

7. **\*\*Ward's Bridge-** Early name of Montgomery, James Ward built a bridge near this site, mid 1700's for access to his Grist Mill nearby, now gone.

#### Clinton Street

8. **First Post Office and General Store** (Currently Iron Cafe)
9. **National Hotel-** Prominent since stagecoach days. (Currently Pazzo's, an Italian restaurant)
10. **Walden Savings Bank-** Site of National Bank of Montgomery in early 1900s.
11. # **\*\*Village Hall-** Montgomery Academy 1791, fourth chartered secondary school, NY State, This building was built in 1818, focus of academy Hill/Union St. (Historic District - Entered National Register 1961)
12. # **First Presbyterian Church** (1831)
13. # **Orange County Firefighters Museum-** Original home of Montgomery Fire Department since 1913.
14. **Borland House-(457-1513)** Home of an early prominent family. Currently a Bed and Breakfast.
15. **Mead, Tooker House-(457-5770)** Home of an early prominent family. Currently a Bed and Breakfast.
16. **Montgomery Village Museum-** former Methodist Church (1829).

#### Charles Street

17. **Riverside Cemetery-** Protestant cemetery

#### Bridge Street

18. **Veterans Memorial Park** including Senior Center and Sports Fields
19. **\*\*Pleasure Ground Park-(1850-1878)** Orange County fairs, circuses, sports, field-days. 1870 horse driving park, harness racing, 1/2 mile track, scouting events until 1930

#### Union St. / Boyd St.

20. # **Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church** (1868)

#### Walkkill Avenue

21. # **St. Andrew's Episcopal Chapel** (1903)

#### Railroad Avenue

22. **Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church Cemetery**

#### Union Street

23. # **Valley Central Montgomery Elementary School-(1937-1959)** Montgomery Grammar and former High

24. **\*\*Montgomery House-** built to Palatine settler, Hans Smith, 1771, enlarged by Johannes Miller 1781. A promoter of Cohecton Pike, Montgomery Academy, and Orange County Agricultural Society.

#### Additional Points of Interest within the Village:

Montgomery Post Office (Boyd Street)  
 Railroad - (Erie to Walkkill to Con Rail)  
 Bank of America (Union Street)  
 Walden Federal Bank (Ward Street)  
**FREE PARKING** (Clinton Street)



Just for Fun:

**Village Hall - 457-9661**  
 Business Hours:  
 Monday-Friday,  
 9am-4pm

Mastodons were distant relatives of elephants which lived about 45,000,000 years ago. They stood about 6-10 feet tall and weighed 8,000 -12,000 pounds. Mastodons roamed the Earth and lived in forests on every continent except Antarctica and Australia.

This brochure was designed to welcome and provide historic information to all visitors. Strategic historical buildings and their locations are shown on the map so that each at his own pace may visit these locations. By providing this brochure, and capturing this information in writing, it is our hope to preserve our history for this generation and future generations.

As you walk or drive through the Village of Montgomery, we invite you to admire our beautiful homes and to patronize our quaint and unique shops and businesses. We hope that this will be the first of many enjoyable visits you make to our community.

A special tribute is made to Mrs. Marion Wild, Village of Montgomery Historian, for all of her assistance and guidance with this project.

Emily Short, Girl Scout Troop 331  
 Gold Award Project  
 Questions/Comments:  
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Welcome to our historic and picturesque community nestled along the Walkkill River in eastern Orange County, N.Y. Palatines from Germany(1700s)were among the first settlers to invade the open space belonging to huge mastodons and friendly Indians. In the 1800s, they were joined by the Dutch, Scottish-Irish, English, Irish, and later the Italians.

Montgomery was first called Wardsbridge, after James Ward, a grist mill operator, who built the first bridge across the Walkkill River to facilitate the transportation of farm and industrial products to market. The village's name was later changed to Montgomery, in honor of General Richard Montgomery, a Revolutionary War hero, who was killed in the Battle of Quebec(1775).The Village of Montgomery was incorporated in 1810.

Early settlers found fertile soil for farming and harnessed the rapidly flowing Walkkill River for milling. The Crabtree family opened the Montgomery Worsted Mill. Farming and milling were the main sources of employment until the mid-1900s. In December 1868, Chauncey Brooks, an early settler and engineer, built the first railroad station in Montgomery. Farm and industrial products were then able to be transported throughout the state. Mr. Brooks also designed and built many of the Victorian homes found throughout our village. Travelers found food and lodging at the Patchett House, Empire House, and the National Hotel.

Today the Village of Montgomery has a population of close to 4,000 and it continues to grow. Many residents find employment elsewhere, but daily anticipate their commute to a quiet adopted hometown each sunset.The Village of Montgomery prides itself on being a community built upon values.

- A. **Goodwill Church and Cemetery** (1729)  
 B. **Valley Central Middle and High Schools**  
 C. **\*\*Mastodon Site-** 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Science Expedition. Mastodon dig took place 1800. Remains exhibited in London. Dig painted by Charles W. Peale, 1810.  
 D. **Brick Reformed Church and Cemetery** (1732)  
 E. **Brick Reformed Church Cemetery-** (Recent)  
 F. **Orange County Airport**  
 G. **\*\*Germantown Cemetery-** Site of Hebron Lutheran Church and burial ground (Harrison Meeting). Log church built by Palatine Germans, destroyed prior to American Revolution.  
 H. **"Early Colored" Cemetery-**

1. **\*\*\*Water Works-** (Built 1895) Installation of water system throughout village streets, homes, and businesses. Water pumped from springs and wells here.

#### Factory Street

2. **\*\*Patchett House-** Early inn on Cohecton Tpke. Federal style, later alterations, home of Patchette family, 1891-1877. Cohecton Turnpike is NY Rte. 17K.
3. **\*\*John Crabtree House-** This Queen Anne Victorian residence was built in 1899-1900 by Chauncey Brooks for John Crabtree, whose family ran the nearby mill. The house has remained in the Crabtree family for a century. (-RL Williams, Town Historian)
4. **\*\*Montgomery Worsted Mill-** Original mill built by Johannes Miller in 1813. Rebuilt after fire in 1892. Owned by Crabtree family 1880-1939, on Walkkill River. (Entered National Register 1981)

#### Ward Street

5. **Empire House-** William Lodge and his family were the proprietors of this early hotel for generations. (Currently Wards Bridge Inn, a full service restaurant)
6. # **Montgomery Fire Department District 1810-** A newly built firehouse becoming a district; originated in 1810 with the village's incorporation.

Bullville

Brick Reformed Church and Cemetery

Brick Reformed Cemetery E

Route 17K



Walden

Town of Montgomery

# Historic Village of Montgomery

Pleasure Ground Park 19

Riverside 17 Cemetery

Veterans Memorial Park 18

Bridge Street

River Road

Walkkill River

Ward Street

Village of Montgomery

Mastodon Site

Valley Central Middle and High Schools

Town of Montgomery

Hanover Street

Union Street

Charles Street

Wagon Street

Ward Street

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Orange County Airport

Germantown Cemetery

Town of Montgomery

### Key:

- Numbers= Historic buildings within Historic Village of Montgomery
- Letters= Historic Churches, Cemeteries, and Points of Interest in the Town of Montgomery
- # = historic public buildings
- \*\*= N.Y. State Blue and Gold Historic Markers
- \$= Bank
- Free Park= municipal parking

Goodwill Church and Cemetery

Route 208

Maybrook