



Artifacts and Fiction

The Montgomery Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter

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Chairman's Message: Montgomery - Born in War, Settled After Statehood.

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

This month marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Special celebrations, exhibits and events are unfolding nation and statewide, some of which are discussed in this newsletter. This will be the first 250th anniversary celebration of several to come in the next few years and motivated me to put together the time line of the Revolutionary War and where Montgomery fits on it.

Neither the State of Vermont, nor the Town of Montgomery existed in 1776. Both New Hampshire and New York claimed the territory that would become the self-proclaimed Vermont Republic in 1777.

The Republic would grant, or create, the Town of Montgomery three years later in 1780, three years before the war ended. Six years after the war ended the Republic of Vermont would approve a charter for Montgomery.

Vermont became the 14th state in 1791. Montgomery's first settlers, most of whom were War veterans and their families, arrived two years afterward.

History Quiz:

1. How Many Revolutionary War veterans are interred in Montgomery cemeteries?

- a. 5 b. 8
c. 11 d. 21

2. What was the youngest age of those veterans in 1776?

- a. 11 b. 13
c. 15 d. 17

3. Montgomery was granted by the Republic of Vermont in 1780. When did the Revolutionary War officially end?

- a. 1776 b. 1779
c. 1781 d. 1783

COMING 250th ANNIVERSARYS

2027 - Vermont Republic Established

2030 - Montgomery Granted

2033 - Treaty of Paris / Revolutionary War's End

2039 - Montgomery Chartered

2041 - Vermont becomes 14th State

2043 - Montgomery's First Settlers Arrived

2052 - Montgomery's First Government Organized

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement,

Scott

2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The MHS picked co-winners for both the Dr. Winston Lewis Memorial Scholarship and the Joe and Irene Scott Memorial Scholarship. It was a very competitive year.

Emily Lumbra and Ruby Tillotson were co-winners of the Lewis scholarship. Emily will attend McGill University and Ruby will attend Middlebury College.

Isaias Legasse and Miley Decker were co-winners of the Scott scholarship. Miley will attend the University of Vermont for a Nursing degree and Isaias will attend Lineman training.

They each received \$500, a copy of the Town history, a certificate, and a biography of their scholarship's namesake. Congratulations and best wishes for success.

MEMORIAL DAY



A small group of about a dozen braved the cold, wind, and rain to honor Montgomery's deceased veterans on June 24th. This was the 32nd year the MHS has organized our annual Memorial Day commemoration. This year's took place at the St. Isidore's cemetery.

There are 304 veterans buried in Montgomery's cemeteries. Sixty-two are interred at St. Isidore's and were included in our Roll Call there. They served during the period spanning the Civil War to Vietnam.

We also acknowledge any veteran with Montgomery connections who has died in the last 12 months regardless of where, or if, they are interred. This year we recognized Elmer Baker and Alton Romero, who both served in the Vietnam War era.

In acknowledgment of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence we also did a roll call of the 11 Revolutionary War veterans interred in Montgomery. In 1776 their ages ranged from 11 to 32. Men 16 to 55 were eligible to serve, as were 15 year olds with their parents' permission. The war ended in 1783.

Our thanks to American Legion Post 42 for providing Military Honors and arranging for playing of Taps, and to American Legion Post 12 for placing flags on veteran's graves.

MEMBERSHIP

Our annual membership drive is hitting the halfway mark. Reminder letters will be going out soon.

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.

Wide participation is vital. Our annual goal is 200 memberships but the more the better. Anyone can join or renew via our web site page if you prefer it over mail.

COVERED BRIDGES

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society hopes to fly commemorative flags at every covered bridge in the State this summer to celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence 250 years ago. The Town was provided with five and they were installed by the MHS with the blessing of the Selectboard. They are based on the Betsy Ross flag with the number 250 in the circle of 13 stars.

We were contacted by Dave Krippner, a fact checker for the AAA Explorer magazine. He was checking an article submitted by freelance writer Hillary Richard that included Montgomery's bridges. He had done a preliminary check using AI but wanted human eyes to review the draft article and his AI results. We obliged. He expected it to be published this Fall.

Phill Gatenby moved to southern Vermont from England and became fascinated with covered bridges. He has been visiting, and doing videos at, every covered bridge in the State, starting in the south (Guilford) and working his way North. He contacted us to learn more about Montgomery's bridges and finished his 100 bridge



sojourn at the Jewett brothers' Hopkins bridge, the northernmost, in June. He thinks his Montgomery videos should be edited and posted this Fall. WCAX met him at the Hopkins bridge and did a story on the end of his journey. It aired Jun 25th.

2nd ANNUAL "ZACK NIGHT" AT THE INN

We put together an information display from our collection of Zack memorabilia for the Inn's second annual Zack dinner. The dinner, based on some of Zack's recipes, was well attended and all enjoyed learning about, or reminiscing about, Montgomery's famous and beloved restaurateur.

HOME FOR HISTORY UPDATE

We've accomplished a lot since this time last year. We moved the archives into the chancel of Pratt Hall and salvaged some of the lumber from the Deuso Rd building. Asbestos was discovered and remediated, and the building was demolished in May. Tiffany Salyards saved as many perennials and shrubs as possible. Special shout out to Stacy, Randy, and Arty St. Onge for donating demolition services. Alan Deuso operated the excavator. Also, All Metals Recycling for disposal services.



We hope to do site preparation, the slab, and start construction this Fall. The goal is to have a weather tight structure then work on interior finishes beginning in the Spring... if we have the funds.

So far we've spent about \$50,000 dollars. This includes design, plans, permits, asbestos testing and remediation, and demolition debris disposal. We have raised nearly half the funds we think we will need. Your help remains crucial.

Speaking of fund raising... We applied for both Sens. Sanders' and Welch's Congressionally Directed Spending Requests under the USDA Community Facilities grant program but were not selected. Other grants programs specifically for preservation of collections have not been re-established. We are relying on donor support, private grants, and fundraisers.

A large one will be a Calcutta dinner in early October. A \$125 donation includes dinner for two and one of 100 numbered (tickets) used in lottery-style drawings over the course of the evening. It's an exciting and fun way to support our work and you can even win prizes. The cash grand prize can be substantial. You don't have to be present to win but you'll miss out on the fun. Contact any Board member for more information or to purchase a ticket. Tickets will also be available at our Farmer's Market booth.

NEW MONTGOMERY MERCH

Looking for unique, local themed gifts? We have two new offerings. They are available at our Farmers Market booth and online. \$20 each. Montgomery Vermont The Covered Bridge Town T-shirt and Montgomery Memories #1 500 Piece Jigsaw Puzzle of Montgomery Village ca 1910. Both are made n Vermont. Pictures are on our web site.

2026 MHS EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

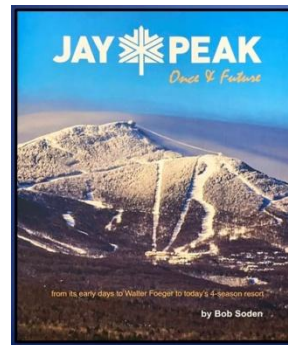
Farmers Market: Year nine of our Farmer's Market began June 27th, skips July 4th and will run through October 17th every Saturday from 9:30 to 1:00 pm. If you are interested in vending please contact Patty Perl (326-2176) or Elsie Saborowski (326-4558). We will also have a "Christmas in July" booth on the 11th, 18th, and 25th of July.

Sierra Club Travelers Visit: The Sierra Club is basing their second ever Vermont Hike/Bike/Paddle trip in Montgomery in mid-July. We will host them at Pratt Hall for presentations on Montgomery History, and the Franklin County Barn Quilts and possibly others. Keep an eye out for a group of about 12 taking in the Town.

VT Covered Bridges Week: August 1st through 8th. Help us celebrate Vermont's 2nd annual Covered Bridge Week. We will be giving free presentations on the history of Montgomery's covered bridges and why we're the Covered Bridge Town on both the 1st and the 8th at 11:00am. Free pamphlets with maps also provided. The Vermont Covered Bridge Society will have a booth too.

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting was June 28th. Over fifty members and guests received the Annual Report which pronounced the Society in good shape and



making substantial progress on a new archive. Our guest speaker, longtime MHS member and author, Bob Soden, discussed his new book "Jay Peak: Once and Future".

NEW ACCESSIONS

We recently got a call from Sharon Fox who was visiting from Minnesota. Her ancestors had numerous Montgomery connections. She was thrilled to visit some of the places her Janes family had trod, like St. Barts and the Methodist churches. She remarked it was wonderful these places and buildings were still around! She shared some of her photos of the Village. Thank you!

BRICKS-R-US

We installed three more engraved pavers in early June. You can order one at the Farmer's Market or from our online store. Like Jello, there's always room for more!

HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. How many Revolutionary War veterans are interred in Montgomery cemeteries? c. 11
2. What was the youngest age of those veterans in 1776? b. 11.
3. Montgomery was granted by the Republic of Vermont in 1780. When did the Revolutionary War officially end? d. 1783, Treaty of Paris

THIS QUARTER IN MONTGOMERY HISTORY

July 1817: Congregationalist Society formed. First organized religious denomination in Montgomery.

August 1914: Hutchins Tub Mill burns final time.

September 1973: MHS first Directors & Officers elected.

MHS BOARD NEWS FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We are sad to announce Mary Garceau has opted to leave our Board. She was our inside connection to Santa Claus and a planner for our Annual Meetings. We will miss her common sense approach to issues and optimistic approach to our work. Our thanks to Mary and board member-by-marriage Roger, for their service.

We are happy to welcome Dennis Baker (and Cindy) to our Board. He auditioned us at a monthly meeting and couldn't resist committing to our happy group.

Thank you for supporting the Montgomery Historical Society



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Thanks to the following businesses for their 2026 membership and support. Let them know you appreciate their civic mindedness by your patronage.

**Community National Bank ~ Hull Insurance ~ The Inn ~ Lucky Dog Maple
Lutz's Automotive ~ St. Onge Construction**