



April 2010
Number 22

Artifacts and Fiction

Montgomery Historical Society Newsletter

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Chairman's Message

Scott Perry, Chairman
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.



Great gifts. Notecards and Michael Domina prints are still available.



Montgomery History Quiz:

Originally named the Union Church in the 1830s, when was Pratt Hall renamed St. Bartholomew's?

- a. 1874
- b. 1897
- c. 1901
- d. 1905

Excerpt from the Teaching American History Professional Development Program Core Activities for Teachers grant proposal, emphasis added... "Goal 1: Increase teacher knowledge and understanding of... historical eras, with an emphasis on *democratic principals of freedom, justice, and equality as articulated in national and Vermont founding documents.* "

The theme of the keynote speech at the League of Local Historical Societies Annual Meeting in late 2009 was that often times some real cultural jewels can be found in small, unassuming, museums and historical societies; also often in the middle of nowhere. So when I was contacted by Scott MacLaughlin from UVM about the grant he was writing (above) his thesis struck a chord. He felt professional development of teachers of American history could be enhanced by a partnership network of teachers and such organizations throughout Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties. His grant would spread the effort over the next five years and be aimed at building relationships, including some paid internships for teachers for any number of history related projects. (I'm working on ideas now.)

While I'm not an expert on education in any way this seems basic to our mission and a natural fit. We host school visits, award scholarships, mount exhibits, and sponsor speakers; and now with any luck we will be able to support area teachers with our humble collection and energetic people. The Board agreed to sign our organization up for the program and is enthusiastic about our potential role.

As always, thanks for your support,

Scott Perry
Chairman

Thank You

Robert Farrar of Orleans, VT donated about a dozen panorama photos of the Nelson and Hall log yard, HQ Building, and logging activities. The collection included pictures of vehicles (six steam? stacks) and views of Montgomery Center from across the Trout River.

The St. Albans Museum also donated two pictures it was de-accessioning, one of the Hutchin's Bridge and the other of the Congregational Church. This is one of the best shots of the church many of us had ever seen.



(Look for the triangular windows on the Town Hall)

Sad News

We are sad to report that Penny Bennett passed away recently at the age of 86 at her home in Dover, NJ. Penny and her husband, Jack, have been members of the MHS since 1985 and both actively participated in the MHS activities whenever they were in Montgomery, staying in their house on West Hill.

Penny is especially remembered for being "cashier" for many years at the "Concerts on the Common" and for being a saleslady par excellence when the Society held "AugustFest". Penny will also be remembered for her cheerfulness and optimism in spite of her many years battling health problems - she was always full of laughter and had lots of stories to tell of her travels around the world. We will miss her.

Annual Art Show & Sale Dates Set

This year's Membership Appreciation Reception with the artists will be August 27th, and the Show & Sale will be Saturday the 28th. As always the Covered Bridges Garden Club's "Harvestfest" will also be that day on the Common. Times will be announced in the July newsletter.

3rd Edition Of Montgomery History Book

Underway

Jo Anne Bennett (now a grandmother!!!) will be leading our effort to update the Town History book, written by Sara Taylor, Bill Branthoover and Joe Sherman. The new material will cover the last 20 years of developments in the town.

She writes "I would very much like to speak with anyone who can talk about:

- . the '97 Flood
- . the new School Building
- . the new Public Safety Building
- . Town Demographics
- . Covered Bridges
- . Business & Commercial Developments
- . Arts in Montgomery
- . Economic changes – especially the demise of Dairy Farming developments at Jay Peak
- . Churches
- . any Other Topic that needs to be covered

Please contact me at 326-4322, via email at daveandjoanne@mymts.net, or via USPS at P.O. Box 91, Montgomery, 05470"

In Case You Missed It

Bill and Margaretta Branthoover were the cover girl and boy of the Montgomery Town Report this year, an honor well deserved. The Report also contained a two page article provided by the Society on the Montgomery to E. Berkshire stage. The Report is still available from the the Town Clerk and is available on the Town's web site.

Memorial Day Commemoration

This year's commemoration will be May 31st at 10:00 at the Montgomery Center upper cemetery. It will include short remarks by a guest speaker, roll call, and military honors by American Legion Post 42 from Enosburg. Please join us in honoring Montgomery's war dead and living veterans.

Would You Like A Tour Of Pratt Hall?

Last newsletter we announced any MHS member desiring a tour of Pratt Hall for themselves or guests can do so by contacting any member of the Board or emailing us at prathall@gmail.com. We're expanding that offer to anyone, member or not. Please bear in mind the heat and water are not on until late April.

Tentative Dates Set for "Concerts By The Common"

Steve Hays has been busy putting together another wonderful lineup. Right now this is what's in store...

July 17: Constitutional Brass Quintet

July 31: Traditional Jazz

August 14: Harp Trio

All concerts start at 8:00p.m. More details will follow. Stay tuned to our web site and signs at Lutz's and in front of Pratt Hall. Consider purchasing a Season's Ticket, it's a great value.

Historical Speakers

Authors Nicholas & Deborah Clifford present "The Troubled Roar of the Waters: Vermont in Flood and Recovery, 1927-1931" 7:00p.m. at the Public Safety Building Conference Room. FREE. The Flood is remembered as the greatest natural disaster ever to strike Vermont, yet it is far more than an episode restricted to the history of a single state. An examination of the flood and reconstruction helps shed light on important facets of our national history, and helps us understand America's passage through the difficult years of the 1920's. Sponsored by the Montgomery Library.

Treasurer's Report and Finances (As of: 3/17/10)

Checking Balance - \$7,830.96

Lalia Pratt Hays CD - \$589.44

Capital Improvements CD - \$1,906.59

Stained Glass Window CD - \$5,737.01

Savings Balance - Domina Print Project - \$226.50

Total Cash On Hand - \$16,290.50

Line of Credit Balance Owed - \$12,380.00

Affinity Members - 61

Note: We must cover \$7,500.00 to match the VT Historic Preservation Grant for repairs/restoration to the front entry of Pratt Hall

Montgomery History Quiz Answer

b. 1897 St. Bartholomew was among the twelve apostles and also appears as one of the witnesses of the Ascension. He is one of the apostles of whom no word is reported nor any individual action recorded in the New Testament. St. Bartholomew is credited with many miracles having to do with the weight of objects. (Source: Wikipedia)

2010 Membership Drive Underway

You should have received a membership renewal by now. Your financial support, or donation of services or materials in kind, are greatly appreciated and have a direct and immediate impact on Montgomery. Membership is the life blood of the MHS.

Additional donations targeted to specific purposes, like the stained glass windows or scholarships are welcome. All donations are tax deductible. Receipts are available from any Board member upon request. Thank You.

Montgomery history is fun to display, Whether for study, exhibit or play,

We wish you would join us,

Be part of the chorus,

To "Make History Everyday!"



Archives Report

We're making steady progress on computer cataloging, photographing and moving our holdings to the former Heaton House. Thanks to the hard work of Parma Jewett, Marijke Dollois, and Noela McGroarty we are about halfway there. Special thanks to Curtt Perry for helping with technical and design advice.

We are now able to search by keyword and retrieve records that include a picture and storage location information. Bill and Margareta Branthoover's past efforts to accession items into a card catalog were immensely helpful.

Pratt Hall Work To Begin Soon?

As of this date we still are unsure of when the repairs and restoration of the clock tower base and front entryway will begin. We've submitted our Description of Work to the VT Div. for Historic Preservation and will be signing a formal Grant Agreement soon. We will then solicit bids, select a prime contractor, and be off to the races.

Bill McGroarty will be project lead for the Society assisted by Pat Farmer and Ken Secor. We hope to include some volunteer work as part of our match and will let you all know specific ways you can help. Come and get dirty with us!



We're An Open Book

As a reminder, the Agendas and Minutes, which include the Treasurer's Reports, are available on our web site.

What would you like to see the MHS do? Do you have any ideas for exhibits, or any feedback on our programs and activities? Please let us know.

The MHS Board is...

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



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Don't Forget To Mail in Your Membership Renewal & Thanks For Your Support