

Membership News

Submitted by James N. Montgomery, CMSI # 25

John Montgomery (1788 - 1829) Burial Site Restoration

Dr. John F. Montgomery, CMSI # 4, the first CMSI Vice President and subsequent President, has inspired restoration of the cemetery that includes the grave of his great grandfather, John Montgomery (1788 - 1829). John (1788 - 1829) is the son of Rev. John Montgomery and Grandson of the immigrant John Montgomery who married Esther Houston in 1738. A pilgrimage to the cemetery as well as family related sites in the Lexington/Staunton area of the Shenandoah valley of Virginia, was organized by Dr. John F. in June 1995. The group included his son John who continues an unbroken line of John Montgomeries through eight generations. Also in the group was James Nelson Montgomery, CMSI #25, who followed John F. as CMSI Vice President and President, his sister Aurie M. Miller and her husband Dr. John K. Miller.

The cemetery is behind Cameron Hall, the beautifully maintained home of John (1788 - 1829) sister in law, Ann Nelson who married Joseph Bell. The Bell plantation was 23,000 acres along the Calf Pasture river, near Goshen, VA. Two work parties in September and November, 1995 have made progress in the cemetery restoration, cutting smaller trees and brush, setting posts, and restoring fence pickets. The grave stones of Joseph Bell and John Montgomery have been cleaned and are now readable. Another work party is forecast for June 29, 1996. All Montgomeries, especially descendants of John Montgomery (1788 - 1829) are encouraged to participate in the work party and picnic, along with the Bell and Nelson descendants.

Nearby sites with family connections that may be included in a visit are: Rocky Springs Church, served by Rev. John Montgomery from 1789 - 1818, Old and new Providence Meeting Hall and Church, Old Augusta Stone Church, Tinkling Spring Church, and other locations in the beautiful Shenandoah valley.

Contact Dr. John F. Montgomery, 220 N. Jefferson Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901, or James N. Montgomery, 146 Holly Drive, Laplace, LA 70068 for details and final schedule.



James N. Montgomery, Dr. John F. Montgomery,
and Aurie M. Miller



Restored old Providence meeting
house established in 1744 by Samuel
Houston and John Montgomery