



Artifacts and Fiction

The Montgomery Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Scott Perry, Chairman
John Kuryloski, Vice Chair
Marijke Dollois, Secretary
Pat Farmer, Treasurer

The MHS Board meets the third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at Pratt Hall May-Sep, and at the Public Safety Building Conference Room or on Zoom Oct – Apr

Vermont History Quiz:

1. The 2022 Vermont Primary turnout was 26.5% but Franklin County's was just 20%. How many of the County's 15 towns exceeded the County turnout?
a. 1 b. 4

c. 7 d. 9
2. True or false? No Franklin County town exceeded the State turnout.
3. What Town turnout was the lowest?

Down the Rabbit Hole...

Later in this newsletter is an update on our efforts to evaluate, accession, and organize our archival holdings. While this seems pretty straightforward, the work is not without its peril, sort of an occupational hazard. I feel a story coming on....

During one of our sessions with the authors researching the history of the area's mills I saw one of them roll their eyes when one of their collaborators started going off on a tangent, a thought brought on by something we were discussing. The eye roller said this is why it's so hard to make progress, part a leads to part b then part c and before you know it you're "down the rabbit hole" and you've spent an hour on something that is genuinely interesting but not particularly relevant to the task at hand.

We also can have the same problem accessioning things. We will pick up an object, a picture, or a news clipping to accession and get so enthralled in the details and associated stories that we find hours passing without as much progress as we would like. It's a good problem to have though and a lot of fun. Come join us sometime.

"This Is Our Home"

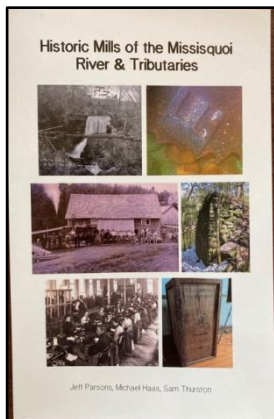
Channel 5 news recorded a segment of their "This Is Our Home" series in Montgomery at the end of August. It focuses on small, sometimes out of the way towns in the region. Much of the filming was done in and on the grounds of the Society. The Montgomery Program aired during their morning news on September 12th and can still be viewed at the Channel 5 / WPTZ website.

Thanks for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott".

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ALWAYS OPEN

This year's membership drive remains open. Our numbers have partially rebounded, and new members are up. [You can renew / join online](#) anytime. **THANK YOU!**



NEW BOOKLET ON MILL RUINS PUBLISHED

The new booklet (above) on the mill ruins of the Trout River and Upper Missisquoi watershed was published since the last newsletter. The authors donated one copy each to the Montgomery Town Library, the Montgomery Elementary School Library and the Historical Society. Just 25 copies were printed, although more may be printed depending on the interest shown. The section on Montgomery's mills is the largest.



ARCHIVAL COLLECTION UPDATE

We've been working to cull our holdings and better organize them. Pat Farmer designed and implemented the new data base, we purchased new equipment and software, and have been meeting regularly to tackle this herculean task. Nearly 900 items have been labeled, assigned a location, photographed, and placed. That light at the end of the tunnel may not be an oncoming train after all!

We've also developed check lists and are eager to train other volunteers. Please let us know if you have some time and are willing to chip in.



EVENTS FOR REMAINDER OF 2022...

October 22: "We're Not From Here" by Modern Times Theater. Veteran vaudeville entertainers Rose Friedman and Justin Lander will present a brand new show... a million years in just under 75 minutes. How's that for history? Family friendly and free. Read more...

December 10: MES Craft Sale: The Society will have a booth at this year's show.

December 17: Holiday Happiness: We're planning to have horse drawn wagon rides and the Hall will be open with a return to traditional activities. That includes Santa if he can fit us into his schedule.

December 18: Candles and Carols: Traditional caroling and other silliness.

Details are on our web site. We will continue to follow COVID developments and make adjustments to our plans as needed but are optimistic we will be able to return to our pre-virus normal. Please feel free to check back with us.

MEN WITH TOOLS UPDATE

The front deck of Pratt Hall received a fresh coat of stain in September thanks to John Kuryloski and Bob Cummins. Pat Farmer and Patrick Calecas installed a few new brick pavers too. We now have a new sign light and a dehumidifier for the archives also. Refreshing the paint on our sign and the exterior east facing facade of the archival building remain on our to-do list.

2022 FARMERS MARKET WRAP UP

September 10th saw the conclusion of this season's Farmers Market and also was a point of sale for the Conservation Commission's annual Mum sale. Thanks to all our vendors and customers, and special thanks to Sue Wilson and all the MHS Board volunteers.



FORGIVE US IF WE DRONE ON...

Couldn't resist a pun... Member Cedric Lanphear recently shared a copy of his September 2021 drone video focused on the Village area. It has some great views of Pratt Hall and the covered bridges, and can be viewed on his YouTube channel.

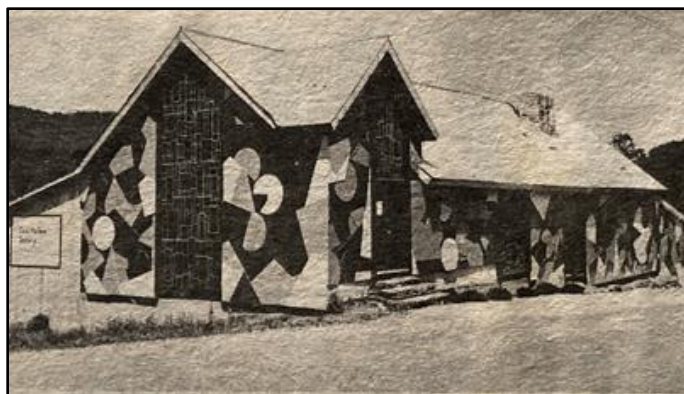
SPEAKING OF YOUTUBE...

...and accessioning, we recently officially accessioned a video interview, done by supporter and Canadian TV host Don McGowan, with John "Zack" Zachadnyk of the famous "Zack's On The Rocks". It was donated to us for the memorial service we hosted at Pratt Hall in 2011. We've added it to our YouTube channel. The quality is pre-HD but it is still a great record of that part of our history. Our thanks to member Don Bordner for making it available as an .mp4 file.

EMAIL ADDRESS?

Our online newsletter has all the links to connect you to the additional info. If you have an email account and haven't shared it please consider letting us send you the newsletter links. It's a better read and saves us printing and postage. Thank you.

PHOTO FROM THE PAST



Do you know what / where this Montgomery building is? See the bottom for the answer.

LLHSM

This year's meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies and Museums will be October 29th in Manchester. More details are on the Vermont Historical Society web site.

THIS QUARTER IN MONTGOMERY AREA HISTORY

October: 1864 St. Albans Raid
November: 1792 Franklin County established
December: 1905 School house at four corners(West Hill) burns down.

HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. c. Seven Franklin County towns exceeded the overall County turnout of 20%
2. False. Montgomery's turnout was 28%, the highest in the county and was the only town in the county to exceed the State turnout.
3. Richford's was 14%, the lowest' just behind Berkshire and St Albans City which were both 16%.

Source: VT Sec. of State.

PHOTO FROM THE PAST ANSWER

The building was the Cold Hollow Art Gallery and is still across the road from the Recreation Center.

“We’re Not From Here” by Modern Times Theater At Pratt Hall October 22, 7:00pm

Arriving from elsewhere, just in time for the show, veteran vaudeville entertainers Rose Friedman and Justin Lander will present a million years in just under 75 minutes. A carpetbag of old fashioned amusements. Music, puppetry, and schtick. They will attempt to summon the ghosts from the attic to answer our most pressing questions, including “How did we get here?”, “Where are we going?”, and “Can’t you do that somewhere else?” Funded by a Creation Grant from the Vermont Arts Council, and is intended specifically for presentation in small historic venues throughout Vermont. Family friendly and free. Donations welcome.

Modern Times Theater has been making and touring puppet shows and variety acts, and creating public community events since 2007. They pursue a radically divergent model of art making, creating venues in unlikely locations, and revitalizing the historic, run-down, and defunct. Working in populist theater forms, they seek to reinvent and reimagine classic American entertainment. Co-founders Rose Friedman and Justin Lander are a husband and wife duo, producers for Vermont Vaudeville and alumni of the Bread and Puppet Theater.



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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT