



Artifacts and Fiction

The Montgomery Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter

P.O. Box 47

Montgomery, VT 05470

e-mail: pratthall@gmail.com

www.montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org

Chairman's Message:

January 2020

Number 61

Scott Perry, Chairman
Bill McGroarty, 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 Oct – Apr



History Quiz:

In 1790 Vermont was organized into seven counties.

Addison Bennington
Chittenden Orange
Rutland Windham
Windsor

- a. What county had the largest population?
- b. What county had the least?

*Happy
2020*

from the

MHS Board!

Scott Perry, Bill

McGroarty, Marijke

Dollois, Pat Farmer, Sue

Wilson, Jo Anne Bennett,

Elsie Saborowski, John

Beatty, Bob Cummins, Tim

Chapin, Patty Perl,

Andre Labier, and John

Kuryloski

• *Every year we take stock. In Pratt Hall's case that means figuring out what needs to be done, and what we can afford and have time for. This year we will be making repairs to the entry deck, building trim, ramps and railing as a result of the accident last August. Also, any of you who have spent Summer or Fall in the area have no doubt seen the rented, 65 foot blue lift outside Pratt Hall numerous times. Whenever it's here we maximize the work for it, which usually includes some painting and repair. The tower has had such attention several times since 2006 when the entire building was last scraped and painted.*

• *And so we are planning to paint again, and learned of a new grant opportunity that may help. The Preservation Trust of Vermont and the 1772 Foundation are offering matching grants of up to \$10,000 which could be used for just such a project. We have submitted a Letter of Interest and will know later this month if we will be invited to apply for the grant. Final award would be in March.*

• *Eligibility requirements include a Condition Assessment within the last three years. Our latest was in 2007/2008. At that time we were concerned about a number of high priority structural issues. Since then we've addressed almost all of those issues culminating in the West Wall Project which wrapped up with final painting in 2016. We hope our great track record for this type of grant-to-results effort will allay any eligibility concerns.*

• *We've accomplished a lot with your support. Thank you.*

AUGUST ACCIDENT UPDATE

The Society settled with the driver's insurance company in November and received a check for just over \$14,000 to cover damages to the front of the building. We hope to start the repairs as soon as the weather allows. We appreciate all the help from those of you who provided estimates and helped clean up the rubble.



MES CRAFT SHOW

We participated in another local craft show in December, organized by our own Sue Wilson to benefit the Montgomery Elementary School. We offered books, stained glass window and Harold Babcock note cards, and more. The Babcock cards were very popular, selling more than 12 dozen. We also debuted our covered bridges mug prototypes for customer feedback. Several were bought on the spot and we hope to make them available in the future. Men's Large and Extra Large "Benign Fringe Element" T-shirts are sold out!

FUTURE PROGRAMS & EVENTS IN THE WORKS

Our Annual Meeting will be in June. The Farmers Market will return in 2020 from June 20th to September 26 and we hope to have another Trinkets and Treasures in August. Pratt Hall will host the Town Library's "Young Writer's Contest" in October. Stand by for more events as they develop. We also want to do another "Montgomery Stories".

Do you have any ideas for any programs you'd like to see? Please contact us and let us know.



DONATIONS SPOTLIGHT

Since the last newsletter the Town donated it's copy of the 1983 Historic Sites and Structures Survey of Montgomery. The VT Division for Historic Preservation surveyed every town in the state to create a registry of historic places. Montgomery's volume contains 38 entries and is nearly two inches thick! The index is now posted on our web site.



Pratt Hall as Pictured in the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's 1983 Historic Sites and Structures Survey

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 1ST

Applications for our annual Lalia Pratt Hays Memorial Scholarship and the Joe and Irene Scott Scholarship are due May 1st. All graduating Montgomery seniors going on to future education / training are eligible. This includes technical training, e.g. CDL, as well as college.

TD BANK AFFINITY PROGRAM

We need your help. We need to re-establish our eligibility!!!

This time of year we remind everyone about the TD Bank Affinity program. Anyone with a TD Bank account can designate the MHS as their Affinity partner and the Bank will make a donation based on the average aggregated annual balance of the participants.

Thanks to all of you that have already designated us. We can always use additional members. The more participants and the more we save, the greater the donation from TD Bank.

THIS QUARTER IN MONTGOMERY HISTORY

Pudvah diaries

January: 1917 - Scarlet Fever outbreak. Kids quarantined at home.

February: 1902 - Entertainment given at the Hall with Victrola talking machine.

March: 1895 - Kiss Party at Henry Baker's.

2019 MEMBERSHIP WRAP UP

2019 was another good membership year. We came up short of our goal of 200 members again, but exceeded our \$10,000 goal for membership donations. These operating funds pay for upkeep of Pratt Hall, and programs like Candles and Carols, our Memorial Day commemoration, our scholarships, and more. Thank you for joining and supporting these activities.

Our 2020 drive will begin in late March but you can join, or renew, anytime online by clicking the Membership link on our home page. You can use any credit card (processed by Paypal) or your personal Paypal account by clicking the Donate button and following the prompts.

HOLIDAY WEEKEND

On December 21st Pratt Hall was host to our third "Holiday Happiness" celebration. MHS's Sue Wilson teamed with the Library, and the Northwest Counseling and Support Services - Family Center, for an event that included face painting, an interactive nature display and craft with Kurt Valenta, cocoa and cookies, and horse drawn wagon rides from the Hall to the Comstock bridge and back by Misty Meadows Draft Horses from Fairfield. Our thanks to the Montgomery Fire Department for delivering Santa and traffic control. Santa listened to toy requests and handed out candy canes. Our thanks to all involved in this wonderful community celebration.



HOLIDAY WEEKEND (CONT)

On December 22nd the Society hosted it's annual Candles and Carols community sing-a-long, an event that's been going on for over 25 years! Steve Hays led the caroling segments, Kathleen McCloskey-Scott's Ballet Arts students performed an excerpt from the Nutcracker and Jay Farnham reprised "The Night Before Christmas". Warm cider and Parma's cookies topped off the evening. Thanks to all.

Thanks also to Noela McGroarty and Marijke Dollois for decorating the Hall again. This year's decoration theme was silver and gold.



LAME CANDLES AND CAROLS JOKES

How do the Fiber Folk say Merry Christmas?
Fleece Navidad.

What do you call a reptile hanging from the ceiling?
Mistletoad.

What's the difference between Santa's reindeer
and a knight?

One slays the dragon, and the other's draggin' the
sleigh.

HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS

Windham had the largest population in the 1790 census. Addison County had the smallest population in the 1790 census.

Windham	17,693	Windsor	15,748
Rutland	15,565	Bennington	12,254
Orange	10,529	Chittenden	7,301
Addison	6,449		

What is now Franklin County was part of
Chittenden County.



Montgomery Historical Society
P.O. Box 47
Montgomery, VT 05470
www.montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org

Thanks for your support



Santa and Sandra All Aboard