

Artifacts & Fiction

Montgomery Historical Society Newsletter

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www.montgomeryvt.us/mhs.htm



Number 14
April 2008

Scott Perry - Chair
Bill McGroarty - Vice Chair
Marijke Dollois - Secretary
Sue Wilson - Treasurer

The MHS Board meets the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30, at Pratt Hall May-Sep, and at the Public Safety Building Conference Room October - April.

History For Sale... DVDs, Xmas decorations, cards and Frig magnets. Call us!

Jan VT History Quiz:

1. Montgomery was chartered by VT's unicameral legislature in March of 1780. When was the Charter approved by the Governor's Council and signed by Governor Thomas Chittenden?

A. 1780 B. 1782 C. 1789
D. 1795 (Statehood)

2. When did VT's legislature become bicameral?

Chairman's Message

Twenty years is a long time to do anything. The Society has been in existence for 34 years and for 20 of those years we've hosted summer concerts. Past President and Board Member emeritus, Steve Hays has organized the "Concerts By The Common" for 19 of those years. He's written the grant applications, solicited sponsors, booked the performers, and hung the banners. In recent years he's had to work around the unavailability of a concert quality piano. Some years he's had help, others he's been a proverbial one man band (please forgive the mixed metaphor). He's also had to put up with my harping about the program being revenue neutral. Last year we made a profit. For our concert patrons, the music's intrinsic value is enough.

But there is more. Our Society Bylaws mandate us, in part, to make Pratt Hall available for events that preserve the culture and foster a sense of community in Montgomery. Pratt Hall is a living artifact, serving as a venue for concerts, speakers, dramas, weddings, wakes, art shows, quilt shows, crafters and holiday observances. Every event helps fulfill our mission, and contributes to the people and place we all love.

We all owe Steve our gratitude for all of his contributions over the years. He's put together another wonderful program of concerts for us this year and I hope you'll come and enjoy the artists he's lined up for us. Help us build community and make history in the process.

Thanks for your support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Scott Perry
Chairman

Concert Series Celebrates Its 20th Year

The Society is pleased to announce the following "Concerts By The Common" schedule / artists:

July 5th, 8 p.m.: Jenni Johnson and Friends

July 19th, 8 p.m.: Nisht Geferlach Klezmer Band

August 17th, 7 p.m. (a Sunday): The Diller Quaile String Quartet

We will also be hosting post concert wine and snack receptions with the artists after each concert.

All concerts are at Pratt Hall. Call Lutz Automotive (802) 326-4528 for tickets. Concert tickets are \$12 each (\$10 for MHS members). You can purchase a season ticket, for only \$30 (\$25 for MHS members). Pratt Hall is accessible to the handicapped.

Elders Night II

Sally Newton and Jo Anne Bennett are organizing our second "Elders Night" to be held Saturday, June 17th at 4:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. As before we will exhibit some of our holdings, invite attendees to bring in photos and memorabilia, and spend about an hour asking some of our fellow citizens what their lives have been like growing up in Montgomery. Light refreshments will be served. This was a relaxed, fun evening before and we think you will enjoy participating in the Q&A and storytelling.

Annual Meeting 2008

This year's Annual Meeting will be Friday, June 26th at 6:00 p.m. at Pratt Hall. It will include hors d'oeuvres and the Chairman's Report. We will also display our VT History Expo exhibit.

Our 2008 Membership Drive Underway

Our 2008 Membership drive kicked off in late March. We appreciate your support and hope you will be able to continue your membership. Please don't forget to renew. You will be receiving a letter and donor card in the mail, but if needed, you can find a renewal donor card on our web site.

VT History Expo Update

This year's theme is "Industry and Innovation: Vermont Ingenuity" and our exhibit will feature the Atlas Plywood Company's, Nelson & Hall crate factory in Montgomery Center. We are making progress on our exhibit but would love to find someone who worked at, or knew someone who worked at, the plant so we could interview them. Please let us know if you have recollections or know someone who does. We hope to show the exhibit at our Annual Meeting, The Library, and at Pratt Hall as well.

The Expo at Tunbridge is June 21st and 22nd. We are looking for volunteers to set up on the 20th and man our booth on the 21st and 22nd. We usually ask you to cover a half day, which leaves plenty of time for you to take in the rest of the exhibits and activities. Admission is free for volunteers.

Memorial Day Commemoration

This year's commemoration is Monday, May 26th at 10:00 a.m. at the old Montgomery Center Cemetery. It will consist of the usual honors and a short speech, followed by refreshments. Please spend a moment honoring the memory of Montgomery's fallen military.

The Pratt Hall: Bugs & Beetles & Ants,
Oh My!

The evaluation we received from Vt Historic Preservation and Architect Michael Gohl is now posted to the Society's web site. One recommendation was to get an expert on pest control to do an evaluation of the building.

We met with an exterminator in March and confirmed the presence of Powder Post Beetles in some of the timber framing, especially in the tower, and Carpenter Ants in one location in the basement. We will probably be treating for them in the fall.

The clock seems to be doing well. (Knock on wood!) Thanks again to the team of folks that helped make the repairs.

Art Show & Sale

Our 10th Annual Art Show and Sale will be Saturday, August 23 from 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. this year.

Our Member Appreciation Reception with the artists is scheduled for Friday, August 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report Summary

As of March 19, 2008

Assets

Checking account	\$	904.42
Lalia Pratt Hays CD	\$	6,746.78
Capital Imps & Rps CD	\$	1,846.25
Stained Glass Fund CD	\$	5,458.87

Liabilities

Mortgage Heaton House	\$	24,206.76
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The Speakers Are Coming

Sally Newton and Charles Henderson are planning two speakers probably in late summer/early fall. One program will be on the Abenaki and the other on Mark Twain. We'll have more details soon.

2008 and 1896 Town Report

The 2008 Montgomery Town Report contained pictures of the cover and Warning for Montgomery's 1896 Town Report, and a short article summarizing it's contents. The photos and article were provided by the Society and included a paragraph asking folks to consider donating items to us. The article is on the Society's web site, just click the History link on our home page. BTW...Montgomery posted all of the 2008 Town Report on the Town web site for the first time this year.

Work Day(s)

The Board has scheduled a Work Day on Saturday May 3rd beginning at 9:00 a.m. We will police the grounds, open the buildings, clean them, and assess the work that needs to be done in the future. Please join us.

VT History Quiz Answer

Montgomery's Charter was approved and signed in October 1789, nine years after the legislature acted.

Vermont's legislature became bicameral in 1836.

The Montgomery Historical Society Board is...
Scott Perry, Bill McGroarty, Marijke Dollois, Sue Wilson, Parma Jewett,
Sally Newton, John Beaty, Jo Anne Bennett, Pat Farmer and Bill Branthoover.



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Please Renew Your Membership! THANKS!