



July 2010  
Number 23

# Artifacts and Fiction

Montgomery Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 47

Montgomery, VT 05470

e-mail: [pratthall@gmail.com](mailto:pratthall@gmail.com)

[www.montgomeryvt.us/mhs.htm](http://www.montgomeryvt.us/mhs.htm)

## 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:

1. How many school districts were there in Montgomery in 1865?

a.1 b. 7 c. 11 d. 17

2. How many students were there in 1865?

a. 99 b. 234

c. 365 d. 438

At the Annual Meeting in 2009 I remember jumping up and down and shouting "free money" to exhort members with savings and checking accounts at TD Bank to designate the Society their TD Affinity partner. If we could get 50 members to do so we would qualify for a donation from the bank of at least \$500. The bank uses a formula based on the average 12 month balance of all those Affinity members so it's possible to receive even more but we had no expectations beyond the \$500 minimum.

Fast forward to June 2010 and we were literally stunned to learn TD Bank would be donating over \$7,800 dollars for our first annual donation. The MHS was the only Vermont non-profit to receive a check under the TD Bank Affinity program and was ranked in the top twenty of all donations given by TD Bank in the U.S.! During a lunch at Pratt Hall, I thanked TD Bank Senior Vice President, Leslie Di Luigi, and stressed this donation would make a huge impact on our work. (I also asked her for help to change the program so we could include our members with Canadian accounts.)

We need to keep our Affinity numbers up if we are to remain eligible for the program in future years. If you are already our Affinity Program partner, thank you. You don't need to do anything to remain in the program. If you are not, please consider joining up. If you are already a TD Bank account holder, or are willing to open an account, and are willing to designate the Society please call or visit your nearest TD Bank branch, or call Sue Wilson, 933-2116.

A big thank you to ALL of our members. We have lots of challenges ahead as we begin some major restoration and repair. We couldn't do it without you.

*Scott*

## 2010 Annual Meeting

Our fun filled and informational Annual Meeting was attended by about 40 members and guests. We enjoyed Parma's delicious food, exhibits, conversation, reports, and jokes... Information disseminated included the:

### Membership Report as of Jun 24, 2010

Membership so far - 160  
New Members - 8  
Business Members - 13  
Membership Donations - \$7,620  
Average Donation - \$48  
Median Donation - \$25  
Slightly ahead of last year at this time

### Treasurer's Report as of Jun 23, 2010

Cash on Hand  
Checking - \$ 10,708.28  
Lalia Pratt Hays Scholarship CD - \$590.55  
Capital Improvements CD - \$ Transferred  
Stained Glass Window Fund CD - \$5,747.41  
Domina Print Fund Raiser - \$276.53  
Liabilities  
Line of credit loan - **\$0, Zilch, Nada!**

### State of our Society is VERY good.

Metrics include:  
More Awards  
Membership #s & \$s steady  
**NO Debt**  
Savings & Participation Steady  
Acquisitions Increasing  
Are We Having Fun???

Challenge - Keep doing what we are doing and make major structural repairs to Pratt Hall. We need a major grant(s).

## Memorial Day 2010

The Society hosted its 16th annual Memorial Day commemoration on May 31st. About 35 people listened to this years' speaker, Lt Commander, Mary Carol Mankin, USN. Her duty included the aircraft carrier, USS Nimitz, and 4 separate deployments to the Persian Gulf. Thanks to her, and to American Legion Post 42, Parma Jewett, Tim Chapin, and Sally Newton for making it a very nice remembrance.

## School Days Exhibit

Kudos to Bill and Margaretta Branthoover for the latest compilation and historical analysis of Montgomery's schools and school districts. (It's on our web site under the History link). We used it as a point of departure to put together a small exhibit for the Annual Meeting and will keep it together for the summer and fall. It includes a 20 X 30 inch photo reproduction of the 1871 Beers Atlas map of Montgomery with the districts colored. We hope to offer the exhibit to the school as well.

## Eastman Charitable Foundation

As I write this the Society has paid off the remaining loan incurred by the purchase of the neighboring Heaton property in 2005. This closes the transaction which cost the Society \$45,000. **We are now debt free** and have enough money pledged and in our general fund to cover the \$7,500 match for the Vt Div. for Historic Preservation Grant for the front entry / vestibule foundation project.

In that regard, we owe a big Thank You to Steve and William Hays for their support of our request to the Eastman Charitable Foundation which will be donating nearly \$5,000 to the Society over the next three years to help finance this project.

All of you should take great pride in these accomplishments. Your continuing enthusiasm and support of our work were (and remain) critical to every success.

## Recent Accessions, Thanks To:

Steve Ferriole for a copy of a civil war photo of his relative John Manosh.

Douglas Butler for photos, postal ledgers from the Parker Store and other Parker ephemera, and a decorative cloth from his mother's engagement party. Mr. Butler, whose grandfather was Carlos Parker, let us do an oral history interview while he was here too. His family owned the Village store, the house at the site of the Toy Factory, and both houses now on either side of Pratt Hall.

June Rosenburg who made a presentation of a tiny almanac and jar of receipts from the Parker Store at the Annual Meeting.

Much of this will be shown this summer and fall. We are thinking about putting together an exhibit on the Parker Store. Got any ideas? artifacts? stories?

## Scholarship Program

Kaitlin Deuso won the 2010 Lalia Pratt Hays scholarship awarded by the Montgomery Historical Society. The selection committee had another tough job this year, saying all the applicants were very competitive. Kaitlin plans to attend the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State College and major in Dairy Science.

## Concerts By The Common News

Steve Hays has confirmed three new artists for our 22nd season of "Concerts By The Common". They are:

July 17- Constitution Brass Quintet  
July 31- Peterman Jazz Quintet  
August 14 - Hewitt/McGuire Harp Flute Duo

All concerts are at Pratt Hall at 8:00p.m. Call Lutz Automotive (802) 326-4528 for advance tickets. Tickets are \$12 each (\$10 for MHS members). Purchase the entire series for \$30 (\$25 for MHS members). Discounts for groups of 10 or more are available. Tickets are also available at the door the evening of the performance.

Thanks to TD Bank, The Eastman Charitable Foundation, The VT Arts Council, and local sponsors and patrons for underwriting these VT and New England performers

## Art Show and Sale

The Board decided to cancel this year's Member Appreciation Art Show Reception, and the Show and Sale, due to the anticipated start of demolition on the front entry way. Depending on conditions we may open for tours and exhibits on the 28th, the same day as Harvestfest and several other local events.

## Town History Update

Jo Anne Bennett continues her work on an update to the Town history. Please contact her if you have thoughts on what she should cover or information on the major events in town since the early 90s. Thanks.



## 2010 Membership Campaign Reminder

Our membership count stands at 160 as I write this. If you haven't renewed yet, please take a moment to do so. You can print the necessary form from our web site if you can't find our March mailing. Thanks to all of you who have become members for 2010. Tell your friends about the good work we're doing and suggest they join you.

## Pratt Hall Bugs

We've found fresh signs of Powder Post beetles in the Tower and are consulting some experts on what we should do next. We will keep you updated.

## Pratt Hall Clock Update

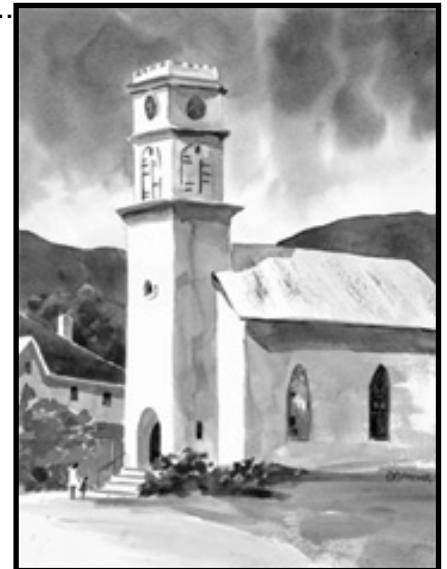
The clock is keeping time but it's not chiming the hour. We will continue our efforts to repair it.

We also need a new clock winder (aka Quasimodo). It needs to be wound once a week and we are willing to pay \$50.00 a month. Please contact a Director if you have any questions or are interested.

## Signed & Numbered Limited Edition Prints of Pratt Hall By Michael Domina Still Available

The prints can be purchased for \$50.00, see Elsie at Lutz's. Postage and shipping, if required, will be additional. As a special incentive the Artist In Residence/Village Frame Shoppe, in Enosburg is offering 25% off on custom backing, matting, and framing for this print...

Or you can test your luck in our summer raffle. Tickets will be for sale for \$2.00, or 6 for \$10.00, at the Concerts and at Lutz's Automotive with the drawing being held at the conclusion of the August 14<sup>th</sup> performance.



## Web Site Update

We're always adding content to the Society web site. New additions include: Histories of all the Montgomery Churches. History of Montgomery Schools, a copy of the 1871 Beers Atlas map of Montgomery, a new About Us page, and an updated Affinity Program page. As always we welcome your ideas.



## Montgomery History Quiz Answer

1. c. Eleven. There had been 12 but District 7 was merged into Districts 2 and 9.

2. d. 438. This was the largest student population recorded, even though the highest Town census would be 1900 35 year later.



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