



Artifacts and Fiction

The Montgomery Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter

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Chairman's Message: Covered Bridges

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. Tariffs enacted after the war of 1812 had a major influence on Vermont. What commodity in particular was involved?
2. One of the Montgomery Schoolhouse Toys best sellers was a Midget Railway set. It had an engine, coal car, caboose and three single cargo boxcars. What was not the contents of the cargo boxcars?
a. Lemonade b. Pudding
c. Ice cream d. Maple syrup
3. Jay Peak opened in 1956 with one trail and one lift. It had two trails in 1957 and five in 1958. What year did the tram begin operating?
a. 1960 b. 1962
c. 1966 d. 1969

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) is organizing the first ever State "Covered Bridges Week". Gov. Scott signed a declaration making it August 2nd through the 9th. VCBS hopes this will become an annual event, spawn a greater awareness of the bridges, and also boost visitors similar to festivals in other states.

We contacted the VCBS and offered to help publicize it and have done so in our newsletters and on our web site. We will also post it on our sandwich board in July and our Facebook page. The Town website and social media pages should have a blurb too.

We will present our "History of Montgomery's Covered Bridges" at 11:00am on both the 2nd and the 9th at Pratt Hall during our Farmer's Market, and hand out our pamphlet/map to the bridges. The VCBS will also have a booth at our Farmer's Market for at least one of those two days.

Montgomery had at least 11 of these bridges at one time and as Bill Brantover was fond of saying we were home to "the most of any town in the country, and the world". We are the self-proclaimed covered bridge capital of Vermont with five still standing and being used. A sixth is just over the town line in Enosburg but was built by Montgomery's Jewett brothers.

This is an opportunity for Montgomery to shine! Please share/forward and help get the word out.

Thank you, *Scott*

Also...Did you know the location of the Hectorville covered bridge on the Gibou Road now has a historic marker thanks to the efforts of Lynn and Peter Locher? Great work, thank you!



2025 SCHOLARSHIP

The winner of our annual Dr. Winston Lewis Memorial Scholarship was Chloe Decker. Chloe attended Enosburg Falls High School and the Cold Hollow Career Center and hopes to attend either Norwich University or Vermont State University and major in Psychology. We presented Chloe with a certificate, a copy of the Town history, and a \$1,000 check.

MEMORIAL DAY



This was the 31st year the MHS has organized and sponsored our annual Memorial Day commemoration. This year's took place at the Hill West cemetery. There are 290 veterans buried in Montgomery's cemeteries. Fourteen are interred at Hill West and were included in our Roll Call there. They served during the period spanning the Civil War to Vietnam.

We also acknowledge any veteran who has died in the last 12 months during the commemoration. This year we recognized Dale Davidson, who served in the Vietnam War era and Dick Bocian, who served in the Korean War era.

NEW MHS BOARD MEMBER

Abby Dixon-Boles has been helping us organize and archive our collection in recent weeks. She's having so much fun she's agreed to a stint on our Board. Abby received our 2021 scholarship and graduated from Sarah Lawrence college in New York. Welcome aboard.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE SO FAR...

Our annual membership drive is hitting the halfway mark. Reminder letters will be going out soon.

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.

Wide participation is vital. Our annual goal is 200 memberships. Join or renew via our web site page if you prefer it over mail. **THANK YOU!**

LEAGUE OF LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND MUSEUMS (LLHSM) AWARD



Pat Farmer and VHS President Jan Albers

Pat Farmer was recognized with an LLHSM Award of Excellence for his longtime support to the MHS at their Annual Meeting in May. There was lots of interest in his work on our archival data base and we've provided VHS with the software since then. It may be used by other Societies in the future.

Five MHS members attended the meeting. One theme was tomorrow's history is today, and what should we be doing to preserve those things that the people who follow us would need to know? Vermont during Covid was an example. VHS collected oral histories and recently published a book on the topic.

2024-25 JAY PEAK SNOW REPORT UPDATE

The 2024-25 season ended up ranking as the second most snow in a season in the last 21 years. Its 475 inch total was just 16 inches short of the 491 recorded in the 2016-2017 season.

NEW ACCESSIONS

We recently acquired a couple of gems for our collection. The first is this great circa 1900 photo of the newly rebuilt Nelson and Hall tub mill on the Hazen's Notch Rd. The mill had burned in 1896 but was quickly rebuilt. Notice the stone work and the road in the lower left of the photo.



The second is an early Montgomery Schoolhouse toy tanker truck. This contrasts with the many smaller and/or painted toys produced later.

NEW ARCHIVAL BUILDING UPDATE

Since the Town's approval of our project we've continued our work with Cross Consulting Engineers to finalize detailed plans including submitting State permits. We also had the existing septic system located, evaluated and pumped, and plan to use it but will move the building about 12 feet closer to Route 118 to meet State rules.

We plan to relocate the archives into the front (chancel) of Pratt Hall over the Summer, and make the Deuso Rd. building ready for demolition in the Fall. We hope to do site preparation and the slab in the Spring of 2026, followed by construction as funding allows. So far we've spent about \$11,000 dollars. We have raised a bit less than a third of the funds we will need. Your help is crucial.

Speaking of fund raising... Our raffle of Caroline Babcock's replica Civil War potholder quilt is close to ending. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Farmers Market on July 26th. You can purchase tickets at our [online store](#), via email, or in person at the Farmers Market.

2025 MHS EVENTS AND PROGRAMS, SO FAR

Farmers Market: Year eight of our Farmer's Market will began June 28th and will run through October 11th every Saturday 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).

MHS Annual Meeting: June 29, 1:30pm Social Time, 2:00pm Annual Report at Pratt Hall. For members and guests. "Just Desserts and Champagne". Kevin Graffagnino (Ira Allen and Vermontania) was guest speaker on "Why Vermont History Matters". We will update you in the October newsletter.

VT Covered Bridges Week: August 2nd through 9th. Help us celebrate Vermont Covered Bridge Week. We will be making presentations on the history of Montgomery's covered bridges and why we're the Covered Bridge Town on both the 2nd and 9th at 11:00am at Pratt Hall. Free pamphlets with maps provided. Vermont Covered Bridge Society will have a booth too.

Friends of the Library Speaker: September 8th at 6:00pm at Pratt Hall. Michael Tougias, "Extreme Survival: Lessons from Those Who Triumphed Against All Odds"

ZACK NIGHT AT THE INN



We put together a flash exhibit from our collection of Zack memorabilia. The dinner, based on some of Zack's recipes, was well attended and all enjoyed seeing the purple caftan, crown, sign, mail box and license plate, among other items.

HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Tariffs enacted after the war of 1812 had a major influence on Vermont. What commodity in particular was involved? British Wool.
2. One of the Montgomery Schoolhouse Toys best sellers was a Midget Railway set. It had an engine, coal car, caboose and three single cargo boxcars. What **was not** the contents of the cargo boxcars?
d. Maple syrup
3. Jay Peak opened in 1956 with one trail and one lift. It had two trails in 1957 and five in 1958. What year did the tram begin operating? c. 1966

THIS QUARTER IN MONTGOMERY HISTORY

July 1906: Cornerstone of the Catholic Church laid.

August 1975: Bill Branthoover delivers draft of the Town's first history for editing. It would be published in 1976 in time for the Bicentennial.

September 1896: Enosburg Telephone reports they have 45 subscribers. Also 7 "instruments" in Montgomery; 5 in the Village and 2 in the Center. Enosburg Standard.

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.
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The Inn ~ Lucky Dog Maple ~ Lutz's Automotive
Manosh Properties LLC ~ N.A. Manosh Inc. ~ Sunset Motor Inn