

Letters

"Mr. Robert Montgomery in Pennsylvania State, Laycomen County on
Susquehannah River five miles above the mouth of Pine Creek.
To the care of Alex. Beryhill Esq. in Harrisburg.
per favor of Mr. Robt. McCleary.

July 18, 1797.

Dear Children,

I am just going to set pen to paper once more and it is probable it will be the last time; I have frequently these years past sent letters, but never no answer have I got, which causes me to believe that you have forgotten me, long absence often produces indifference, but to let you see that I still bear you in mind I send you these lines to inform you of my circumstances, at present I in great measure enjoy my health considering my age, altho I am sensible of failing very fast at this present, and cannot expect to be long in this world, and dear children let me as an indulgent, tender and affectionate Parent once more entreat you not to be forgetfull of the one thing needful, the wellfare of your mortal souls. Dear children it is almost impracticable for us to expect ever to see each other in this life, but it would yield me much pleasure and satisfaction to see some of your offspring before I die. I think that some of your might take a tower (tour) out to this country and see me and the rest of their relations, without being at any considerable lots of expense. I need not say anything concerning my children here, as I believe several of them intends writing for themselves and so far as I know is all well. I believe I should now stop my pen least this letter should swell beyond the intended limits, but as I never expect to see another opportunity of writing to you I have one request to ask of you and that is, receive this as the last and pray for me, and that you and I may meet together at a throne of grace and there meet with approbation and acceptance is the earnest and hearty desire of your affectionate Mother till death

Martha Montgomery.

July 18, 1797.

Dear Brother & Sister,

I am about to scrawl a few lines to trouble you, with the reading which I am ready to conjecture will not be satisfactory to you, the reason makes me think so is because we have sent several letters to you but never got any answer. Whether they came to hand or not, I cannot tell, it appears to me you are got in some remote corner of the earth and want opportunity, or if this is not the reason I can assign no other than our long absence from each other has occasioned coldness and indifference. But let what will be the reason, as I have an opportunity that I expect will deliver these lines into your own hands if in the land of the living I shall give you a short sketch of my circumstance at present, and of the rest of our relations in this country, and in the first place I and my family enjoy health, peace and plenty, which we ought ever to be thankful to the bountiful giver of all goodness, for such favors though we are undeserving of the least of them. I have three children alive and one dead. Brother Robert lives close by me and he and his family is well. He has got 11 children, brother-in-law William Orr died the 16 of last March, of the consumption, his family is all well. I need not say any more of them as I expect sister Rebecca will write herself. Brother David lives about 5 miles from me and him and his family is well. William Huston is moved with his family to Kentucky last Fall. Brother Joseph and Sister Elizabeth and their families is there, and as far as I know is well. I shall have said something about my Mother but she intends to write herself, and brother-in-law Robert Robison is going to your country and perhaps may make it convenient to give you a call, but if not will write for himself. Brother Jame's family I need say nothing

about as I expect one of his sons to be the bearer of these lines. Dear Friends I shall at this time conclude and will forgive your former neglect if you more frequently send us word how you are, so I shall forbear saying any more at this time as the bearer can inform you more particularly of every circumstance relative to our country, so I cease writing any more and subscribe ourselves your affectionate brother and sister till death

John & Elizabeth Montgomery.

July 18, 1797.

Dear Brother and Sister the love and tender affection which I bear to you obliges me once more to set pen to paper in order to acquaint you with my circumstances at present altho perhaps it may be intruding upon your patience to amuse yourselves reading a few lines from my hand; indeed I am writing to persons ^I scarce know where or whether in the land of the living. Neither myself or any other of our friends have got any word since you left our ^{old} native land altho at several times there has been letters sent to you from your friends in this country without any answer, it may be perhaps they never came to hand which in some measure excuses your neglect but if far distance and long absence has not in a great measure cooled and chilled your affection to us, I expect you will send us word where and how you are with the first opportunity that offers. Dear Friends I am now going to let you know that I have lost my dear and loving husband. last fall was a year he was taken with the lingering and wasting disorder the decay and continued until the 16th of last March at which time it pleased the Lord to remove him from this world to the world of spirits and altho I and the rest of my family has reason to mourn for the loss of a tender husband and affectionate parent yet Blessed be God we have reason to be thankful we are not left in straightened circumstances we enjoy a competent portion of the good things of this life if we can but enjoy contentment but the loss of a kind husband is such that none but those that experience can be made sensible of: my family is all well at present. I have eight children alive and two dead. I have one daughter married to a man whose name is James Wilson much to our satisfaction which is all that I have married as yet.

^I want to scrawl this side with something also but scarce know with what should I begin to enumerate the circumstances of our Relations the multitude of their children it would be like ^{of old} boasting of things transient and momentary but I shall confine my pen to things of another kind and in particular to you Dear Sister pray look back to the time of youth when you and I and the rest of our fathers family enjoyed the happy and comfortable circumstances of enjoying each others company face to face and look at the present time how far separate and how little respect and regard paid to each other for if we cannot have the pleasure of conversing together and seeing each other in this life yet there is a way in which the most separated friends and distant nations may grow into acquaintance and that is by the art of writing. I believe ones knowledge of getting together with the art of Reading and Writing is one of the greatest blessings that ever was conferred on the children of men. I believe I shall conclude with earnestly requesting you to write in particular to me about all your and my friends in that Country and I shall just say in general of all our friends as far as I know they and their families is all well here. I refer you to brother John's letter and the bearer of this who I expect will be Robert Montgomery son to my brother James who will inform you more particularly. I add no more but remain your loving sister till death

Rebekah Orr.

Mecklenburg County (N.C.)

Oct. 8, 1799

Dear Brother and Sister

From the short acquaintance and the near relation in which we stand obliges us as an opportunity offers that perhaps may convey these lines to you to let you know that we are yet in the land of the living and enjoy a tolerable degree of health which is a blessing we ought ever to be thankful for, hoping that you and your family are well. Our youngest child and only son died this spring very suddenly which is all the alteration that has taken place in our family since I saw you. Your old mother is yet alive but some what infirm by reason of a spot on her cheek which appears like the cancer, which afflicts her very much. All the rest of your friends here are well, no alteration among them save in sister Rebecca Orr's family. She has had two daughters married since I saw you. We had a later account from Kentucky by one of Wm. Huston's sons--all friends there are well. This is the third letter I have sent since I left that country but never received no answer as yet. We never got any word from you but by Robert Montgomery who arrived here about the first of last June. He is well and desires to be rememberes to you and all your family. As to any further particulars I have nothing worth relating. We have had an exceeding dry summer which has done much injury to our crops. I suppose I need not invite any of your family to come and see us as they seem determined not to come -- Remember our love to all inquiring friends -- This from your brother and sister

Robert and Martha Robison

 (Spelling and grammar copies as found)

"There were only four (4) letters, from the N^o, Carolina relatives, to be found among the letters and papers of Priscilla Montgomery.

"Search of Court Records at Danville, Boyle Co., Lancaster, Garrard Co., Stanford, Lincoln Co., and Lexington, Fayette Co., Kentucky failed to find any trace of our Montgomery or Huston lines."

Jos. M-- probably in Wayne or Gallatin Co.

Looking through my Kentucky references:

1. KENTUCKY PIONEERS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS by Ila Earle Fowler for the Kentucky Society DAR; Genealogical Pub. Co., Baltimore 1967; p. 116 Mason Co., Cemetery Records, Maysville, Ky. (old part)
 Lot 69, Sec. 3.--(Wm. Huston)--four graves; two graves; Clara Huston; Laura Huston; Ann Huston; Emily Huston; Charles H. Huston; Debora Lee; Francis Lee Huston, 1886; James A. Huston, 1885; Matilda Huston 1849; Clara Huston Johnson, 1908; Thomas Johnson, 1922.
 Maysville is on the Ohio River, east of Cincinnati. This record does not mention Elizabeth Montgomery, who was the wife of our William Huston, so this may or may not be our relatives.
2. I found some marriages of Huston girls in Daviess County in KENTUCKY COURT AND OTHER RECORDS by Ardery
3. A Joseph Montgomery bought land (500 A) in Lincoln Co., Ky : 2-14-1782 on the Green River; he bought 500 A in Lincoln Co., Ky. 7-16-1781 on Silver Cr. OLD KENTUCKY ENTRIES AND DEEDS by W.R. Jillson; p. 52
 No Wm. Huston listed in the Military Warrants for KY.
 A Wm. Huston was living in Hardin Co., Ky 1-27-1813; 150 acres on Bacon Cr. see Book P p. 60 (Court of Appeals Deeds--Grantees
4. REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS IN KENTUCKY by Anderson Chenault Quisenberry; excerpted from Year Book, Kentucky Society, Sons of the American Revolution,

HUSTON, WILLIAM and MONTGOMERY, JOSEPH as found in references of the Brett Library

4.

4. cont'd REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS IN KENTUCKY by Quisenberry; page 99

Jefferson County: Pensioners Under the Act of March 18, 1818

Huston, William, private Virginia line

February 10, 1819; July 13, 1818; #96. Age 78

(I do not know why they gave the later date first: the first date is that on which the pensioner was placed on the roll; the second date shows when the pension began. Note he was considered a private, residing in Jefferson Co.)

I have the census for Kentucky: 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820 and find more than one William Huston and more than one Joseph Montgomery. What county or counties did each live in? Who were their wives and children? William Huston's was Elizabeth Montgomery.