



Union Church
1835
St. Bartholomew's
1897
Pratt Hall
1977

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

History Quiz:

1. According to the 1896 Town Report there was a controversy over the school budget.

There were 10 schools in Town then. What was the controversial issue?
a. Books b. Merging
c. Testing d. Child labor

2. According to the 1936 VT Conservation and Development Dept. "Vermont Tours" book.

How much milk did Vermont provide for Boston, MA.?

a. 28% b. 35%
c. 52% d. 60%

Ah Spring in Montgomery! As I slowly navigated the most recent mud season roads I couldn't help but reflect on how things have changed since we moved here full time over 25 years ago. Back then mud season was in April, not November, December, January, February and March too. The road crew didn't need to haul stone or use a bulldozer.

At our house TV reception was limited to four channels if the aerial was oriented correctly. Two channels were in French. The phone company wasn't sure about this internet thing but we had a second line installed to service our dial up modem anyway. The Post Office didn't deliver to our address since we were too far away but provided a PO Box for free in town.

History can be personal, only a generation or two away. Sometimes we don't recognize it when we see it. Eventually there was cell phone coverage, satellite TV, DSL and satellite internet in Montgomery, and yes there are still pockets where not much has changed.

As I watched the silo at Begnoche's farm being extended into the sky and new cell phone antennas added I thought back to the turn of the 20th century when cars, electricity, and telephone lines were finding their way into everyday life in Montgomery. What a heady time that must have been, but who then could have imagined our present? What does the future hold for us? When will I be able to summon a flying taxi to whisk me to my doctor's appointments?

At the Society we are trying to record and preserve those bits of our shared heritage for future generations. We are ramping up efforts to better catalog, store, and exhibit those items that tell our community's story. There is an update on this project in this newsletter. We will keep you informed of our progress. We will need your help.

As always, thank you for your support.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
DUE MAY 1ST

Applications for our annual Dr. Winston Lewis Memorial Scholarship and the Joe and Irene Scott Memorial Scholarship are due May 1st. All graduating Montgomery seniors going on to future education or training are eligible. This includes technical training, e.g. CDL, as well as college. Applications and related information were mailed to Montgomery seniors in January and are also available from our web site.

2023 TOWN REPORT INPUT

For this year's report we provided a two-page article expanding on the article we wrote for the Vermont Historical Society's "History In The 252" project. The subject was the major role the mills in Montgomery played in the Town's settlement. Butter tubs put Montgomery on the map.

MCA "SKIING THROUGH TIME"

The Montgomery Center For The Arts (formerly the Community Baptist Church) is exhibiting items and ephemera related to skiing in the area. MHS supported the display with loans from our archives. It's noon to 4:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays through April 14th.

THIS QUARTER IN MONTGOMERY
HISTORY

April 1974: Kilgore Trout's Saloon "Grand Closing".

May 1802: First Postal Service comes from Lowell via Hazen's Notch Rd.

June 1950: AWOL soldier, Pvt Hugh McClaren taken into custody at his sister's in Montgomery.

MEMBERSHIP 2024

Our annual membership drive went into the mail in early March. We send it to every Montgomery property owner and past members, and friends.

Benefits of membership include our newsletters, savings on our books and gift items, and the satisfaction you are giving to a great local organization making direct contributions to our community, whether programs at Pratt Hall, scholarships, or our archives.

Our annual goal is 200 memberships but the more the better. Anyone can join or renew via our web site page if you prefer it over mail.

2024 MHS EVENTS AND PROGRAMS,
SO FAR

Memorial Day Commemoration: We are still trying to arrange this. **TENTATIVELY** May 26th at noon at the Upper (newer) Montgomery Center cemetery. We will email you updates.

Annual Meeting: Date TBD but usually in later June.

Farmers Market: Year seven of our Farmer's Market will begin June 29th and run through September 28th, every Saturday from 9:30 to 1:00 pm. We've adjusted the hours and dates based on input from vendors and customers. We can always use additional vendors so if you are interested in vending please contact Patty Perl (326-2176) or Elsie Saborowski (326-4558).

We hope to add additional events and plan to host our holiday events as before.

IN MEMORIAM

Pratt Hall served, and will serve, as the venue for memorials and celebrations of life for two wonderful ladies and Society members. Lorraine St. Onge's service was March 15th. Her family eulogy focused on her laugh and spirit of fun and love. Melinda Swearingen's service will be April 20th. Her cheery presence on Main Street in the Center will be missed. Our condolences to their loved ones.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

We continue to discover gems from our collection as we catalog our holdings.

Our last newsletter's quiz noted there were four people born in our town on Wikipedia's Montgomery page. Here is a picture of one, Homer Wheeler, from our archives.



The photo below was probably taken by Betty Stanton's father, William Monroe, circa 1950. It shows a group on a winter photography outing near the Hectorville covered bridge. Impressive snow banks and one lane!



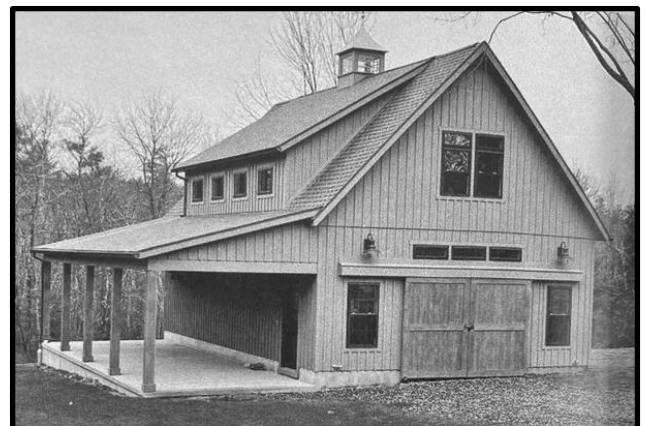
A recent donation included this 1828 half penny. It was part of 1950s Town Clerks, William and Roseanne Ariel's artifacts.



ARCHIVES BUILDING COMMITTEE (ABC)



We began meeting twice a month in February to start moving the ball towards a new Archives Building. We plan to demolish our dilapidated building on Deuso Street (above) and replace it with a weather tight, energy efficient structure on approximately the same footprint as the existing building. The goal is to provide safe storage for our growing collection of Montgomery's past, and limited exhibit and work space. At this point we're thinking the exterior will be based on a carriage barn design. The church had a small barn in this area at one time. Artist concepts follow.



This will be a heavy lift for us and we welcome your ideas and support. Stay tuned for details.

HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. a. Books. The State now required the schools to provide text books to each student free of charge.
2. d. 60% According to the 1936 VT Conservation and Development Dept. "Vermont Tours" book. How much milk did Vermont provide for Boston, MA.?



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