

Who was the original owner of your property?

If you've read the 1780 Montgomery Town Charter you will have seen a list of individuals to whom land was granted, the original owners. They included Governor Thomas Chittenden and State Surveyor Ira Allen (no conflict of interest there!). There is no evidence that any of the grantees ever visited or lived in Montgomery. Rather the land was sold, (or sometime awarded to Revolutionary War veterans for service as was the case for Joshua Clapp), and then subdivided, or combined, and over time evolved into the present day boundaries approximated by the Tax Map.

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Based on the map and the 1837 review by the County Surveyor, Joseph Beeman, Montgomery was originally a square containing roughly 25,000 acres divided into 12 lots wide by 12 lots long.

Each of the lots was approximately ½ mile square and totaled almost 171 acres. Fourteen of the lots were further subdivided into 65 smaller lots generally about 37 acres each.

Lots were organized into two divisions of large lots and one division of three tracts of the smaller lots. Each grantee was awarded two of the larger lots and one of the smaller lots, not adjoining, for a total of about 379 acres. Other lots were set aside for the benefit of the town, and state schools/university, and the first minister/ministry. This early map has the names of the grantees written in each lot where there is room.

The lotting map was put together and lots were granted without regard to topography. For example a lot to benefit the State university was in Hazen's Notch, and a lot to benefit the first Town ministry was in the Deep Gibou.

The map on the next page is based on a hand drawn copy of the original lotting map commissioned by the Selectmen in 1898. Drawn by surveyor F.H. Dewart, it shows lands added to the southern regions of Montgomery by the State legislature making it look a lot like Montgomery's modern boundaries. None of the lots of Montgomery's southern panhandle, lands formerly belonging to Lowell and Avery's Gore, were included in the original charter grants.

The alphabetical listing of grantees and the coordinates of their large lots was added on the right. The small lots were simply numbered and are shown in the far right column of the list. Lot 30 is split between three locations.

We've overlaid Montgomery's contemporary road system onto this map. If you know the approximate location of your land in relation to the roads shown, you will be able to tell who originally was granted, or owned, your property in 1789 when the legislature approved the charter. This map is only an approximation.



