



Artifacts and Fiction

The Montgomery Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter
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Chairman's Message: An Elephant in the Room?

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. How many of the 34 original grantees of land in Montgomery ever visited or lived in Town?

a. 0 b. 3 c. 7 d. 11

2. How long did original grantees have to establish residency.

a. 6 months b. 1 year
d. 2 Years d. 3 years

3. How many acres did each original grantee receive?

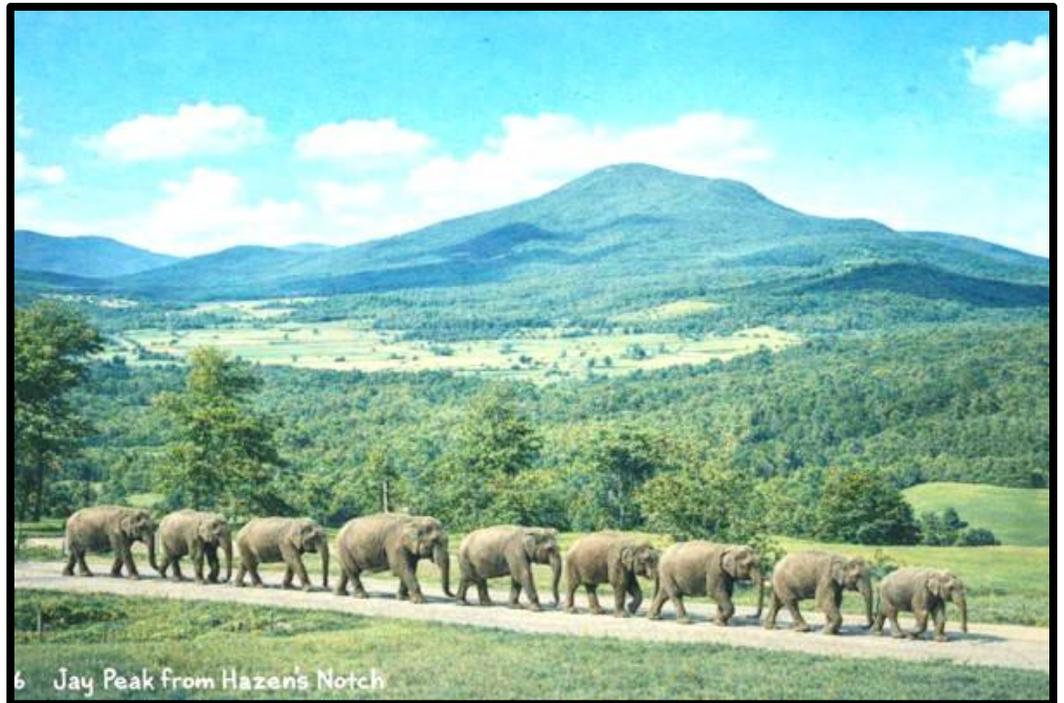
a. 150 b. 260
c. 380 d. 520

Recently you may have noticed a familiar face on the Town Report cover. The co-conspirators responsible used Microsoft's AI Co-Pilot to swap out the background of a magnet laden refrigerator and replace it with a blueberry bush. Thank god they stopped there, although some hair would have been nice.

Since then I've been trying it out with other photos from the MHS archive to see what's possible and I've been impressed. It can really sharpen and repair old photos (see article below) but it can, and often does, make mistakes. It's easy to see how it could be misused or even abused.

So we've been thinking about AI ethics. At the very least we will make it clear if the images we use have been modified using AI, but we believe it holds potential for enhancing our research and understanding of our history.

Thanks for your support,



Hannibal Crossing Hazen's Notch
Elephants added using Microsoft Co-Pilot

2026 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 and their guidance counselors in late March and are also available from our web site.

This year there are 15 Montgomery seniors eligible. Each of the scholarships is for one year and normally \$1,000. Since 1989 the Society has awarded nearly \$27,000 in these grants to 59 graduates.

RESEARCH KUDOS

Member Don Crocker contacted us with some questions and answers about Montgomery's earliest land grantees and settlers. He was able to determine Hannah Clark (of brook name) was a daughter of Gov. Thomas Chittenden. She lived and died in Castleton, VT. Both were original grantees but never came to Montgomery and ceded their rights back to the State of Vermont, along with the other 32 original grantees.

Montgomery lots, and others in Vermont, were then re-granted, or sold, to raise money to pay New York for settling disputed territory claims.

Don also determined that Montgomery's first settler, Joshua Clapp, was wounded at the Battle of Saratoga. Clapp originally acquired the lots of John Fasset at a State public auction, or vendue, in 1791, and came to Montgomery in the Spring of 1793. He subsequently acquired the lots of Hannah Clark in 1803 bringing his holdings to over 670 acres.

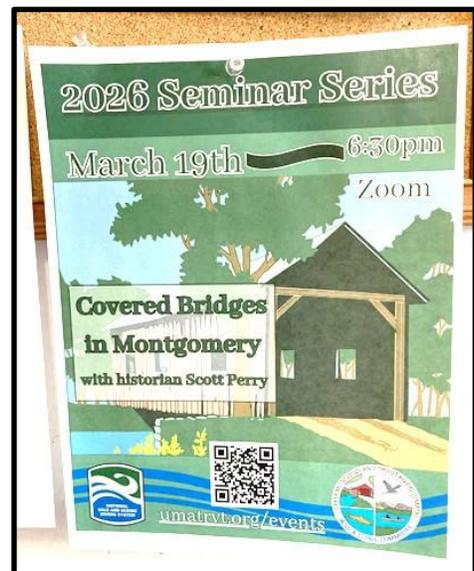
MEMBERSHIP

Our annual membership drive will go into the mail this month. We send it to every Montgomery property owner and past members, and friends, close to 600 letters. Not to be confused with our Home for History Capital Campaign letter earlier this year, these donations are used to fund our operations and maintenance activities as well as programs, like speakers and scholarships.

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.

Wide participation is vital. 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. THANK YOU!

UPPER MISSIQUOI AND TROUT RIVER WILD
AND SCENIC RIVERS (UMATR WSR)
SEMINAR



We presented our updated "History of Montgomery's Covered Bridges" for the UMATR WSR seminar series on March 19th. The covered bridges were considered "outstandingly remarkable values" which supported the federal Wild and Scenic River designation in 2014. They recorded our Zoom presentation and plan to post it on their website, umatrvt.org.

AI PHOTO TRANSFORMATION

2025 TOWN REPORT INPUT

For this year's report we shared an article about a shoe box of papers and postcards that belonged to J.C. Hutchins who owned the tub mill south of the Center and a store. The stash was found in the closet of a home he once owned. The materials range from 1890 to 1910, the heyday of Montgomery butter tub mills. The article is also on our web site.

HOME FOR HISTORY UPDATE

Thanks to all of you who made a special donation in response to our February Capital Campaign mailing. Your nearly \$10,000 was matched. There is still \$30,000 available for additional matches effectively doubling your contributions.

Fundraisers include a "Christmas in July" booth at the Farmers market, and a Calcutta (dinner and lottery) on Oct 3rd. Calcutta tickets will be on sale at our Farmers Market booth and be available from any MHS Board member. You can call Sue Wilson for additional information at 802-326-4189.

In the meantime we've applied to Senators Welch and Sanders for federal grant money from the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities program. Previously known as "earmarks" these Congressionally Directed Spending Requests (CDSR) will be available in October if approved. It's a long shot but worth trying.

We've salvaged some of the lumber from the Deuso Rd building and are eager to get the demolition going. St. Onge Construction will be doing the work and is generously donating time and services. Unfortunately some asbestos floor tiles were found during a pre-demolition inspection so we are on hold. Eventually the building will come down and the cellar hole will be filled and the site left safe.

We have the required State Fire Safety review and permit. Construction will need to start in the next 12 months.

We've had initial discussions with a local builder and have been penciled into his schedule starting construction this fall and continuing through the Winter.

PAVER BRICKS

We're taking orders for more engraved paver bricks and hope to do another installation soon. They're a great way to honor a loved one or express yourself in other ways, like a haiku, or a good pun. You can order on line.

Original



AI Refined



2026 MHS EVENTS AND PROGRAMS, SO FAR

"Zack Night" at the Inn: April 18th. We are providing a few items from our collection of Zack holdings for display at the Inn on April 18th.

LLHSM Annual Conference: "How History Works", May 8th at the St. Albans Museum. Awards and workshops sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society.

Memorial Day Commemoration: We are still trying to arrange this. TENTATIVELY Sunday, May 24th at noon at St. Isidore's Cemetery. Roll Call, Military Honors. We will email you updates.

Vermont Historical Society (VHS) "50 for 250": June 25th. VHS Member preview of the VHS exhibit of 50 objects related to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Farmers Market: Year nine of our Farmer's Market will begin June 27th, skip July 4th, and resume July 11th through October 17th. Saturdays from 9:30 to 1:00 pm. We can always use additional vendors so if you are interested in vending please contact Patty Perl (326-2176) or Elsie Saborowski (326-4558).

Annual Meeting: June 28, 2:00 pm at Pratt Hall. For MHS members and guests. Annual Report, champagne and just desserts.

2nd Annual VT Covered Bridges Week Aug 1st - 8th: Help us celebrate at the Farmers Markets on August 1st and 8th. We'll provide a short, updated presentation on the history of Montgomery's covered bridges and why we're the Covered Bridge Capital of Vermont. Free pamphlets with maps provided. Vermont Covered Bridge Society will have a booth too.

HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. a. None of the original 34 ever came to Montgomery.
2. d. Grantees had just over 3 years to establish residency.
3. c. Each received about 380 acres.

THIS QUARTER IN MONTGOMERY HISTORY

- April 1984: Parker Store (Village) burns down. Now site of the MHS Farmers Market.
- May 1887: Grand Army of the Republic Post 95 formed.
- June 1894: Lottie Baker kills her four children. Reported in national news.

Thank you for supporting the Montgomery Historical Society



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Thanks to the following businesses for their 2025 membership and support. Let them know you appreciate their civic mindedness by your patronage.

4C's Construction ~ Black Lantern Inn ~ Breezy Acres Farm
Community Bank N.A. ~ Community National Bank ~ Crafty Lil' Gift Shop
David Howe Memorial Library ~ Lucky Dog Maple ~ Lutz's Automotive
Manosh Properties LLC ~ N.A. Manosh Inc. ~ Phineas Swann B&B
Sherm D. Potvin Consulting ~ Sunset Motor Inn ~ The Inn ~ The Bellry