



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

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110 Years Ago in Montgomery History...

Every May the gears of government cycled to the issue of dogs. Local magistrates would issue a warrant to the Town Constable ordering him to find all unlicensed dogs and kill them, make a complaint against their owners or keepers, and make a report of such.

COLLECTIONS A SPECIALTY. **FRED R. CAMPBELL,**
ATTORNEY AT LAW.

MONTGOMERY CENTER, VT., July 27, 1906

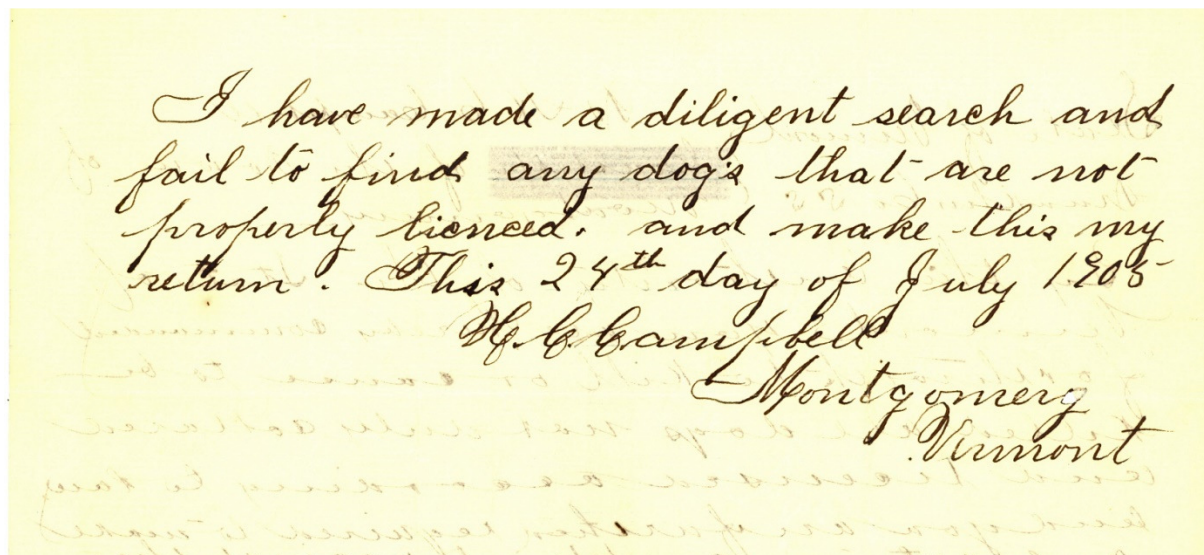
State of Vermont, } at Montgomery in said County this
Franklin County, ss. } 27th. day of July, 1906. I hereby
certify that on the 16th day of May, 1906, I issued to the
Constable of Montgomery Guy N. Rowley a warrant
directing him to find all unlicensed dogs in said
town and cause the same to be killed, also to make
complaint to the town grand jury of said town
against the owners or keepers thereof as provided
in Chapter 204 Vt. Statutes; said warrant was taken
and acted upon by said constable and returned
to me the 16th. day of July, 1906, with his returns
thereon endorsed, agreeably to the provisions of
said Chapter 204, Vt. Statutes.

To Warren R. Austin States Attorney, Franklin County. [24.]
H. O. Rowley
Chairman of Selectmen, Montgomery.

State of Vermont, } At Montgomery this 27th. day of July
Franklin County, ss. } 1906, H. O. Rowley personally appeared
and made oath to the foregoing affidavit by him
subscribed.

Before me, C. L. Martin, Notary Public.

This 1906 order was recently acquired from the St. Albans Museum. Another order for 1905 included the Constable's affidavit which was omitted from the 1906 warrant but was probably the same:



I have made a diligent search and fail to find any dogs that are not properly licensed. and make this my return! This 24th day of July 1905
H. C. Campbell
Montgomery
Vermont

40 Years Ago in Montgomery History...

The Center water system used the Hannah Clark Brook as its principal source. Water was piped down off the mountain and distributed to Center residents by gravity (head pressure). However, whenever the farmers had their cows in for milking, or out to pasture, they would cross the brook and stir up the mud and soil, and water system users would suffer the consequences. Some reported earthworms and other exotic things coming out of their fixtures. Many just learned to adjust their chores around the farmers' milking schedule. Eventually the State intervened and the operator, R. "Frenchy" Despres, was required to put in a chlorination station. Thanks in large part to the efforts of Hubert Daberer who was operating an inn and ski house, called the "Carinthia Inn" (today's "The Inn") that needed a safe and reliable water supply, a small hut was built near what is now the Public Safety Building which included a tank and chlorinator. (Mr. Despres bought the Montgomery Center Water Works from George G. and Alice E Wright in 1949. It served 95 customers and 7 fire hydrants)

The Center system operated until the early seventies when the State again intervened and mandated improvements to meet more strict health standards. The operator was unable to comply and so a group of citizens led by Gordon Cross and Rita Tatro embarked on a project that would give birth to the State certified Montgomery Center Water System. A group of users organized and each bought one share for \$25.00. They then bought the old system for one dollar and won a grant of just over \$600,000 to build a completely new water system. Ground was broken in 1974 and the cut over from the old system was done in 1977.

However, State testing on the old source in 1976 showed the Montgomery Center Water System had potential quality and health issues and notifications and other press were handled badly. The Selectboard, chaired by Merrill "Billy" Cabana, sent a protest by telegram to the Governor who responded with the following:

THOMAS P. SALMON
GOVERNOR



STATE OF VERMONT
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
MONTPELIER, VERMONT

April 1, 1976

Mr. Merrill Cabana, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
Montgomery Center, Vermont 05471

Dear Mr. Cabana:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your telegram on the Montgomery Water Situation.

I have carefully read the material sent to Montgomery officials by the state Department of Health and feel that the overwhelming evidence supports its decision to temporarily close down facilities in your area and warn the general public of possible hazards.

I can appreciate the concern of the business community with this publicity and wish some other method of alerting the general public could have been used. I feel the press sensationalized this state action, causing a great deal of embarrassment to all concerned.

At the same time, I cannot condemn the Department of Health for taking actions believed necessary to protect the general public. I regret the inconvenience this has caused the community.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Salmon".

Thomas P. Salmon

TPS/jj

(Where did one go to send a telegram in 1976?)

The Historical Society thanks the community for its continued support. Donations of photos and other artifacts from Montgomery's past are always welcome.

