Montgomery Historical Society
P.O. Box 47 Montgomery, VT 05470
pratthall@gmail.com
www.montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org

ABOUT US

The Montgomery Historical Society was formed in 1973 in a grass roots effort to save the Town's former Episcopal Church from demolition. This community landmark, initially completed in 1835, was Montgomery's first church. It underwent major improvements between 1870 and 1890 when stunning stained glass windows, a clock, bell, and Gothic details were added. The church was purchased by the newly formed Society for $1.00 in 1974.

Now on the National Register of Historic Places and renamed Pratt Hall, the Society carried on several major projects: including a new roof; removing the clock, bell, and top two sections of the tower steeple in 1976 and re-building them in 1985, cleaning and restoring the stained glass windows from 1990-1995, and making structural repairs since then. In 2010 the Society began preservation and structural work on the entry vestibule and bottom section of the tower. The project took three years. $135,000 of additional structural work on the west wall, including removal and restoration of its 3 stained glass windows, and 2 lancet clear windows, was completed in 2016.

While preservation and repair of Pratt Hall is the focus of much of what the Society does, we also have a limited capability to document, store, and exhibit the treasures of Montgomery's past. Our collection of objects, photos, and ephemera now numbers over 1,100 items and inspired us to start planning and fund raising for a new achive builing, A Home for History, in 2024.

The Society published a Town history in 1976 and an updated second edition in 1991. A third edition was published in 2014, adding over 100 pages of new material. Small scholarship grants are awarded annually to two Montgomery high school seniors. The Society also boasts an award winning web site, that's chock full of information and is part of our outreach mission, and participates in regional and State history meetings. In the future, the Society hopes to add to our archives and mount more frequent exhibits.

All of this is the result of generous support from our membership, community, and a dedicated group of volunteers led by our Board of Directors. Since 2007 membership has averaged nearly 185 house-holds/businesses, and the Society has won over a dozen Vermont Historical Society / League of Local Historical Societies and Museums awards for excellence.

We have been awarded two grants from the Preservation Trust of Vermont, two from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, one from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and one from the 1772 Foundation also since 2007 to help fund restoration and repairs.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Become a member. Beside the satisfaction of contributing to a great, local cause, membership includes newsletters, discounts, and more.

- Volunteer time, services or materials, or donate cash.

- Donate artifacts from Montgomery's history. Tell us your story.

- Designate the MHS as a beneficiary in your will or trust.

- Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA.

- Transfer (donate) stock, mutual fund, or bonds securities.

The **Mission** of the Historical Society is to enhance the Town of Montgomery and the knowledge of its history by preserving the past, exploring the present, and preparing for the future.

The **Purpose** of the Montgomery Historical Society is to:

- **Preserve Pratt Hall**, structures, artifacts and memorabilia of historical interest to residents of the Town of Montgomery and friends of the area;

- **Provide a venue** for local exhibits and for artists and artisans to share their talents;

- **Sponsor programs that foster knowledge** of the history and heritage of the Town and State, preserve town history, and foster cultural events and a sense of community;

- **Annually award scholarships** to a graduating high school senior (12th grade) from Montgomery going on to post-high school education as funds allow.

All programs are available to the general public.

Why not join us?

Fill out the form below and mail it with a check, or visit our home page and click the Membership link. Online membership donations can be made with a credit card or by direct PayPal transfer.

Questions? Please email us. Thank You!

Montgomery Historical Society
Membership & Donation Form

Yes! I want to join or renew my membership, or make a donation, to help continue the programs of the Montgomery Historical Society.

___$25 ___$50 ___$100 ___$150 ___$200 ___$250 Other:_____

Name:_____
MailingAddress:_____
_____
Email:_____
Phone:_____

The MHS is a 501.c.3 tax exempt non-profit organization.