



# Artifacts and Fiction

The Montgomery Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter

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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

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## History Quiz:

1. Montgomery was the first town in our area to have settlers, 1793. Of our seven bordering towns, which was the next to have settlers?
  - a. Richford
  - b. Enosburg
  - c. Bakersfield
  - d. Westfield
2. In 1975 the Montgomery Schoolhouse Inc added two other products besides toys. What were they?
  - a. Dolls
  - b. Trail Groomers
  - c. Jewelry
  - d. Mapled Nuts
  - e. Wood Stoves

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE: *For the Love of Vermont*

I had the good fortune recently to visit the Vermont Historical Society's exhibit of Lyman Orton's collection of paintings of Vermont. Titled "For The Love of Vermont", it's a portion of his collection which largely focuses on works of Vermont's landscapes and common activities from the early 1900s through 1970 by many painters. His collection was a labor of love and meant to keep the paintings in, or repatriate them to, Vermont. The show was originally done at the Bennington Museum closer to Lyman's home in Weston where his family has run the Vermont Country Store for many years.

This show is reason enough to make a trip to Montpelier where it is being shown at the Vermont Historical Society Museum in the Pavilion Office Building (next to the Supreme Court and Capitol buildings), but the newly renovated other galleries are worth a gander too.

One space has been set aside for local historical societies to exhibit. The Pittsford Historical Society has a wonderful exhibit "A Century of Creative Women in Pittsford". We would like to exhibit there someday.



Our Society, among others, is acknowledged for making the VHS Local Gallery possible. Current exhibits are open through December.

Thanks for your support *Scott*

## **BIG EASY JAZZ**



Jon McBride's Big Easy filled Pratt Hall with a program of New Orleans style jazz on Friday the 13th in September. He drew on early Caribbean influences giving a short history of each composition. You could tell the band enjoyed the "room" and enjoyed playing outside Burlington for a change. The lucky and enthusiastic audience was treated to a spectacular show.

## **JAY CRAVEN'S "LOST NATION"**

In later September we partnered with the Friends of the Library to host film maker Jay Craven and the area premiere of "Lost Nation" at the Town Hall. The film was set in Vermont during the tumultuous period of the Revolutionary War. The film painted a complex story of conflicting interests and personalities based on real events in the lives of Ethan Allen and Lucy Terry Prince. Jay set the stage and answered questions afterwards.

## **REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE**

We received a request from a group interested in converting a local barn to a youth center. They hoped it might be a historic structure and thus eligible for preservation grants. While there has been a barn of some sort there since the 1800s the current structure dates to 1925 when it was rebuilt after a fire. It is not within a historic district.

We also received several requests for genealogical research assistance. While we don't have much family information in our archives we were able to pass a few bits along. In one case we had school photos that may help.

## **MEMBERSHIP 2024 SO FAR**

Looks like our membership numbers are going to fall short of our end of year goal of 200 but there's still time. Anyone can join or renew via our web site page, or if you prefer, regular mail.

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.

## **REMAINING 2024 EVENTS**

**October 12th:** Mini market on the Lawn at Pratt Hall for one last hurrah! Some of the Farmer's Market vendors will gather with some end of season offerings.

**October 30th:** Pratt Hall will host the Friends of the Library's Young Writers presentations and pizza party.

**December 1st,** 2:00 pm at Pratt Hall: Howard Coffin. "Vermont Women and the Civil War." With nearly 35,000 of the state's able-bodied men at war, the monumental tasks of keeping more than 30,000 farms in operation became very much a female enterprise. Told in their own words, from letters and diaries. Funded in part by the VT Humanities Council, the Friends of the Library and our Society.

**December 14th,** 9:00 - 3:00: Visit the MHS booth at the Montgomery Elementary School craft show and sale.

**December 21st,** Holiday Happiness 11:00 - 2:00 at Pratt Hall. Horse drawn wagon rides and Montgomery FD delivers Santa at noon.

**December 22nd,** 6:00 pm at Pratt Hall. Candles and Carols annual sing along.

## **PRATT HALL'S BELL**

While the bell at Pratt Hall has served the community well for over most of the last 150+ years, it's not the prettiest. This may have contributed to some well meaning graffiti by men that have worked on the building over time. Frank Pratt and Albert(?) Hubert signed it in 1932 after painting. Frank and L.S. Boardman signed it July 15th, 1941 while painting the building again. Other signatories include Bucky Hoss (1985), Dana Kennison (1989) and Tommy Patras (1994).

## **MEN WITH TOOLS**

### **2025 HISTORIC CALENDARS GET'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT!**

Our 2025 calendars are selling fast. You can get one at the Farmer's Market, the Town office, Lutz's, or online. We'll also have some at the MES Craft Show and Sale. They make a great gift!



Pat (Farmer) On A Hot Tin Roof

The tower clock is working again! Kevin (Quasimodo) Scheffler, Pat Farmer, John Kuryloski, and Scott Perry modified the weight chase to minimize friction, and lubricated and cleaned the time mechanism, called a train. It has been running smoothly since August. Fingers crossed!!

While in the tower we discovered several leaks in the roof where the posts extended through it to form the crenelated railing. A subsequent visit to the roof with roofing cement was a success.

We also made repairs to the entryway threshold and ramp. Our to-do list includes work on the interior and entryway lighting.

### **NEW ARCHIVAL BUILDING**

It took Montgomery's Episcopalians eight years to plan and build their church. It seems like we are on a similar time line.

We are making progress though, on a design and plans, and have published a pamphlet which will give you an idea of what we hope to build to safeguard and exhibit Montgomery's growing collection. Our consulting engineer is preparing documents we will need for reaching out to our neighbors and getting approvals from the Town. Our capital campaign will shift into high gear after we get the green light.

You can donate to our building fund anytime online on our "History 4 Sale" page.

### **MHS WEB SITE UPDATE**

We've added historic maps and map links to our site! Check them out.

### **FARMERS MARKET WRAPS UP... SORT OF**

Our last regularly scheduled farmers market was September 28th. It was our best year yet and we want to thank all of our vendors and customers for all your support.

Several vendors plan on one last date on October 12th so if you get his before then come on down!



### **GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY**

The "Friends of the Library" display on our town's namesake still adorns the common area walls of the Public Safety Building. The next time you're at the Town Offices or Library take a look.

## **HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. Montgomery was the first town in our area to have settlers, 1793. Of our seven bordering towns, which was the next to have settlers?  
c. Bakersfield 1794.
2. In 1975 the Montgomery Schoolhouse Inc diversified and added two other products to its lineup . What were they?  
b. Trail Groomers and c. Jewelry. They were produced in North Hyde Park and Massachusetts.

## **THIS QUARTER IN MONTGOMERY & VT HISTORY**

- October: 1829, Chester Arthur born.  
November: 1952, Crescent Theater purchased by Montgomery Grange #548  
December: 1978, First caroling program held in Pratt Hall

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT**



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Thanks to the following businesses for their membership and support. Let them know you appreciate their civic mindedness by your patronage. 2024 Business Members so far...

Black Lantern Inn ~ Community Bank N.A. ~ David Howe Memorial Library  
Ficoceillo Real Estate ~ Lucky Dog Maple ~ Lutz's Automotive ~ Manosh Properties LLC  
N.A. Manosh Inc. ~ Phineas Swann B&B ~ Sherman Potvin Consulting  
Sunset Motor Inn ~ The Inn