John and Esther Houston Montgomery

1719 – 1973

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CHAPTER 2
FIRST FAMILY DESCENDANTS OF JOHN AND ESTHER MONTGOMERY
(Compiled by Committee on Writing)

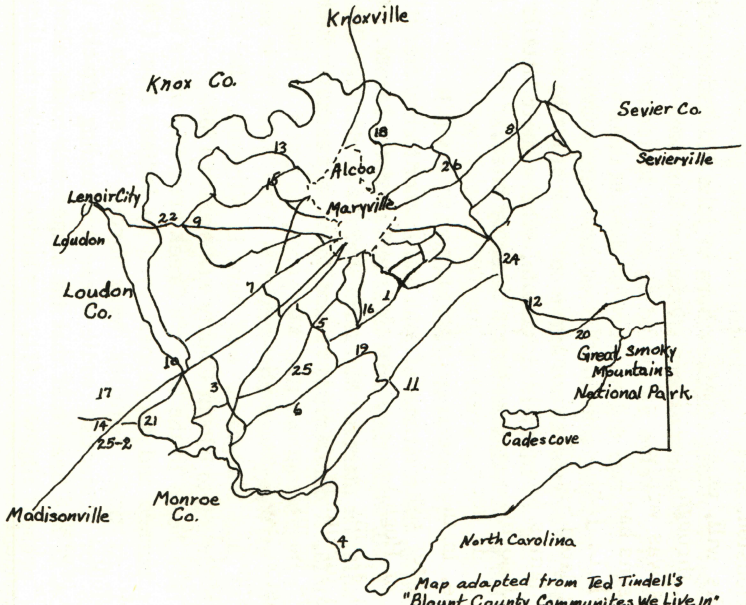
Records of ten children born to John and Esther and the marriage of each except Alexander has been recorded. If there were twelve as stated by some historians, we must assume that two did not live or died in their youth. These ten are grouped together so we may better understand the lineage. Records do not agree on dates of birth; even relative order of birth is debatable. Where more details are available, each descendant is taken up later.

JAMES MARRIED MARGARET WEIR

James, the first son of John and Esther Montgomery, was born 1740, while they still lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He married Margaret Weir of Rockbridge County, Virginia. A christening record found in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, shows that Margaret, daughter of Hugh and Margaret Weir, was christened in 1749. John, first son of James and Margaret, was born in Virginia. The date of their coming to Blount County was around 1788.

Their home in the Baker's Creek area was where homes were burned and crops destroyed by Indians from 1790 to 1793. At times families were forced to stay in nearby forts for protection while these marauding attacks took place. It has been told that the stagecoach route, along or near present Highway 411, was burned over by the Indians every year.

Governor Blount from Knoxville, Tennessee, came to their rescue. He spent two days at Henry's Station at Brick Mill around April 9, 1793, with John Watts and about sixty



Key
1- Blockhouse
2- Boyd's
3- Brick Mill- Baker's Creek
4- Calderwood
5- Carpenters
6- Chota
7- Cloverhill
8- Eusebia
9- Friendsville
10- Greenback
11- Happy Valley
12- Kinzel Springs
13- Louisville
14- McGhee
15- Middle Settlements
16- Montvale Springs
17- Morganton
18- Rockford
19- Six Mile
20- Townsend
21- Trigonia
22- Unitia
23- Vonore-2
24- Wallarnd
25- Wellsville
26- Mint

Indians, some of them chiefs. It was a friendly meeting with much eating and drinking but accomplished very little.

By 1795, the Indians were subdued to the point that nice homes were built in the area. About that time the "Old Montgomery Brick" was finished.

The land grant of James Montgomery was surveyed April 28, 1807, signed by Governor John Sevier "the Great Seal of the State to be affixed at Knoxville on the 19th day of May in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eight and of American Independence the thirty-second. R. Houston, Secretary."

His will, dated September 2, 1809, has been made available through Mrs. Sledge Allen of Indianola, Mississippi. This was written after all the children were married and the sons had homes of their own.

WILL: JAMES MONTGOMERY Blount County, Tennessee; dated September 2, 1809.

I James Montgomery being in perfect health and sound mind do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament and I do hereby make (void) all others by me heretofore made. In the first place I leave my bed and furniture to my Daughter Peggy Henry, to my Grandson James Montgomery Son of Hugh I leavy fifty Dollars in property, my plantation with all my farming utensils, with all my Stock and household furniture together with all the residue of my Estate I leave to my son Samuel -- and I do hereby appoint James Houston Son of Matthew and my Son John Montgomery Executors of this my last Will and Testament, in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 2nd day of September 1809.

(signed) James Montgomery

Test.
A. Montgomery
Will proven and filed 22nd of June, 1812.

Due to the significance of this family in our study, descendants are discussed in other chapters. Their children were:

John, born 1778, died after 1830, married Mary Love
Hugh, born 1779, married Susan Cowan, second Jane

Stewart
James P., born 1781, married 1802, Charity Garretson
Jane (Peggy), married May 5, 1802, William Moore
Margaret, married William Henry
Mary (Polly), married April 23, 1800, Capt. James Cowan
Samuel, born 1785, died May 23, 1843, married Elizabeth Gillespie
Esther, married July 5, 1802, William Craig

MOLLIE MARRIED WILLIAM EDMONDSON

Mollie, daughter of John and Esther Montgomery, married Col. William Edmondson. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. History records five Edmondson men, all officers, who fought in the Battle of King's Mountain.

From Parham's Collection of Old Wills and Records we find "Col. William Edmondson married Margaret, or Mollie Montgomery, had seven children as follows:

1. John Montgomery Edmondson, married Margaret Robinson
2. Esther Edmondson, married Capt. Robert Campbell Kennedy
3. Thomas Edmondson, married Margaret Buchanan
4. Mary Edmondson, married Rev. Ebeneezer McEwen
5. William Edmondson, married Nancy Montgomery of James Montgomery and Mary Robinson
6. Ben Edmondson, married Elizabeth Waddy, their daughter married Elijah Brown
7. Archibald Edmondson, married Blanche Ann ————, their daughter married Thomas Connistant."

It is likely this family was older than other grandchildren of John and Esther, thus some or all may have remained in Virginia.

ANN MARRIED JOHN McCROSKEY

Ann, daughter of John and Esther Montgomery, lived about 1750 to 1843, married around 1777 John McCroskey, who lived about 1757-1843. Parham records show he was a Corporal in the Virginia troops at King's Mountain. Both

were born in Virginia, came to East Tennessee through Jefferson County and settled near Eusebia, which is now in Sevier County. He was pensioned in Sevier County, 1832. They were in Monroe County for some time, but no dates are available.

John was a trustee of one of the early schools. With R. L. McNutt, P. H. Clark, T. D. Edington and J. W. Cates, they made up a special committee concerned with upkeep and building of Masonic Female Institute connected with Masonic Lodge.

McCroskey family members are on the first roll of church membership of Eusebia, which claims to be the first church established in Blount County. John and Ann are buried in Eusebia Cemetery, about twelve miles east of Maryville.

No Bible records are available, but there is evidence the following were children of the family. There may have been others.

1. Samuel, married Mary McCollum
2. John, married Priscilla McCrary
3. Robert
4. James
5. Lavinia, married ———— Eagleton
6. Elizabeth or Lizzie, married ———— Clark
7. ————, another daughter, married ———— McNutt

Parham also records the Eagletons and the Clarks are buried in Clark's Grove Cemetery, but no specific record is established. He also states that John Clark, a Revolutionary Soldier, is buried there.

Descendants of this family were successful as pioneers in Monroe County, Tennessee. Goodspeed's Early History of Tennessee has rather complete biographies (1886) of several, including interesting data, too lengthy for this compilation.

Samuel, son of Ann and John McCroskey, married Mary McCollum. He was among the first settlers of Monroe County, and was there at the time of its organization. In 1820, he was elected high sheriff of Monroe County and held this office ten consecutive years. Goodspeed records

"he was a staunch democrat, serving about forty years as an elder of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church."

Samuel married November 12, 1816, Mary McCollum of Blount County. They had a daughter, born December 26, 1817. He married, second, Elizabeth C. Grant of Monroe County, who died August 23, 1824, leaving two children, of whom the son died quite young. His third wife, Sarah Tucker, was the mother of six of his nine children. (Sarah Tucker was of German descent.)

Samuel died in 1848, leaving a will on record at Madisonville, Tennessee. The will includes the names of the following children:

Solon, born January 11, 1830
Samuel
Hettie, married ——— Hammontree
Crepely, married ——— Renshaw
Elizabeth (from Parham, an Elizabeth McCroskey Clark, 1831-1926)
Leona
Sophronia
Sarah Josephine

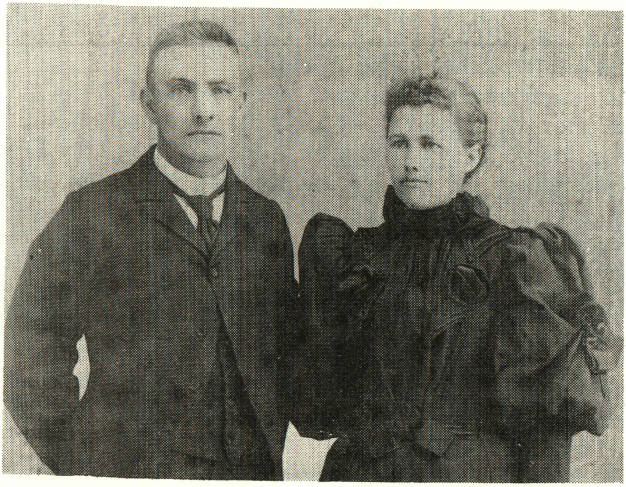
Solon, son of Samuel and Sarah Tucker McCroskey, married first Nancy J. Mayo of Monroe County, born July 17, 1828, died November 27, 1874. There were eight children by this marriage; three died young. He married November 16, 1875, his second wife, Siebbie E. Eagleton,

Solon entered the ministry at thirty-one years of age, 1860, went with his wife and five children to Ewing and Jefferson College, later known as Holston College in Blount County, and attended school two years. He returned to Monroe County, had several congregations in Monroe, Blount and McMinn counties as Cumberland Presbyterian minister. He visited relatives in Washington state, preached there but never made it his permanent home. He organized a church in Blount County, near Maryville.

Children of Solon include:

John A. McCroskey, a minister in Greene County, Missouri
Samuel, born 1860, migrated to Whitman County, Wash-

JOHN AND ESTHER HOUSTON MONTGOMERY



Samuel Mayo McCroskey, great-grandson of Ann Montgomery McCroskey and wife Margaret Cochran McCroskey, great-granddaughter of Dorcas Montgomery Lowry.

ington, in 1883
Ewing, later of Olympia, Washington
W. E., of Spokane, Washington
Harriet, married ——— Orrison of Los Angeles, California

Samuel M., son of Solon and Nancy Mayo McCroskey, died in his home in Colfax, Washington, February 13, 1953. His obituary gave considerable information of biographical nature. He was ninety-three years of age, and was survived by three children and his wife, Margaret, who died only forty days later (March 25, 1953).

"He came to Colfax as a teacher, was one time superintendent of schools of Whitman County. He served two terms as Whitman County auditor. He retired from the job of City Clerk here in 1941, after holding the position for more than fifteen years. He was also a justice of the peace in Colfax.

"He was affiliated with the Congregational Church, Kiwanis and Woodmen of the World."

The marriage of Samuel and Margaret McCroskey, December 1, 1886, is of considerable interest in this Montgomery story. Margaret Alice Cochran, the great-granddaughter of Dorcas Montgomery and John Lowry, born July 3, 1863, in Monroe County, taught in the public schools, married Samuel Mayo McCroskey, the great-grandson of Ann Montgomery and John McCroskey. They were married at the home of her brother, John Cochran, who had lived in Washington for thirty-four years. Another has said, "Samuel and Margaret McCroskey established a home of strong Christian faith on the planes of Eastern Washington. He gave years of his life founding an educational system in the state."

To review and clarify dates, Margaret Alice Cochran was born July 3, 1863, died March 25, 1953. Samuel Mayo McCroskey was born December 28, 1859, died February 13, 1953. They were buried in Colfax, Washington. Their family as follows:

1. Oscar Eugene, born October 9, 1887, died June 1, 1894.
2. Lois Ann, born February 22, 1891, married June 6, 1922, Earl Dunlap. One child, Earl, died November 15, 1964. Second son, Richard Dunlap, born July 18, 1924, married December 28, 1947, Patricia Dingle. Richard graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.
3. Samuel Lusker, born February 4, 1893, died 1960, married Helen Stevens. He was a career man in the U.S. Army, retired as Brig. General. Their daughter, Betty, born February 2, 1920, married Robert Harlan. They have two children: Robert Harlan, Jr., born June 27, 1943, and Judith Elizabeth, born January, 1947.
4. Zelma Claire, born June 20, 1901, married April 27, 1926, John Peddycord. They have a daughter, Joan, born July 5, 1927.

John, son of Ann and John McCroskey, Sr., married in 1836 Priscilla McCrary, born December 28, 1808, died November 23, 1879. John died in 1866. They were in Sevier

County and settled in Monroe County, where both died. They had eight children, but full records are not available. We know of:

1. Henry M.
2. Thomas E. H., born July 13, 1843 (fifth child)

Henry M. married Mary E. Pearce, a native of Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1862. He was a graduate of Hiwassee College. Around the age of twenty-two, he enlisted in Company D, sixty-second Tennessee Regiment Infantry (Confederate Army) and served throughout the war. He was a farmer, taking over the old homestead after his father's death. They had three daughters and three sons.

Thomas E. H., son of John and Priscilla McCroskey, married June 11, 1872, F. Pauline Barratt from Abbeville, South Carolina. In 1873, students of law were permitted to "read law" under Thomas E. H. McCroskey in his office at Madisonville and receive law credit under the Seal of Hiwassee College. They had six children: John B., Thomas E., Henry, Blanche H., Mary E., and Pauline, who died as an infant. The old "McCroskey Highway" from Madisonville to Maryville was named for him.

A great-granddaughter of John and Ann McCroskey, Annie McChesney McCroskey, married Sam Cox, a prominent citizen of the Eusebia Community. They were parents of Dr. John M. Cox, a dentist in Maryville for many years.

JOHN MARRIED AGNES HUGART

Rev. John, son of John and Esther Montgomery, was born December 5, 1772, in Virginia, died February 10, 1818, married in January, 1752, to Agnes Hugart, also of Virginia. Born January 24, 1762, died February 8, 1824, she was the daughter of Col. Thomas and Rebecca Estill Hugart. The Rev. John and his wife are buried in Rocky Spring Cemetery, Rocky Springs, Virginia. Children:

1. Rebecca Ann, born December 19, 1783, died October 7, 1802. Never married. Lived at Deerfield, Virginia.
2. Esther (Hetty S.), born June 19, 1785, died February 24, 1850, married Rev. James C. Willson of Tinkling Springs and Waynesborough, Virginia.

3. John, born January 18, 1788, died August 6, 1829, married Elizabeth Nelson, November 11, 1813, of Poplar Grove in Augusta County.
4. Thomas, born February 16, 1790, died September 5, 1848, married Julliet Dalhouse, lived at Deerfield, Virginia.
5. William H., born October 23, 1792, died April 20, 1827, lived at Lexington, Virginia, never married, physician.
6. Nancy Hugart, born May 25, 1794, died May 24, 1797, lived at Deerfield, Virginia, never married.
7. James, born September 1, 1796, died September 8, 1796.
8. Isabella, born August 25, 1798, died November 11, 1878.
9. Hugart, born August 21, 1801, died October 24, 1844, never married, physician.

Considerable data concerning members of this family has been charted by Mrs. Bess Montgomery Aubel and her brother, Dr. John F. Montgomery of Lewisburg, Virginia. He is completing a study of their descendants, this data to make up another chapter.

DORCAS MARRIED JOHN LOWRY

Dorcas, the fifth child of John and Esther Montgomery, was married before 1800 to John Lowry. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary War, having fought in the Battle of King's Mountain. They lived in Rockbridge County, Virginia; presumably their children were born there. Eventually they settled in Monroe County, Tennessee, roughly six miles east of Madisonville. In 1925 when their great-grandson John E. Cochran and wife Emmaline visited from Colfax, Washington, he reported the house and barn were still there. They "went to the cemetery where Cochrans and Lowrys are buried, tombstones stand at all the graves." Their children were:

1. John Montgomery Lowry
2. David Lowry
3. Robert Edmondson Lowry, married Elizabeth Moore
4. James Lowry
5. William McClelland Lowry

JOHN AND ESTHER HOUSTON MONTGOMERY

Extensive data is available on the descendants of William Lowry, see later chapter. From his line we find families and individuals who have contributed greatly to progress in such varied areas as churches, schools, farming and later, engineering. Their influence has spread to many different parts of the nation.

Perhaps the member of this family most widely known in Tennessee and surrounding states is Joseph E. Lowry, grandson of William McClellan above. The Rev. Joseph E., born 1868, died 1937, served as President of Hiwassee College for twenty-seven years. For the interesting story of his varied and most valuable help during some very difficult years in the life of that institution, see "The Hiwassee Story" by Robert L. Hilten, published 1970. It has been said he struck the keynote or formed the true direction of the college, which was basic to his own character as well. That keynote was worded by him in the 1905-1906 "Hiwassee Catalog":

> "This institution is peculiarly the friend of struggling youths; and insofar as practicable, all in need of help will be assisted. Children of ministers of all denominations, and young men preparing for the ministry will be given special rates."

JANE MARRIED SAMUEL NEWELL

Jane (Jean), daughter of John and Esther Montgomery, was born September, 1763, in Augusta County, Virginia, died February 11, 1843, in Owen County, Indiana, married September 30, 1782, in Augusta County, Virginia, Samuel Newell, born November 4, 1754, died September 21, 1841, of Frederick County, Virginia. The father of Samuel Newell was Samuel Newell, Sr., who came from Ireland in 1754, was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Colville Black, died in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1794.

Pension papers show that Samuel Newell enlisted April, 1776, in Captain John Shelby's Company, Washington County, Virginia, and became a sergeant. He was at King's Mountain as a lieutenant from Washington County, Virginia, and was wounded there in Captain Montgomery's Company. He

was on the Tennessee pension roll on March 2, 1810.

When Sevier County, Tennessee, was first established separate from Greene and Jefferson, the courts were held at Newell's Station, near the head of Boyd's Creek, about fifteen miles southeast of Knoxville, later on a farm owned by Edward Hodges, Esq. In later developments toward independence of the county, Newell's Station is again mentioned as a meeting place of the militia company supervising official matters. Newell was one of the group appointed to locate the seat of justice, he was chosen chairman of the first court in Sevier County, and his brother-in-law, Alexander Montgomery, was appointed surveyor.

Before Knoxville was "laid off," Newell's Station was a frontier post, which was reached by emigrants passing the trace from the mouth of the French Broad to the lower settlements on Nine Mile and Pistol Creek (both are creeks in Blount County).

The first session of Knox County Court on the 16th of July, 1792, was attended by Samuel Newell. The first legislature of Tennessee, March 28, 1796, members of the House of Representatives included Spencer Clark and Sam Newell from Sevier County. In 1796, Sevier County Justices appointed included Samuel Newell and Alexander Montgomery.

The date of his migration from Tennessee is not known. In 1833, at the age of seventy-eight, he was living in Pulaski County, Kentucky. He went to live with his son, William, in Owen County, Indiana, in 1837, and died there around 1841. They lived in Montgomery Township. His name is on a monument in Crawfordsville, Indiana. On October 2, 1794, Samuel Newell and his wife, Jean, conveyed land in Lee County on the waters of Powell's River, Lee County.

Their children were:

1. Esther Montgomery Newell, born September 30, 1783, married January 28, 1812, Jessie Evans. In 1844, she was living in Owen County, Indiana.
2. Samuel Newell, born March 24, 1785, married April 4, 1809, Nancy Owens. In 1844, Samuel was of Pulaski County, Kentucky. He had a large family, but only the

name of Samuel A. Newell is known.

3. Margaret E., born June 3, 1788, married March 9, 1815, William Owens. In 1844, Margaret was of Pulaski County, Kentucky.
4. John Montgomery Newell, born September 20, 1790, in Virginia, married February 1, 1820, Peggy Beattie. In 1844, John was of Pulaski County, Kentucky.
5. Susannah, born November 4, 1792, married September 9, 1819, Andrew Evans. In 1844, Susannah was in northern Indiana.
6. Dorcas Evans Newell, born March 7, 1795, died unmarried September 7, 1824.
7. Elizabeth Colville Newell, born August 27, 1797, died unmarried, August 7, 1831.
8. Joseph Black Newell, born July 28, 1800, married January 24, 1824, Jane Kinkead. In 1844, she was in Pulaski County, Kentucky.
9. William T. Newell, born May 7, 1803, married September 9, 1830, Pelina Farr.
10. Jane (Jean) Newell, born March 13, 1806, married April 20, 1837, James Evans of Boone County, Kentucky. In 1844, Jane was near Miami Reserve, Indiana. (Source of above charts shows first three children were born in Augusta County, Virginia, and all others in Pulaski County, Kentucky. This would not allow their time in Tennessee, which seems to be well established by historians such as Goodspeed, Virkus, Ramsey and others.)

In Virkus' "First Families of America, Compendium of American Genealogy, Vol. VII," we find Joseph B. and Jane Kinkead Newell had a son, David, who married Mary, daughter of John Williams. Their daughter, Mary Jane (1828-1896), married Dr. Samuel R. Owens (1824-1901) of Somerset, Kentucky. They had a daughter, Grace Marie Owens, born in Somerset, July 23, 1888, married name Mrs. Oscar Layton.