



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

Artifacts and Fiction

The Montgomery Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter

P.O. Box 47

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www.montgomeryhistoricalsociety.org

April 2020

Number 62

Scott Perry, Chairman

Bill McGroarty, 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 Oct – Apr

Montgomery History Quiz:

According to the 1939
report of "Agricultural Trends
in Montgomery, Vermont"
(UVM Extension Service),
the number of cattle
between 1890 and 1935
held steady from 1,300 -
2,700, but the ratio
dramatically shifted to milk
cows from meat stock and
oxen.

1. The number of horses
in town between 1860 and
1935 remained between

- a. 200-300 b. 400-500
c. 600-700 d. 800-900

2. The number of sheep
increased or decreased?

3. The number of hens
increased or decreased?

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As I write this I note that Montgomery is now light blue on the State's "positive cases" map, indicting between 1 and 5 cases. COVID -19 has forced us to do things differently and cancel a number of programs and events:

We were able to award scholarships and make repairs to our front entrance.

We canceled our Memorial Day ceremony but nearly every Board member was present to place a wreath at the Village Green monument.

We held back our membership mailing until late May.

The Farmers Market was canceled for want of vendors.

Our Annual Meeting and dinner looks doubtful.

We may host a small wedding in August. Another wedding in October has been postponed for a year.

Our painting project is on track and we should see the building's exterior renewed in August and September.

The Board has had two Zoom meetings and will probably have more.

We will adapt and move forward. We appreciate your understanding and patience. This newsletter contains our Annual Report of the State of our Society which is normally given at a June meeting. As always we appreciate your membership support and will work to keep our organization strong. Stay safe and positive.

Scott

PRATT HALL PAINTING PROJECT UPDATE

We were awarded a \$10,000 painting grant! Probably starting in August the entire exterior of Pratt Hall will be scraped, then primed, then given two coats of finished paint by Precision Coatings of Vermont. This will be the first time the entire building has been painted since 2006. The grant amounts to about one third the anticipated cost.

This project was assisted by a preservation grant made possible by a partnership between the 1772 Foundation and the Preservation Trust of Vermont. Thank you!

PRATT HALL ENTRY REPAIRS

Jay Day and crew finished the new entry work as weather and COVID restrictions allowed. Four damaged engraved bricks were replaced and eight new bricks were added to the walkway. A new railing by Steve Hathaway will be added comparable to the previous one. The upper wheelchair ramp is now raised by a drill powered jack.



HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The number of horses in town between 1860 and 1935 remained between 200-300, even as cars began to become more common.

2. The number of sheep decreased 96%, with only 50 remaining in 1935.

3. The number of hens increased 56% to nearly 2,000 in 1935.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FINALLY UNDERWAY

Hopefully you have received our annual membership reminder letter. You can renew / join online anytime.

Revenue from membership dues is the life blood of our Society. Dues and donations fund our operating costs (e.g. heat, water, power, insurance, grounds), and our programs (e.g. preservation, speakers, concerts, holiday events)

THANK YOU!

WREATH PLACED IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY



Village Green Veterans Monument

THIS QUARTER IN MONTGOMERY HISTORY

July 1881: Montgomery's Catholic Parish established.

August 1954: Montgomery Fire Department organized.

September:

1910: Telephone service established by a line between the Center and the Village.

1973: First officers of the newly organized Montgomery Historical Society elected.

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report the death of Tony Peters in late April. He and Sue, a former Board member, were strong Society supporters and attended many MHS events. Donations can be made to the Montgomery Library in his memory.

Also long time member Carol Kremer left us in late April. She and husband Herman were regulars at our summer concerts and holiday events. Contributions in her memory may be made to the "Carol Usher Kremer Memorial Fund" for the School of Social Work c/o McGill University.

Finally, Wenda Restall, wife of MHS president and board member emeritus Steve Hays, died suddenly in June. She suffered a heart attack while working in her garden in Montgomery. Plans for a memorial service are on hold due to the Corona virus. Contributions in her memory can be sent to the Drama Studio or New England Public Radio, both in Springfield, MA.

Our condolences to all families and friends in this sad time.

DONATIONS

Our thanks to George and Mary Roberts for donating photos, books, and ephemera related to the Parker family and store in Montgomery Village. Also to Cathie Paradee for donating a pair of pillow cases decorated by Montgomery's Marion Towle.

ODDS AND ENDS

We are told we will be featured in the Preservation Trust of Vermont's first ever Annual Report. We are also standing by to support a local author working on a book on the hidden history of Franklin County.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

It was very competitive this year. Noah Sorin (below) was selected for the Lalia Pratt Hays/Amy Booth Meyers scholarship. He plans to attend Boston University. Lydia Bowen was selected for the Joe and Irene Scott scholarship. She plans to attend the University of Rhode Island. Congratulations to both and to their moms and dads too.





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Thanks for your support.

We hope this newsletter is a pleasant diversion from all the mayhem and stress visited on us all by the COVID 19 virus.. Take care, Scott



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2020 Annual Report

June 24, 2020

As I write this 16 new cases of Covid-19 have been reported in the State and we have cancelled all MHS events including our normal Annual Meeting held in June. We are providing this written report in lieu of that meeting's annual business report and still hope to have an in person gathering when circumstances permit.

In Memorium

We mourn the passing of four great friends since last year's report, Tony Peters, Carol Kremer, Winston Lewis, and Wenda Restall. We thank them and their families for their support and the many fond memories of time together.

Scholarships

This year Noah Sorin was awarded the Lalia Pratt-Hays / Amy Booth-Meyer scholarship and Lydia Bowen was awarded the Joe and Irene Scott scholarship.

2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

MONTGOMERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of Annual Meeting
Pratt Hall, Montgomery
Friday, June 21, 2018 @ 6:00 PM

THESE ARE THE UNOFFICIAL MINUTES UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

Board Members and Members present:

Board Members – Scott Perry, Bill McGroarty, Marijke Dollois, Elsie Saborowski, Bob Cummins, Pat Farmer, Patty Perl, John Kuryloski

Scott called the Meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed everyone to the 45th Annual Meeting.

1. Recognition visitors/guests:

There were 54 members present, including Board Members.

2. Powerpoint presentation:

Scott welcomed everyone present followed by:

Review of by-laws and purpose of MHS

N. W. Clapp's Essay in Abby Hemenway's 1871 Historical Gazetteer:

*“Montgomery is...surrounded by mountains and hills on all sides,...Jay Mountain, on the east, is by far the most lofty of the range—the Peak ranging next to Camel’s Hump in the State, in altitude. It is sometimes resorted to by pleasure-seekers, but the distance is found to be **too far from civilization and carriage roads to have the pleasure amount to much.**”*

In Memoriam of long-time members:

Karl Fischer

Elizabeth Rawlinson – wife of Sidney Sundell

Florence Vavoudis – served in WW II in the Marine Corps

Scholarship:

Joe and Irene Scott Scholarship – Henry Haase

Lailia Pratt Hays – Amy Booth Meyers – Claire Ellis

Neither winners could attend as they were at orientation at their respective colleges in Boston. They will receive a check for \$500 each, a certificate and Town of Montgomery book.

2018 LLHSM Award Winner – Tim Murphy. He could not be present as he was celebrating his wedding anniversary. He will be hosting “Montgomery Stories” at Pratt Hall in the near future.

Minutes:

Steve Hays made a Motion, seconded by Bob Cummins to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2018 as written; Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer’s Report – 06/21/18:

Checking balance.....	\$ 6,409.00
Money Market Checking Account.....	\$ 39,760.00
Total:	\$ 46,169.00

Two pie-charts were shown to indicate visually of income and expenses by groups. The biggest expense is insurance.

Bill McGroarty made a Motion, seconded by Steve Hays to approve the Treasurer’s Report of June 21, 2019 as presented; Motion was unanimously approved.

Membership:

So far in 2019 123 members of which 6 new and 5 business partners for \$7,126.00 (**2018 total 180, 4 and 8 - \$11,321 respectively**).

Board of Directors:

The slate of officers presented:

Scott Perry, Chairman	John Beaty
Bill McGroarty, Vice Chairman	Elsie Saborowski
Marijke Dollois, Secretary	Sue Wilson
Pat Farmer	Patty Perl
Jo Anne Bennett	Bob Cummings
Tim Chapin	Andre LaBier
John Kuryloski	

Noela McGroarty made a Motion, seconded by Marsha Phillips to elect the slate of officers as presented; Motion passed unanimously.

Events/Activities overview for 2019:

- Memorial Day
- Northern Bronze Concert
- Farmers’ Market
- Buildings & Grounds
- Info/Research
- Holidays Programs

Brochures:

The MHS had 5,000 brochures on the covered bridges printed that will be distributed in the area to local businesses. Photographs were shown of the Jewett brothers, builders of the covered bridges; Scott also gave information about the lives.

Adjourn:

Scott thanked everyone present for their support.

Noela McGroarty made a Motion, seconded by Pat Farmer to adjourn at 6:30 P.M. Said motion passed unanimously.

49 of those present moved across the road to partake in a dinner at the Black Lantern Inn.

Respectfully submitted, Marijke M. Dollois

2020 Membership Report

						so far in	Last 5
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	full years \bar{x}
Total Memberships	201	181	197	180	181	91*	188
New	8	9	9	4	14	4	9
Business	14	14	8	8	12	6	11
Membership \$\$	\$11,705	\$10,542	\$10,997	\$11,321	\$10,316	\$5,610	\$10,976
Average Donation	\$58	\$58	\$56	\$64	\$56	\$62	\$62
Median Donation	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	50
Emails Addresses	140	180	180	190	150	150	168

* Membership drive delayed due to Covid-19.

2020 Treasurer's Report

Assets					
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Accounts/ Revenue					So far
General Fund / Checking	\$2,085	\$2,904	\$2,374	\$3,572	\$15,671**
Savings / CD / MMA	\$51,655	\$45,590	\$51,497	\$57,335	\$51,563
Total	\$53,740	\$48,494	\$53,871	\$60,907	\$67,234
Liabilities/ Debt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In Flows				\$33,504**	\$17,554**
Out Flows				\$11,503	\$11,228

** These figures are uncharacteristically large due to payment of insurance for our accident claim and 1772/PTV painting grant.

2020 Chairman's Report.

I believe the State of the Society, as reflected in the 2019 end of year numbers and early 2020 statistics, is strong. Our membership numbers remain steady, our revenues consistent and adequate to pay our bills, we sponsor popular programs that are well attended, and we meet the four primary mission areas called out in our bylaws.

Section 1: The Mission of the Montgomery 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.

Section 2: The Purpose of the Montgomery Historical Society shall be 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.

Section 3. All programs will be available to the general public.

While the COVID-19 response has severely limited our programs so far in 2020 we will continue to plan for a return to our normal operations when appropriate. In the meantime we will focus on programs and activities that do not depend on, or promote, social gathering. These include maintenance and repairs to Pratt Hall and our property and grounds, working with the State for installation of Historic Markers, adding content to our website, and supporting other community organizations where we can.

We welcome your comments and appreciate your support.

Scott Perry
Chairman