

In Loving Memory Maurice Robert Montgomery

August 14, 1887 - March 25, 1990

Maurice Robert Montgomery who died in Bartlesville, Oklahoma at the age of 102 years, was truly a son of the soil. He loved growing things and had a passion for the beauty of flowers.

He was born on August 14, 1887, in Douglas County, Kansas five miles west of the Lone Star post office. Maurice was the fourth of 12 children of Alexander Hamilton Montgomery and Mildred Ann Lind Montgomery who farmed near Big Springs, Kansas. The eleven other children preceded him in death.

In March 1895, when Maurice was seven years old, the family set out in a horse-drawn wagon for Missouri where they filed claim to a homestead of 160 oak-covered acres in Sugar Creek Township near Roaring River and Seligman. Some of their descendants still reside in the area.

In the pioneer tradition, they cleared land for fields and orchards and used some of the oak to build a house. Maurice's death marks the end of an era for few, if any, homesteaders are living today.

Maurice married Mabel Ellen McGuire October 1, 1911. They farmed west of Belpre, Kansas on land adjacent to US 50. Some of the trees Maurice planted still stand. The spot is now a pleasant roadside park maintained by the Kansas highway department.

Mable died in childbirth in 1939. Fourteen of their children lived to adulthood. Their son, Richard Montgomery, died in Korea in 1951. Daughter, Elaine was killed in an auto accident in Oklahoma in 1966. Also preceding him in death were granddaughters, Kathy Montgomery and Rothalea Rudd Miller and great granddaughter, Sherry Klaassen.

After his wife's death, Maurice moved to Augusta in 1940 where he operated a dairy farm. He farmed in Lesley, Arkansas from 1947 to 1968 when he retired and moved to Caney, Kansas to be near his son, Robert and family.

Though no longer farming, his interest in growing things continued. He hybridized lilies and other flowers which he shared with friends and neighbors. An active member in any organization to which he belonged, Maurice traveled to church, garden club and rose society conventions in various places in the U.S. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and his photograph was published in their national magazine in 1987.

Blessed with good health for over a century, Maurice moved into the Caney Nursing Home in July 1988 when he was nearly 101 years old.

At the time of his death, he had 12 living children, 38 grandchildren, 55 great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren - a total of 107 living descendants.

Maurice's attachment to the land is summarized in his statement:

"My life has had its sorrow and joy, no different from any man's. Things still propagate, things grow. If I can take a little piece of ground that has been filled with crabgrass and chickweed and turn it into a thing of beauty to share with my fellow man, I haven't lived in vain."

When asked his philosophy of life, he paraphrased Matthew 7:12, **"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."** A better one would be hard to find.

Maurice Robert Montgomery was buried beside his wife Mabel and their two infant children in the Belpre, Kansas cemetery on March 30, 1990 with eleven of their surviving children in attendance.

Maurice's daughter, Olive Montgomery Rudd sent this information which was prepared by her daughter, Rhoda Rudd Prall. They are both members of Clan Montgomery.

Member News

CMS 227 Marjorie M. Gadzia of California is on assignment in Wales where she has negotiated the filming of many records in Wales for the Genealogical Society of Utah for the use of Welsh people world wide.

The Mormons have done more to promote the search for family histories than any other group in the world.

The Family History Societies are very cooperative and so far Marjorie and her group have filmed over 500 of the graveyards in Wales. They are filming the monumental inscriptions both inside the chapels and from the stones. Some of the inside ones date from the 1200's.

They have a micro filmer at the great National Library of Wales in Aberystuyth where they have several counties marriage indices. By request the Bench of Bishops is meeting to film all of their Parish Registers.

Marjorie will be in Wales until November and is hopeful that she may have time to research her Montgomery line in Scotland.