the third Wednesday of each month at Pratt Hall (April-October) or the Montgomery Public Safety Building (November-March).

Members are welcome. Please call 326-3135 to confirm venue.

## 2013

- Sept. 21** VHS Annual Meeting
- Sept. 27** Pratt Hall – wedding rehearsal Lavery/Stanley
- Sept. 28** Pratt Hall – wedding Lavery/Stanley
- Sept. 28** Vermont Covered Bridges Society Annual Meeting, Town Hall (Sponsored by MHS), Tours of Pratt Hall that afternoon
- Sept.** LLHS nominations due
- Nov. 1** LLHS Annual Meeting in Barre
- Dec.** Christmas Social
- Dec. 22** Carols and Candles – Pratt Hall 5:00 PM

## 2014

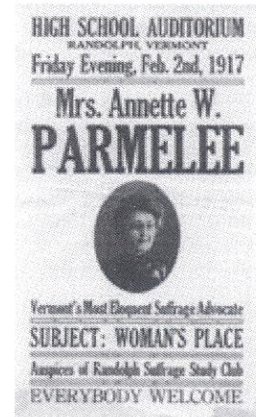
- June 21-22** Vermont history Expo. Theme is “Artists and Artisans: Vermont’s Creative Heritage.” Tunbridge Fairgrounds
- July** Wedding rehearsal Nelson. Pratt Hall
- July** Wedding Nelson. Pratt Hall

## Women's Suffrage In Vermont

When full woman suffrage came to the nation in 1920, a goal was achieved which Vermonters had been actively working toward for at least fifty years. A strong drive for voting rights had been made in the State as early as 1870, and other efforts followed, always without full success. Nevertheless, **in 1880 the Vermont legislature did grant women the right to vote and hold office in town school districts; and in 1906 it made women eligible for the office of town clerk, treasurer, trustee of public libraries, and town superintendent of schools.**

The principle organization in the state lobbying for these gains was the Vermont Equal Suffrage Association (VESA), a statewide group of activist women. Organized in the early 1880s, it focused efforts on persuading the State legislature to act on women's political rights. It also sent representatives to a national organization, Congressional Work for Women's Suffrage, which pushed for suffrage action at the federal level.

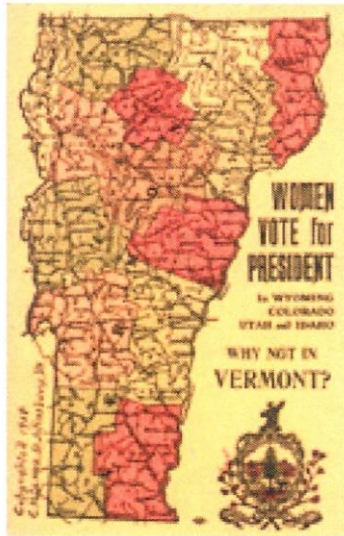
Many women in the leadership of VESA (originally Vermont Woman's Suffrage Association), were also active in other reform movements of the day, such as temperance, and religious missionary work. The Vermont Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was apparently especially valuable in providing leadership experience for the suffrage efforts. To fund its projects, VESA collected \$1.00 membership fees for its State Association, and \$.25 for membership in local "Equal Franchise Leagues" which existed in the state's large towns of Burlington, Montpelier, Rutland, Springfield, and St. Albans.



Annual statewide conventions were held from 1885 through 1920, meeting in a different Vermont community each year. These gatherings were often festive occasions and major events for the communities involved. Delegates were usually warmly received. Store-keepers dressed their windows and U.S. flags and suffrage banners were hung in streets. Meetings were held usually in the town hall and typically included, in addition to suffrage speakers, such events as devotional exercises, a repeating of the Lord's Prayer, and the singing of such songs as "Battle Hymn of the Republic." VSEA's legislative committee presented lengthy reports on the year's legislative session in Montpelier.

Despite these efforts, and although several other states had succeeded in granting full suffrage to women, it was federal action that finally brought the full vote to the women of Vermont. In 1917, when the U.S. entered World War I, a woman's suffrage amendment was submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives. By 1919, the amendment had passed both houses of Congress and was sent to State legislatures for ratification. The Vermont General Assembly in 1919 did not take up the Nineteenth Amendment issue. **By 1920, with only one more State needed to ratify the amendment, Vermont's governor, Percival Clement, an opponent of woman suffrage, resisted strong pressure within the State to call a special legislative sessions to consider ratification. Clement argued that the State could not afford the expense involved. When the Nineteenth Amendment became the law of the land later in 1920 the Vermont General Assembly still had not ratified it.**

Equal suffrage postcard.



Vermont women took immediate advantage of their enfranchisement. In the 1920 gubernatorial election, Clement's candidate was defeated in the Republican primary by James Hartness, who had been a leading voice on a State committee to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. According to estimates, Hartness captured about 75 percent of the 10,000 or more votes cast in the election by women. Their impact was felt in other ways, as well. The presence of women at the November polls in Northfield brought a change in the appearance of the town hall polling location. **Sawdust, which traditionally had been spread over the floor to absorb tobacco juice, was removed; smoking in the building was disallowed; and chairs were judiciously placed along the walls to provide opportunity for female voters to sit.** The local newspaper reported that "Quite a number of the female voters of the town cast their votes as if they had

done so for years." The most dramatic change, however, came in 1921, when Edna L. Beard of Orange won a seat in the state House of Representatives, becoming the first woman member in the history of the Vermont Legislature.

In 1920 the Vermont Equal Suffrage Association welcomed into existence the newly formed Vermont League of Women Voters. VESA held its last State convention in that year in conjunction with the new organization, and then disbanded. - Gene Sessions

Woodsmoke Productions and Vermont Historical Society, "Women get the Vote," The Green Mountain Chronicles radio broadcast and background information, original broadcast 1988-89, accessed on the web at <http://vermonthistory.org/womengetthevote>.

<http://vermonthistory.org/research/research-resources-online/green-mountain-chronicles/women-get-the-vote-1920> Accessed 9/19/13