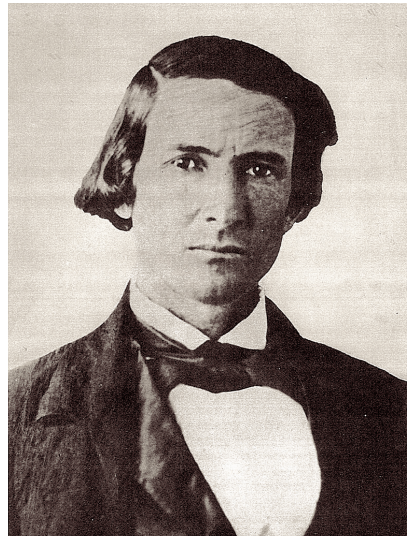


WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY | CATHERINE CAMERON

On November 24, 1831, **William Pinckney Montgomery (1799–1876)** married **Catherine Cameron (1811–1848)** in Jefferson County, Mississippi.

Our Montgomery ancestors<sup>1</sup> originated in Scotland, lived briefly in Northern Ireland, and came to colonial America in 1666. Ninety years later, in 1756, **Hugh Montgomery Sr. (1727–1785)**<sup>2</sup> migrated from western Virginia to the Waxhaw



Settlement in South Carolina. Among his 10 children was **William Montgomery (1757–1815)**,<sup>3</sup> who married **Agnes (Nancy) Barkley (1760–1829)**<sup>4</sup> in 1786. In 1802 William Montgomery and his family migrated to the “Natchez Country” of the Territory of Mississippi. On their trek,<sup>5</sup> they traveled 1,800 miles, mostly by flat boat on four different rivers. They came to grow cotton.<sup>6</sup>

Catherine Cameron was the daughter of **Daniel Cameron (1776–1821)**, who was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, and came to America sometime after 1785.

*A portrait of William Pinckney Montgomery, c. 1840. He appears quite serious or somewhat melancholy.*

The Camerons<sup>7</sup> settled first in North Carolina and migrated in about 1809 to Franklin County, near Natchez, Mississippi.

My mother, née **Catherine Cameron Wilkerson (1909–2002)**, linked her Cameron line directly to notables and chieftains in 17th- and 18th-century Scotland. That linkage appears to be only a “boast of heraldry.”<sup>8</sup>

In 1831 William Pinckney Montgomery acquired, through a government land patent, 1,500 acres of land on Rattlesnake Bayou in what is now Greenville, Mississippi. About 1838 he built a log house there and moved his family. He named his place Locust Plantation<sup>9</sup> because there were many locust trees.

William Pinckney and his family led an active social life during the antebellum years. He was, on one occasion, visited by John James Audubon (1785–1851), the celebrated naturalist and painter, who came to Locust Plantation.



Catherine Cameron Montgomery sang, played musical instruments, and wrote poetry.<sup>10</sup>

William Pinckney and Catherine Cameron Montgomery produced five surviving children. Their oldest, **William Eugene Montgomery (1833–1903)**,<sup>11</sup> was a major in the Confederate Army. The next child and son, **Dr. Daniel Cameron**

*Catherine Cameron with her son John Malcolm Montgomery in the 1840s.*

**Montgomery (1835–1898)**,<sup>12</sup> was the chief surgeon of the First Mississippi Cavalry in the Confederate Army.

The third child was **John Malcolm Montgomery (1841–1910)**, my great-grandfather, for whom my grandson, Malcolm Montgomery Bryan (b. 2001) is named. The fourth child, **Mary Catherine (Kate) Montgomery (1846–1868)**,<sup>13</sup> was forced to marry an older man when she was 20 years old. She died tragically at age 21 during the birth of her first child, who also died. The fifth child of Catherine Cameron was **Samuel Montgomery (1848–1878)**. It was Samuel’s birth that caused Catherine Cameron’s death. She left five motherless children. She is buried at Locust Plantation.

Before her death, 37-year-old Catherine Cameron Montgomery asked her husband to marry her closest friend, Evelyn C. Bacon (1823–1899).<sup>14</sup> He complied with her request 13 months after she died. William Pinckney and Evelyn Bacon married in 1850 and had six children who all died young. The oldest of their children, “Little Pink,” was scalded to death at age seven.

William Pinckney Montgomery,<sup>15</sup> who was described by his grandson as a “cusser of remarkable proportion,” lived a relatively long and eventful life. It was a life of triumph and disaster. He was economically devastated by the Civil War and declared bankruptcy in 1868. He died eight years later at age 76.

## WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY | CATHERINE CAMERON

PAGES 72–73

### 1. OUR MONTGOMERY HERITAGE

#### Robert Montgomery

**James Montgomery** m. Margaret Fitzwilliam

**William Montgomery (1650–\_\_\_\_\_)**

**Robert Montgomery (1680–\_\_\_\_\_)** m. 1700 Sarah Colfield

**Hugh Montgomery (1705–1785)** m. 1726 Caroline Anderson (1709–1767)

**Hugh Montgomery Sr. (1727–1785)** m. 1745 Agnes J. Cunningham (1727–1769)

**William Montgomery (1757–1815)** m. 1786 Agnes (Nancy) Barkley (1760–1829)

**William P. Montgomery (1799–1876)** m. 1831 Catherine Cameron (1811–1848)

**John M. Montgomery (1841–1910)** m. 1876 Caroline P. Mosby (1858–1890)

**Caroline M. Montgomery (1884–1957)** m. 1905 Jefferson P. Wilkerson (1878–1945)

**Catherine C. Wilkerson (1909–2002)** m. 1935 John H. Bryan Sr. (1908–1989)

In 1976 Dr. D. C. Montgomery III (1920–1980), my mother’s second cousin, wrote a book entitled *The Descendants of Hugh Montgomery Sr.* Dr. Montgomery noted, in his introduction, that the book was extensively drawn from a book written by my mother, **Catherine Cameron Wilkerson Bryan (1909–2002)**, in 1959, entitled *The Montgomery’s of South Carolina, Mississippi, and Other Southern States*.

In the opening chapter of his book, Dr. D. C. Montgomery III told about the origins of the Montgomerys in America.

*The historical origin of the Montgomery family lies in Normandy. Roger de Montgomerie had commanded the vanguard of the invading army of William the Conqueror at the famous battle of Hastings in 1066 and [after that] the descendants of Roger spread into Scotland. Early in the 17th century, that Scottish clan headed by Hugh Montgomery, immigrated to Northern Ireland. Many other lowland Scotch people then immigrated to the province of Ulster, Northern Ireland during the 17th century. The vast majority of the Montgomerys in this country are descended from the families that populated the Irish counties of Down, Armagh, Antrim, and Londonderry. Thus, the early history of the family in America is largely the history of the Scotch Irish in this country.*

In his extensive research, Dr. Montgomery traced the origin of several Montgomery families and concluded that our descent is from **William Montgomery (1650–\_\_\_\_\_)**, who came to America in 1666 from County Down in Northern Ireland.

William Montgomery was the son of **James Montgomery**, who, along with his father, **Robert Montgomery**, was exiled from Scotland (County Ayrshire) after the end of the English Civil War (1642–51). The Montgomerys were Protestant supporters of the English monarchy, which was overthrown by Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658).

At age 16, with his two presumably older brothers, Hugh and Robert, William Montgomery landed in Jamestown and resided nearby. His brother Hugh returned to Northern Ireland, while Robert and William married and remained in America. William Montgomery had seven children, among them **Robert Montgomery (1680–\_\_\_\_\_)**, who also sired seven children.

Robert Montgomery’s oldest son was **Hugh Montgomery (1705–1785)**, who married **Caroline Anderson (1709–1767)** in 1726. They lived on the Roanoke River in western Virginia and had 10 children, seven boys and three girls. Caroline Anderson Montgomery died in Virginia at age 56, in 1767.

It has been reported that Hugh Montgomery (at age 71) and all seven of his sons participated in the American Revolutionary War. Hugh Montgomery, the father, was enlisted as a private in Captain Smith’s Army, the 4th Virginia Regiment.

The father and all of his seven sons survived the war and returned safely to their home.

WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY | CATHERINE CAMERON

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The following excerpt is taken from a letter in Dr. Montgomery's book:

*At the close of the Revolutionary War, Hugh Montgomery in spite of his 71 years of age when he enlisted in the service of his country, was overcome by the vicissitudes of age and he was discharged. Although Hugh Montgomery was a wealthy man, the establishment of American independence found him broke in both health and fortune. After a few years, he left his native state, emigrating with other members of his family to Kentucky, where they founded a colony. He died near Lexington, Kentucky in 1785 [at age 80 in Fayette County, Kentucky].*

The oldest son of Hugh Montgomery and Caroline Anderson was **Hugh Montgomery Sr. (1727-1785)**. In family records, he is always referred to as "Sr." With his younger brother, Robert Montgomery (1729-\_\_\_\_\_), he migrated from Virginia southward to the Waxhaw settlement in Lancaster County in South Carolina in about 1756.

2. HUGH MONTGOMERY SR. OF WAXHAW SETTLEMENT

**Hugh Montgomery Sr. (1727-1785)** is my fourth great-grandfather. He came at the age of 29, in 1756, to Waxhaw Settlement.

Waxhaw was quite a large settlement established around 1751. It is located south of Charlotte, North Carolina, in north-central South Carolina. Named for the Waxhaw Indians, its inhabitants were mostly Scotch-Irish settlers. The most notable native of Waxhaw was Andrew Jackson (1767-1845), a Scotch-Irishman and the seventh United States president (1829-37).

WAXHAW SETTLEMENT



## WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY | CATHERINE CAMERON

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Hugh Montgomery Sr.'s wife, probably **Agnes Jane Cunningham (1727–1769)**, and the four oldest children, came to Waxhaw from Roanoke with him. They had 10 children, eight sons and two daughters. All of these children, except one, became pioneers who moved westward to territories that later became states of the United States.

**James Montgomery (1747–1808)** moved to western Tennessee, had two wives and nine children, and died in Georgia. A son, Hugh Montgomery (1767–1852), married **Margaret Barkley (1768–1848)**.

**Robert Montgomery (1750–\_\_\_\_\_)** moved to Georgia, then to Mississippi in 1811. He first married Peggy Carroll (Andrew Jackson's cousin).

**John Montgomery (1752/53–1803)** married Margaret Cousarand, and had one surviving son, Colonel John Montgomery, who became a South Carolina legislator. John Montgomery, the father, died in South Carolina and is buried at Waxhaw Presbyterian Church.

**Hugh Montgomery (1755–1820)** married Elizabeth Nisbet, moved to Murfreesboro, Tennessee (1802/04), probably with his brother-in-law, John Kirk, and had nine children.

**William Montgomery (1757–1815)** is my third great-grandfather, see pages 242–43.

**Alexander Montgomery (1760–1812)** moved in 1789 to Natchez in Spanish Territory, which became a U.S. territory in 1798. He was appointed by President John Adams (1735–1826) to the Mississippi Territorial Council in 1801 and became council president in 1810. He had two wives, Catherine King and Linda Swayze, and eight children. He was the first Montgomery to arrive in Mississippi.

His grandson Frank Alexander Montgomery (1830–1903), **John Malcolm Montgomery's (1841–1910)** second cousin, was a lieutenant colonel in the Civil War. He was court martialed for negligence after losing two battles. He was, however, acquitted and continued his service to the end of the war. At age 70 (1901), he wrote a book entitled *Reminiscences of a Mississippian in Peace and War*.

**Mary Eleanor Montgomery (1762–1827)** married John Kirk (1751–1822) in 1783 and moved to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in 1802. They had seven children. Their grandson Hugh Kirk Jr. (John Malcolm Montgomery's second cousin) was killed in the Battle of Franklin (1864) in the Civil War.

**Samuel Montgomery (1764–1828)** lost his first wife when she died on an ox wagon trip with three children during a move to Kentucky in 1790. He next married Margaret Crockett, daughter of Andrew Crockett,\* of northeast Tennessee in 1791. They had five children. They traveled by flatboat with William Montgomery in 1802 to Mississippi. Samuel Montgomery became a legislator in both the territory and the state of Mississippi.

Samuel Montgomery's son, Alexander Montgomery (1802–1878), was born on the flatboat on the Mississippi River in 1802. He later became a lawyer and was appointed to the Mississippi Supreme Court in 1831. Alexander Montgomery was the first native-born Mississippian to occupy a seat on the Mississippi Supreme Court. He is my first cousin, four times removed.

**Joseph Montgomery (1766–1834)** moved to Kentucky, then to Georgia, and in 1802 to Mississippi. His plantation, called Auburn, was near present-day Greenville. His first wife, **Mary Ann Barkley (1769–1803)**, was a sister of William Montgomery's wife, **Agnes Barkley (1760–1829)**, my third great-grandmother. Their one child is my double first cousin, four times removed. Joseph had seven children by his second wife, Mary Higdon.

**Mary Ann Montgomery (1767–1837)** married Jonathan Mackey (1766–1834) in Waxhaw, South Carolina. They traveled on the flatboat to Natchez in 1802. They had seven children.

\*He is not closely related to Davy Crockett (1786–1836), who died at the Battle of the Alamo.



**WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY | CATHERINE CAMERON****PAGES 72–73****3. WILLIAM MONTGOMERY: MY FIRST MISSISSIPPI ANCESTOR**

**William Montgomery (1757–1815)**, my third great-grandfather, was born in Waxhaw Settlement in South Carolina. Along with five of his brothers, he served in the American Revolutionary War (1775–83) in the Sixth South Carolina Regiment.\*

At age 29, William married **Agnes (Nancy) Barkley (1760–1829)** in Waxhaw on November 10, 1786. Nancy was one of 10 children of **Major John Barkley (1720–1796)**, who served in the Militia of South Carolina. Major Barkley, a Presbyterian, is buried at the old Waxhaw Church in South Carolina.

At age 45, William Montgomery and his wife became my first direct antecedents to come to Mississippi. The year after his arrival, in January 1803, William Montgomery bought 345 acres of land for \$1,325 (about \$3.85 an acre) in Adams County. In September 1803, he bought 824 acres in Jefferson County. William was farming over 1,200 acres just a year after he arrived in Natchez. He died about 13 years later. William and Agnes Barkley Montgomery had eight children.

**John Barkley Montgomery (1787–1856)** married Matilda Cochran and had 10 children. They are buried near McNair, Mississippi, near Natchez.

**Jane Montgomery (1789–1837)** married Hugh Montgomery (relationship unknown) and died in Louisiana.

**Dr. Hugh Montgomery (1792–1837)** married Mary Ryan Chaney (1801–1852) in 1821. They moved to East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, and had four children. He died at Amite River Plantation in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.

**Eliezer Montgomery (1794–1872)** married Ann Marie Miller (1803–1893) and had 10 children. He was treasurer of Natchez in 1839. In 1835 he purchased Hope Farm for \$5,000. His family owned it for almost 100 years. The house is visited on the Natchez Pilgrimage today. Two of their sons, Samuel (1833–1864) and Eli (1840–1864), were killed in the Civil War at the Battle of Franklin. They are my first cousins, three times removed.

**Samuel Montgomery (1797–1824)** drowned in the Mississippi River on August 26, 1824, at age 26, near Vidalia, Louisiana. He had one son.

**William Pinckney Montgomery (1799–1876)** is my great-great-grandfather.

**Alexander Barkley Montgomery (1802–1885)** married Davidella Flournoy in 1831 and had nine children. With his brother William Pinckney Montgomery, he moved in about 1838 to Washington County, Mississippi, where he had a plantation named Swiftwater. After the Civil War, unable to stem the tide of adversity, he moved with his family to Santa Ana, California, where he died at age 82 in 1885.

A. B. Montgomery's seventh child, William Flournoy Montgomery (1844–1899), fought throughout the entire Civil War, mostly alongside his first cousin **John Malcolm Montgomery (1841–1910)**, and was wounded at the Battle of Dallas in 1864 (see pages 332–33). A. B. Montgomery's ninth child was Victor Montgomery (1846–1911). It was to Victor, his first cousin, that John Malcolm Montgomery wrote his long letter, circa 1909, telling about his Civil War recollections. Victor himself had joined the Confederate Army at age 16, in 1862, and served as a scout for General Nathan Bedford Forrest. After the war, he studied law at the University of Mississippi and at age 29 moved to California with his parents, where he became a successful lawyer and rancher. He was, in fact, the lawyer who drafted the 1889 bill creating Orange County out of Los Angeles County. Victor's daughter, Gertrude Montgomery (1883–1972), was my grandmother's second cousin and was in my grandmother's wedding in 1905.

**Lucinda Montgomery (1805–1825)** moved to Mississippi in 1822 and died there three years later.

William Montgomery died in Natchez on April 20, 1815. His wife, Agnes, lived 14 years beyond her husband and succumbed in 1829, also in Natchez.

\*See D.A.R. no. 382340, *Catherine Wilkerson Bryan*.

## WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY | CATHERINE CAMERON

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### 4. AGNES (NANCY) BARKLEY

**Agnes (Nancy) Barkley (1760–1829)**, my third great-grandmother, was born in the Waxhaw Settlement in South Carolina in 1760. In 1786, after the American Revolutionary War, she married **William Montgomery (1757–1815)** in Waxhaw.

Agnes Barkley had two younger sisters who also married Montgomerys. Her sister **Mary Ann Barkley (1769–1803)** married William Montgomery’s brother **Joseph Montgomery (1766–1834)**. She traveled with her sister on a flatboat to Natchez, Mississippi, in 1802.

Another younger sister, **Margaret Barkley (1768–1848)**, married William Montgomery’s nephew Hugh Montgomery (1767–1852) in 1788. Hugh Montgomery was the eldest son of **James Montgomery (1747–1808)**, William Montgomery’s eldest brother. Margaret Barkley and Hugh Montgomery moved to Jackson County, Georgia (northeast of Atlanta), in 1796 and had 11 children.

The Barkley sisters were three of 10 children of **Major John Barkley (1720–1796)** and **Agnes Thalow (1727–1816)**, who were both born in Antrim, the northernmost county in Northern Ireland. They married in 1742, migrated to America, and came to the Waxhaw Settlement in the 1750s.

All the settlers in the Lancaster area of South Carolina were Presbyterians. They built a church there, and it is described in the book *History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina*:

*The Waxhaw Church was a rough building, not ceiled, nor painted. There were no cushions on the seats, but in it gathered to worship God, the deeply religious. These Presbyterians adorned the history of the state. Many of the Waxhaw men were numbered among the patriots of the Revolution. Among them was Major John Barkley who lies buried in the churchyard of the old Waxhaw Church.*

This tombstone for Major John Barkley still stands in the churchyard of the Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church in Lancaster County, South Carolina.



*This tombstone, 26 inches high, is said to be made of soapstone. The shield at the top contains various symbols, including a star and a compass flanked by two birds standing on one leg. It is an emblem of Freemasonry.\**

*The tombstone reads: Sacred to the memory / of Major / John Barkley who died / January 10 / 1796, age 76 years / Lector memento tibi moriendum est.\*\**

*\*Freemasonry is a worldwide fraternal order, probably originating in Scotland. It occupies itself with charitable work and uses the tools of medieval Masons in its emblem.*

*\*\*This translates as: “Reader, remember that you die to exist.”*

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**5. THE MONTGOMERYS' 1802 TREK TO MISSISSIPPI**

Two hundred and nine years ago, in the spring of 1802, my Montgomery forefathers undertook an ambitious trek from Waxhaw Settlement in northern South Carolina to a newly established territory named for the great Mississippi River. Thus began my heritage as a Mississippian.

This original trip to Mississippi was made by my third great-grandfather **William Montgomery (1757-1815)**, at age 45, with his wife and six children, including my 2-year-old great-great-grandfather **William Pinckney Montgomery (1799-1876)**. Traveling with the family were William Montgomery's brothers **Samuel Montgomery (1764-1828)** and **Joseph Montgomery (1766-1834)**, and his brother-in-law Jonathan Mackey (1766-1834). The families were moving to Mississippi to join William Montgomery's brother **Alexander Montgomery (1760-1812)** in the newly organized territory of Mississippi (Mississippi became a territory in 1798). Alexander Montgomery had moved to the Natchez area of Mississippi in 1789, when it was still under Spanish rule.

The Montgomery families traveled, mostly by flatboat, from the Lancaster district of South Carolina, to Natchez, which is now in Adams County, Mississippi. Daniel Cameron Montgomery III explained in his book why they traveled by flatboat.

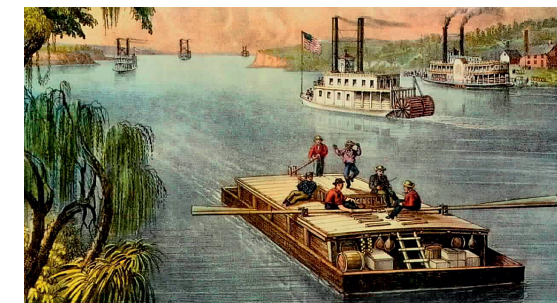
*If you had nothing to carry with you, you could ride to Natchez, but wagons could not get through. In that vast wilderness which reached from Georgia to the Mississippi River, the game and Indian trails were hardly wide enough for horsemen riding single-file. Although the creeks could be forded, rivers had to be crossed by dismounting and swimming along side your horse. If you were obliged to transport property, you went by flatboat.*

From the Waxhaw Settlement to the Holston River was a distance of 500 hilly and mountainous miles. The Montgomerys traveled by ox wagon or with pack horses for that trip, and it is reported that it took about two months' time.

The Montgomery families embarked at the Holston River, north of current-day Knoxville, Tennessee, where the Tennessee River begins. They then followed

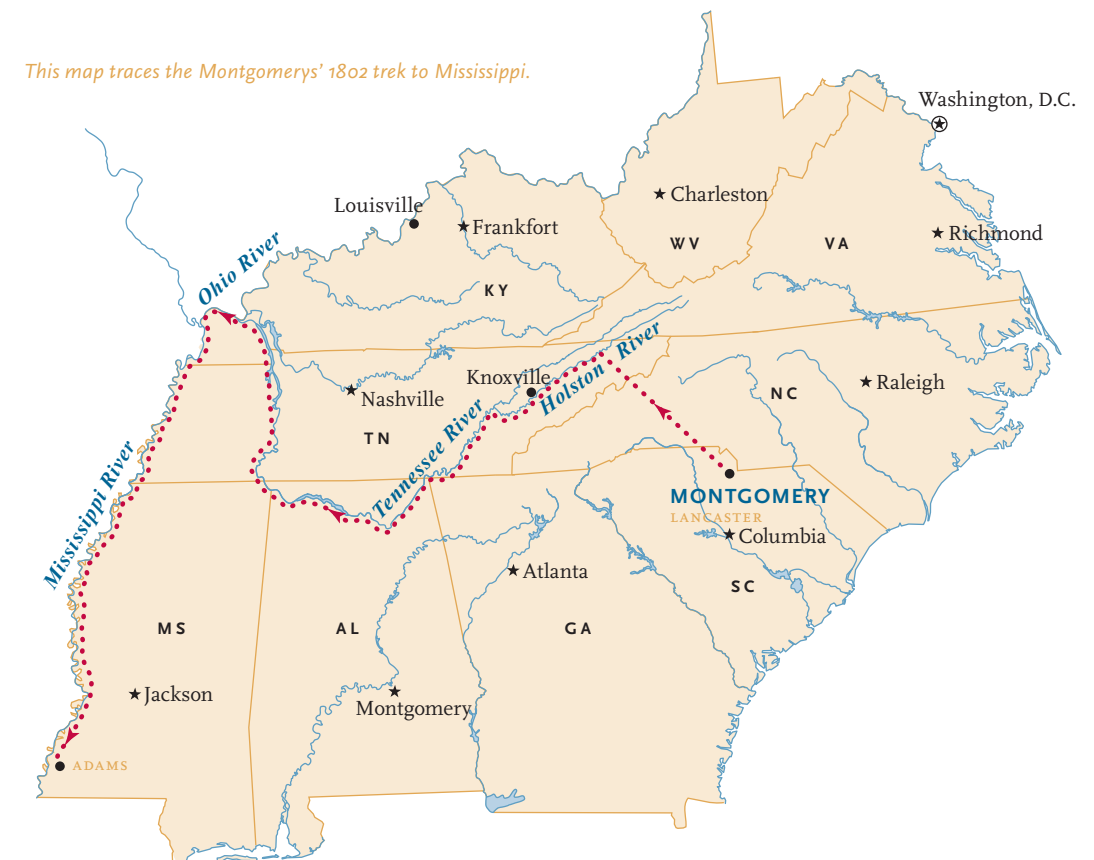
the 652 miles of the Tennessee River on its circuitous route down through Alabama and up again through Tennessee and Kentucky to the Ohio River. From Paducah on the Ohio River, they boated to Cairo, Illinois, and down the Mississippi to "Natchez Country," where they arrived in the late spring of 1802.

At the Wilderness Road Fort near Kingsport, Tennessee, flatboats were constructed. These were sturdy vessels with one end enclosed for protection from the elements.



Flatboats were only able to navigate downstream; thus, none survived, because they all were recycled after their one-way journeys.

*This map traces the Montgomerys' 1802 trek to Mississippi.*





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6. THEY CAME TO GROW COTTON

The Montgomerys, and in fact all of my maternal ancestors of that time, migrated to Mississippi between 1800 and 1850 for one simple reason. They came to grow cotton.



Not unlike “oil booms” and “gold rushes” in other times and places, the production of cotton literally exploded in the first half of the 19th century. That explosion was the result of an extraordinary economic opportunity that emerged from the confluence of powerful forces, some of which were global.

First, the newborn United States of America (recently 13 colonies) was eager to expand into the westward territories. To that end, land in the South was essentially usurped from Native American Indians and given to settlers who came to farm the fertile soil of that region.

With the mass production of cotton and advancing textile technology, cotton fabrics became affordable to millions of people in the world. The center of cotton production became the American South. The textiles were produced in England, and then exported to the world. By 1860, 40 percent of all British exports were cotton textiles, and 75 percent of their cotton came from America.

The cotton boom increased the demand for slaves, because raising cotton was a highly labor-intensive activity. This led to the forced migration of black African slaves mostly from the East Coast of America to the South. Slavery was an important part of this economic equation, and in fact the price of slaves generally correlated with the price of cotton.

The data shown below tell the story of the formation of the state of Mississippi. Mississippi was created by cotton, and by 1860 Mississippi was the largest producer of cotton in the United States.

Mississippi Population

	White	Free Black	Slave	Total
1800	5,179	182	3,489	8,850
1830	70,443	519	65,659	136,621
1860	353,901	773	436,631	791,305

Mississippi Cotton Production

1800	None
1830	70,000,000 pounds
1860	535,100,000 pounds

The cotton phenomenon of 1800–60 not only had a major impact on my ancestors who came to Mississippi, but it also set the stage for momentous political events over the next 150 years, and it created the social environment in which my family lived for generations. It would be hard to overstate the influence of cotton on my family history.

I can only wonder what my ancestors, who came to Mississippi to grow cotton, would think about the fact that, in 2011, their plantations grow corn and the U.S. president is a black man. Times change.



## WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY | CATHERINE CAMERON

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### 7. THE CAMERONS: OUR SCOTCH PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE

Our Cameron family history is closely related to that of the Montgomerys. Both families were Scotch Presbyterians, and both emigrated from the Carolinas to Mississippi during the first decade of the 19th century.

The first Cameron ancestor for which we have proof is **Dugald Cameron (1753–c. 1800)**, my fourth great-grandfather, who came with his wife, **Margaret Cameron (1760–1831)**, after 1785 from Argyllshire, Scotland, and settled in the south-central part of North Carolina. Dugald and Margaret Cameron had six children, five boys and one girl. The oldest child was **Daniel Cameron (1776–1821)**.

As the eldest son, Daniel Cameron likely led his family’s move to Mississippi in 1809. We believe his father, Dugald, died in North Carolina before Daniel came with his mother, Margaret, and his siblings.

Their travel route, if not by river, would have been along wagon trails from North Carolina to Nashville and then down the Natchez Trace. They settled in the “Natchez Country” of the Mississippi Territory in an area called “The Old Scotch Settlement,” where some of the inhabitants spoke Gaelic.

Daniel Cameron, my third great-grandfather, married **Mary McMillan** around 1808. They had six children, four boys and two girls, including my great-great-grandmother **Catherine Cameron (1811–1848)**.

Daniel Cameron was a ruling elder in the Ebenezer Church. He was a founder of the Presbytery of Mississippi, created in 1816 at the Pine Ridge Church, north of Natchez. In 1821, at age 44, Daniel Cameron died. His daughter, Catherine, was nine years old. Over the next 20 years, Daniel Cameron’s mother and four brothers died and were buried with him in the Cameron Cemetery, on Cameron Creek, in Franklin County, east of Natchez, and a few miles from the Oldenburg Church.

On November 24, 1831, Reverend William Montgomery (1768–1848) (no relation), the minister of the Ebenezer and Union churches, officiated at a marriage ceremony between Daniel Cameron’s 20-year-old daughter, Catherine, and **William Pinckney Montgomery (1799–1876)**, a 31-year-old planter. They are my great-great-grandparents.

### “NATCHEZ COUNTRY” AND THE OLD SCOTCH SETTLEMENT



## WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY | CATHERINE CAMERON

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### 8. OUR CAMERON ANCESTRY: A BOAST OF HERALDRY

In family lore, it has long been accepted that our Cameron ancestors descended from the Cameron Clan of Lochiel. In an article written in the 1940s about Locust Plantation, the author makes reference to **Catherine Cameron (1811–1848)**, my great-great-grandmother.

*The Scotch-Irish mother (Catherine Cameron) and wife at Locust was a descendant of the Clan Cameron of Lochinvar and Lochiel and was proud of that fact. She loved the songs of Scotland which she sang, accompanying herself on her little melodeon in the days before a piano had been added to furnishings of her home.*

Family records state that Catherine Cameron's father, **Daniel Cameron (1776–1821)**, my third great-grandfather, was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, and was the son of **Dugald (1753–c. 1800)** and **Margaret Cameron (1760–1831)**.

My mother's genealogical records state that Dugald Cameron "could have been" the son of Dr. Archibald Cameron (1707–1753), a noted 18th-century Jacobite\* who was beheaded in the Tower of London in 1753. This linkage joined the family to several centuries of Cameron Clan of Lochiel chieftains. And so, for that reason, we have long had a deep interest in our Cameron heritage.



*Mother and me in 1985 at Achnacarry, the house of the chief of the Cameron Clan.*

In 1985 my wife and I took my 76-year-old mother, **Catherine Cameron Wilkerson Bryan (1909–2002)**, and her sister Josephine to Scotland to see Achnacarry, the home and seat of the 26th Chief of the Cameron Clan, Sir Donald Hamis Cameron (1910–2004). Later Sir Donald and his wife, Lady Margaret (1913–2006), were our

house guests at Crab Tree Farm. My mother corresponded with Sir Donald and returned to Achnacarry a year later. Also in the entrance hall at my home, we have quite a large portrait, painted in 1782, of the chief of the Cameron Clan with his family. Quite often over the years, I have referred to the chief as my mother's first cousin, about six times removed.

In preparation for this book, I commissioned a researcher to learn more about our Cameron ancestry. The research report states:

*I have read through the papers containing the research done by Catherine Bryan and cannot find anything in them that suggests a link between Dugald Cameron, a native of Argyle who [whose family] immigrated to Franklin County, Mississippi, and Dr. Archibald Cameron, apart from the fact that they had a common surname.*

*The surname Cameron was widespread in Argyle and encompassed common people as well as a member of landed families. Unfortunately, most of the former have gone undocumented, while the latter have been recorded. It very much depends on a person's status in the community as to whether he or she will appear in the records or not.*

*There is always a temptation to make connections to land-owning families given that there are printed sources to work from. Hence, this is often the way a family tradition is born.*

In addition to finding no connection between Dugald Cameron and Dr. Archibald Cameron, the researcher noted that the two Camerons had different religious affiliations.

*Dugald Cameron's eldest son, Daniel Cameron, is listed as ruling elder in Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. This strongly suggests that his parents had been members of the Church of Scotland before they immigrated. Presbyterianism had become the established Church in Scotland in the 17th Century which had been a turbulent one during which the Presbyterians and Episcopalians had vied with each other to become the established church. In the end, the Presbyterians won and the Church of Scotland came into being.*

\*In British history, a supporter of the exiled Stuart King James II (1633–1701) and his descendants after the Glorious Revolution in 1688.

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*The Camerons of Lochiel remained true to the Episcopal Church. On the Clan Cameron site among their archives are several letters written by Dr. Archibald Cameron from the Tower of London in June 1753. In one of them, he writes:*

*“As to my religion, I thank God I die a member so unworthy, of that church in whose communion I have always lived, the Episcopal Church of Scotland as by law established before the most unnatural rebellion began in 1688.”*

*The unnatural rebellion refers to the glorious revolution against James II which resulted in Presbyterian government being established in the following year.*

*And so, it can therefore be seen that the Camerons of Lochiel did not belong to the same church as Dugald Cameron and his wife and subsequent families.*

It appears that our family’s linkage to the Cameron Clan chiefs was only a “boast of heraldry.” I shall leave it to future generations of my family to discover the Scottish ancestry of our Camerons.

## 9. LOCUST PLANTATION

Locust Plantation looms large in the 19th century annals of my Montgomery ancestors. It is a storied family place, but now it is only history, for in the 20th century Locust Plantation disappeared.

In 1831 **William Pinckney Montgomery (1799–1876)**, my great-great-grandfather, was newly married and living in Franklin County, just east of Natchez, Mississippi. That same year, he and his brother, **Alexander Barkley Montgomery (1802–1885)**, acquired, through government patent, acreage along the Mississippi River in the newly formed Washington County, about 150 miles north of Natchez. These government land grants had been made possible by treaties with the Choctaw Indians in 1820, shortly after Mississippi was declared a state of the United States in 1817.

The Montgomery brothers, William Pickney and Alexander Barkley, named their new properties Locust Plantation and Swiftwater Plantation, respectively. Around their acreage, their slaves constructed a levee to protect their land from the Mississippi River floodwaters.

At Locust Plantation, William Pinckney built a four-room log house in a grove of giant locust trees facing Rattlesnake Bayou. He also dug deep cisterns for water and built cabins for his slaves. He moved there with his wife and two children in 1838.



*The house at Locust Plantation before it burned to the ground in the 1940s. This house does not appear to be the original house on this site.*

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The house was considerably expanded in later years. By 1850 the home at Locust Plantation had an assessed valuation of \$40,000. The house is described in a piece entitled *The History of Locust Plantation*.

*The house was two stories high and was a long white structure raised up 6–8 feet off the ground on brick piers.*

*The house was made of cypress and was surrounded by a long L-shaped porch which was about 8 feet wide. All rooms in the house were approximately 20 x 20 feet and the ceilings were anywhere from 12 to 15 feet high.*

*The kitchen was separate from the rest of the house and was made of brick. It contained two enormous rooms; first a kitchen with a large fireplace, and second a pantry or storeroom also having a fireplace. Food was prepared there and carried to the main house by way of a covered walkway from the kitchen to the dining room.*

The 1840s and 1850s in the South is an era we call the antebellum period. It has been romanticized and glorified for as long as I can remember. In the 1930s, an account of social life at Locust was written.

*The social life of the planters and their families in the days before the Civil War is attractively pictured by those who knew it well. Large dinners, usually given on Sundays, brought numerous guests. Dances were given in the spacious plantation homes, music supplied by Negro musicians who performed well for the reels and cotillions then in vogue. To the dances came the young people from far and near, usually on horseback. The roads, as such they could be called, were deep in dust in summer, and well nigh bottomless bogs in winter so everyone rode horseback whether on business or pleasure bent.*

*The gentlemen of the plantations enjoyed hunting parties, sometimes great affairs, when for several weeks the hunters camped at some chosen spot to enjoy the companionship of kindred spirits, to talk politics; to take a wee nip now and then, besides hunting for deer, bear, panther, and for wild fowl in season. Fish fries were a favorite diversion. Fish were abundant in all the streams being brought in by the annual rise of the river.*

*Beside local diversions, the planters and their families made up parties to take trips to Vicksburg, Natchez, or gay New Orleans aboard the boats that passed down the river so frequently.*

*At Locust a welcome guest and probably its most famous one was the naturalist and painter, John J. Audubon [1785–1851], said by some to have been the “lost Dauphin” of France. Whether born to eminence or not, he became famous through his own achievements. His visit probably occurred before 1844, in which year his “Birds of America” was published. It is a work to which his host, William Pinckney Montgomery, subscribed and which for many years was a treasured possession in the library at Locust Plantation.\**



Unfortunately, some years after the Civil War, William Pinckney Montgomery's widow, Evelyn Bacon Montgomery (1823–1899), while impoverished and feeble, sold *Birds of America*, then worth \$300 for only \$50. On December 7, 2010, one of 100 or so remaining copies of *Birds of America* sold at Sotheby's in London for \$11.5 million, making it the most expensive printed book in the world.

*A plate from John James Audubon's (1785–1851) Birds of America, which sold for \$11.5 million in 2010.*

The Civil War, of course, brought a rude and abrupt end to the lifestyle at Locust Plantation. We have one account of an incident that occurred there during the war.

*During the war, Locust was molested only once by Federal raiders. Learning of a recent raid out on Deer Creek, members of the household sat one morning at the breakfast table, discussing the raid and William Pinckney turned to his wife, Evelyn, and inquired “aren't you going to hide your silver service and valuables?” She replied, “yes, right after breakfast, I am going to put them down in the cistern under the shed.” But before they rose from the table, a servant rushed in to say: “Miss Evie [Evelyn Bacon Montgomery], they're coming in the gate now.” The raiders took the silver service and all other valuables. They took all the mules, and they hitched the horses to the family carriage, which was piled high with pork, which had been killed and dressed the preceding day and was ready for salting. Away dashed the carriage, the hooves and ears of its queer occupant contrasting strangely with its silver mountings of all they had taken that day, the carriage alone was ever recovered.*

After William Pinckney died in 1876, his widow, Evelyn, lived on at Locust until her death in 1899.

\*William Pinckney is not recorded as an original subscriber to *Birds of America* in any of the records we have found.



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The levee at Locust protected the home site until a major flood in 1903, when a crevasse in the main line levee near Locust allowed the Mississippi River to flood the entire area south of Greenville. Most of the original Locust Plantation structures were washed away by this flood. In 1920 Locust Plantation is shown as the property of **William Eugene Montgomery's (1833–1903)** unmarried daughter, Inez Montgomery (1872–1957). She was my grandmother **Caroline Mosby Montgomery Wilkerson's (1884–1957)** first cousin and apparently was the last family member to operate the plantation. In the 1930s the plantation was mostly lost in a foreclosure. The old home burned in the 1940s. The stand-alone kitchen remained, and it was converted into a small private home. In the 1990s, the kitchen was torn down and a new two-story home built.

Today 40 acres of the original Locust Plantation remain in the family of William Devere Montgomery (1927–1962), my mother's second cousin, a grandson of **Daniel Cameron Montgomery I (1835–1898)**.

In 1952 my mother, **Catherine Cameron Wilkerson Bryan (1909–2002)**, visited the old home site and cemetery at Locust. She made the following record of tombstones that she found:

- Catherine, wife of W. P. Montgomery/died Dec. 4, 1848/age 37 yrs. 2 mos. 26 days

*Sons of W. P. and C. C. Montgomery*

- Charles C. P./Born Jan. 21, 1838/Died Mar. 20, 1843
- Pinckney/Born May 8, 1844/Died Feb. 13, 1848

- Laura, Dau. of W. P. and E. C. Montgomery/Dec. 15, 1850/Oct 23, 1851

*(Note: My mother believed that W. P. Montgomery was also buried at Locust, but his marker is no longer there. He was born November 27, 1799, and died October 4, 1876.)*

Locust Plantation in the 19th century rose out of a virgin swamp to become a prosperous cotton plantation. In the early 20th century, it declined and was mostly transformed by the forces of that century into a lovely upscale residential area called Bayou Road. In the spring of 2008, I visited with my niece Sarah Catherine Dill Reily (b. 1974), who had a home there.

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10. TWO POEMS BY CATHERINE CAMERON MONTGOMERY

WHEN SHALL WE MEET, T. M.

When shall we all meet again,  
 When shall we all meet again?  
 Oft shall glowing hope expire,  
 Oft shall wearied love retire,  
 Oft shall death and sorrow reign,  
 Ere we all shall meet again.

Though in distant lands we sigh,  
 Parch'd beneath a hostile sky;  
 Though the deep beneath us rolls,  
 Friendship shall unite our souls;  
 Still in fancy's rich domain,  
 Oft we all shall meet again.

When around this youthful pine,  
 Moss shall creep and ivy twine;  
 When these burnish'd locks are grey,  
 Thin'd by many a toil-spent day;  
 May this long lov'd bow'r remain,  
 Till we all shall meet again.

When the dreams of life are fled,  
 And its wasted lamp is dead;  
 When in dark oblivion's shade,  
 Beauty, power and fame are dead;  
 Where immortal spirits reign,  
 There we all shall meet again.

REFORMED RAKE, T. M.

As free as air I've roved till now,  
 Lov'd many a girl but cautions how;  
 Ne'er languish'd but armir'd.  
 In every shape I mark'd a grace,  
 I found a charm in ev'ry face;  
 A look my bosom fir'd.

Oft have I lov'd but knew no smart,  
 The girls wee welcome to my heart,  
 As welcome brown as fair.  
 And I pronounc'd the man undone,  
 Who only dares to love but one,  
 And wed a wife in care.

So much the sex possess'd my soul,  
 I could no less than love the whole;  
 Nor bound to one could be.  
 I flatter'd all, to all I bow'd,  
 Eternal love to all I vow'd,  
 Yet still my heart was free.

If ever I saw a falling tear,  
 I promised fair but not sincere;  
 I pitied, and no more.

If e'er a moments pain I knew  
 In hast to some new face I flew;  
 And strait me pain was o'ver.

At length a sly discerning maid,  
 In innocence from'd ambushade,  
 And closed me from retreat.

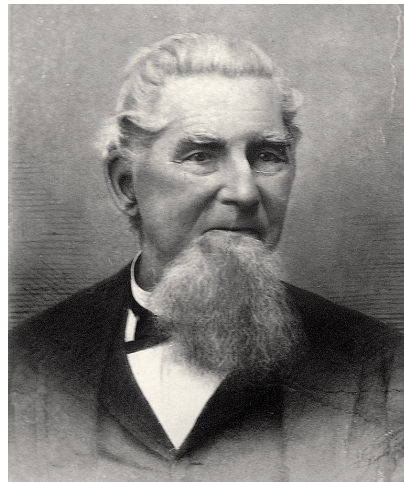
I struggled but laid down my arms,  
 And owned the force of female charms;  
 And smiled at the defeat.

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### 11. MAJOR WILLIAM EUGENE MONTGOMERY

**William Eugene Montgomery (1833–1903)**, my great-great-uncle, was the eldest child of **William Pinckney Montgomery (1799–1876)** and **Catherine Cameron (1811–1848)**. In 1857 he married the daughter of Charles Clark (1811–1877), a veteran



*William Eugene Montgomery, c. 1900.*

of the Mexican War and later a brigadier general in the Confederate Army. General Clark, crippled by wounds at the Battle of Shiloh and Baton Rouge, was elected governor of the state of Mississippi in 1863. After the war, he was forcibly removed from office by Federal forces and sent by them to prison.

William Eugene was a lawyer who obtained the rank of major during the war. He commanded the first Mississippi battalion, which was composed of state troops or home guards in Washington County. His command was regarded by the enemy as a guerilla

force. These home guards were known by the soldiers and citizens as “Feather-Bed Rangers” because they dispersed at night and slept during the day in their own or other people’s houses. On one occasion, William Eugene was captured by Federal raiders while asleep in someone’s house, but he quickly escaped.

On November 8–9, 1863, Major Montgomery’s battalion sank the U.S. steam ship *Allen Collier*, on the Mississippi River. In retaliation, the next day, on November 10, 1863, Lieutenant Colonel George E. Currie and his troops burned the home of William Eugene Montgomery on Bogue Phalia, a bayou in Washington County. A report of that incident appears in family records.

*When the forces arrived, they found on the place only Mrs. Montgomery, Mary Adelia, her babies [she had four at the time], little sister and brother, another lady and her baby, and the Negroes. The Yankees took everything they fancied, even the family portraits, and then they burned the house. The evicted family moved into a cabin where they slept on pallets on the floor and at the window they hung a blanket.*

After the war, around 1874, Major William Eugene Montgomery, moved with his family to California, where he lived for a number of years before returning to his home in Natchez. For many years, he served as an officer of the Mississippi Levee Board, as did his brother, my great-grandfather **John Malcolm Montgomery (1841–1910)**.

William Eugene and Mary Adelia Clark Montgomery (1836–1918) had 14 children. William Eugene died on July 4, 1903, at Routhland, his home place in Natchez, Mississippi. Routhland is today one of the homes on tour during the Natchez Pilgrimage in the spring each year.

The last of William Eugene and Mary Adelia’s children was Alan Montgomery (1880–1916), who is the grandfather of Chandler Warren (b. 1932), a friend of mine from my college days at Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College). Chandler’s sister, Joan (b. 1939), is the owner of the portrait of William Pinckney Montgomery on page 271. William Pinckney Montgomery is the great-great-grandparent I share with Chandler Warren and Joan Warren Gandy, who are my third cousins.

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12. DR. DANIEL CAMERON MONTGOMERY

Dr. Daniel Cameron Montgomery (1835-1898) was the second son of William Pinckney Montgomery (1799-1876) and Catherine Cameron Montgomery (1811-1848). He received his bachelor's degree from Centenary College in



Jackson, Louisiana. There he helped organize a secret society known as the Mystic Seven, which later became Beta Theta Pi. Daniel Cameron Montgomery graduated with a degree in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1855 and relocated to practice medicine in Bolivar County. In 1861 he enlisted in the Confederate Army as a private. He was in the Battles of Shiloh and Corinth. In 1862 he was appointed Brigadier Surgeon of the 1st Mississippi Cavalry. In the winter of 1864, he became seriously ill and was captured by the Federal forces during the Tennessee Campaign.

Dr. Daniel Cameron Montgomery in Civil War uniform, c. 1862. The photo belongs to my third cousin William Montgomery (b. 1960), who is the great-grandson of Dr. Daniel Cameron Montgomery (1835-1898).

We have a letter written March 18, 1865, from a Mrs. Smith to William Pinckney Montgomery to tell him about the fate of his son, Daniel Cameron Montgomery.

Stewart's Creek, Rutherford County, Tennessee, March 1865

Mr. W. P. Montgomery:

Sir, your note of inquiry as to the whereabouts of your son Dr. D. C. Montgomery, I take the earliest opportunity to answer. Such a person as Dr. D. Cameron Montgomery, surgeon of the CSA was left with me at my house on the retreat. He was too sick to move, staid about three months with us, came very near dying, recovered by close attention and care, was much improved in health. Was anxious to go on and be exchanged as he was held as a prisoner of war after the CSA again got possession of the country hereabout upon Hood's retreat. I took him to Murfreesboro myself in my buggy as that was more agreeable to him than an ambulance or walking.

... He was quite a nice, clever, and I think a good man while here. Very quiet and peaceable, patient and kind and I trust will soon be restored to his home and friends which he was very anxious to do.

His greatest desire expressed while here was home sweet home. I want to get home again and may God grant it is the wish of a well-wisher.

Very respectfully, N.M.N.B. Smith or Mrs. Jackson Smith

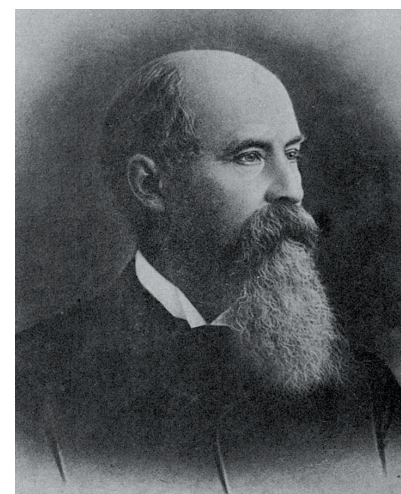
In his "Remembrances of a Cavalry Man," John Malcolm Montgomery (1841-1910) wrote in 1909 about his experience and feelings on leaving his older brother, Daniel Cameron Montgomery, at Mrs. Jackson Smith's home during the Civil War in 1864.

My good brother, who was now chiefsurgeon of our division, succumbed to his onerous duties and the severity of the weather, and was taken down with typhoid pneumonia. I succeeded in carrying him to the house. The lady's name was Mrs. Napoleon Jackson Smith on Stewart Creek.

This lady gave him every consideration and kindness nursing him through a long and dangerous illness and when, after our evacuation, the prisoners were all ordered into Murfreesboro, she went on his bond for his prompt delivery as soon as he should be well. She gave him some clothes and \$25 in money. This was the first debt he paid after his discharge from prison. That noble woman has long since been dead, but if good deeds on this earth will bear anyone to heaven, she is surely there.

On our way to Nashville [during Hood's retreat], we passed the house in which my sick brother was staying. I stopped to bid him farewell, never expecting to see him again. It was the saddest duty I ever performed, leaving him so sick among the enemy, a stranger in a strange land.

After the war, Dr. Daniel Cameron Montgomery returned to Greenville and married twice. In 1898, at age 63, he contracted pneumonia and died after making a house call on horseback through snow and rain.



Daniel Cameron Montgomery, c. 1890.

He had one son, Dr. Daniel Cameron Montgomery II (1885-1958), who became a prominent physician in Greenville, Mississippi. Dr. Montgomery's grandson Dr. Daniel Cameron Montgomery III (1920-1980) wrote a book about the Montgomery family. His widow, Suzanne White Montgomery (1924-2010), was particularly helpful to us in preparing this book.



**WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY | CATHERINE CAMERON****PAGES 72–73****13. “KATE” MONTGOMERY: “THE NOBLEST, DEAREST WOMAN THAT GOD EVER MADE”**

The fourth child of **William Pinckney Montgomery (1799–1876)** and **Catherine Cameron Montgomery (1811–1848)** was their only daughter, **Mary Catherine (Kate) Montgomery (1846–1868)**. When she was a young girl, a portrait of her was painted by New Orleans painter Trevor T. Fowler (1800–1881).

For the painting, she was dressed in white tulle and sat on a rose-colored seat, her hair drawn down in the prim style of that day. When Fowler painted her, he asked her to jump rope until her hair was damp. The rope is in her lap in the painting.

Kate Montgomery attended school at the Nashville Female Academy. The school did not survive the Civil War.

When Kate Montgomery was 20 years old, she was in love with a young man, but her father prevailed upon her to marry an older suitor, 35-year-old William Lewis Nugent (1832–1897). Nugent was a widower and had been a colonel in the Confederacy during the war. He was also a lawyer and close friend of Kate’s father, William Pinckney Montgomery. Their wedding on June 20, 1867, was the only wedding ever held at Locust Plantation.

Just over a year later, after Kate turned 21, she suffered the fate of so many 19th-century women. She died in the childbirth of her son, who also died. She is buried at Locust Plantation.

Colonel Nugent then married for the third time and lived to be 65 years old. Today he is remembered for a book, *My Dear Nellie*, published in 1977 and based upon letters he wrote to his first wife during the Civil War. During his brief marriage to Kate Montgomery, she saved those letters in the attic at Locust Plantation.



*Mary Catherine Montgomery (Nugent) by Trevor T. Fowler, probably painted in the late 1850s. This painting courtesy of the late Suzanne White Montgomery (Mrs. D. C. Montgomery III) of Greenville, Mississippi.*

**John Malcolm Montgomery (1841–1910)**, my great-grandfather and Kate Montgomery’s older brother, wrote about his sister over 40 years later. Reflecting on his Civil War years, he said:

*I have often speculated on what force it was that caused me to stick it out to the bitter end. Was it pride, patriotism or was it the insignia I wore on my collar? No, no, the motive that impelled me to discharge my duty was inspired by my only sister, Katie, the noblest, dearest woman that God ever made. When I buckled on my armor in my youthful prime and bade her farewell, she gave me God’s blessing and a Bible.... That priceless treasure was my constant companion for four long years and cheered me through many long and hopeless hours.*

**WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY | CATHERINE CAMERON****PAGES 72–73****14. EVELYN C. BACON: WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY'S SECOND WIFE**

In 1848 **William Pinckney Montgomery's (1799–1876)** wife, **Catherine Cameron Montgomery (1811–1848)**, died at age 37. She left a three-week-old son, **Samuel Montgomery (1848–1878)**, whose birth was the cause of her death. They had four other children, ages two to 13, including my seven-year-old great-grandfather **John Malcolm Montgomery (1841–1910)**.

The circumstances surrounding William Pinckney Montgomery's second marriage in 1850 to Evelyn C. Bacon (1823–1899) have been described as follows:

*As Catherine Cameron realized that her end was near, she said to her husband Pinckney, I want you to marry my dear friend, Evelyn Bacon. She will make a good mother to my children.*

*One year and a month later, William Pinckney and Evelyn were married. Catherine's choice proved a wise one, for all of her children loved their stepmother. She not only proved herself a good mother, but a fine wife and excellent homemaker.*

*However, in her own children, Evelyn Bacon was tragically unfortunate. Of six children born to her, only one lived longer than two years. The one who did was "Little Pink" who was his father's namesake. Little Pink was fatally scalded when he was barely seven years old.*

**15. WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY: A LIFE OF TRIUMPH AND DISASTER**

**William Pinckney Montgomery (1799–1876)**, my great-great-grandfather, was called Pinckney. It was a name given to many South Carolinians and it came from Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (1746–1825), a Revolutionary War general and South Carolina statesman. The Montgomerys were friends of General Pinckney before they came to Mississippi.

William Pinckney Montgomery was born in the Waxhaw Settlement of South Carolina about a month before the end of the 18th century (November 27, 1799). In his relatively long, 76-year life, he was to meet with triumph and disaster.

During the antebellum years (1840–60) in Mississippi, William Pinckney was a prosperous Mississippi Delta planter and a prominent social, political, and religious figure. He was a staunch Presbyterian, though he is reputed to have been "a cusser of remarkable proportions."

During the Civil War, in his 60s, William Pinckney Montgomery remained at Locust Plantation while his three oldest sons were deeply engaged in fighting for the cause of the Confederacy. The Civil War proved disastrous for William Pinckney. In early 1865, he was informed that his cotton crop had been seized and burned by Confederate troops to keep it out of the hands of the enemy.

After the war, he struggled with debt and labor problems, and in 1868 he was forced to declare bankruptcy. In bankruptcy the plantation was run by William Nugent (1832–1897), his lawyer and former son-in-law. During that time, major disputes arose over the management of Locust Plantation. An arbitration agreement was finally reached in 1872 between William Nugent, William Pinckney, and his sons. Locust Plantation had almost been lost.

For the remainder of his life, William Pinckney endured the postwar Reconstruction period, which coincidentally ended in 1876, the year he died. He was buried at Locust Plantation.

William Pinckney Montgomery lived his life precisely during a time that is depicted and glorified in Margaret Mitchell's (1900–1949) epic 1936 novel *Gone with the Wind*. Like the O'Haras of Georgia, our Montgomerys of Mississippi were Southern plantation owners who were vanquished in the Civil War and thus experienced the end of their "noble era."



## WILLIAM PINCKNEY MONTGOMERY | CATHERINE CAMERON

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I have listed below a timeline of events in the life of **William Pinckney Montgomery (1799–1876)**.

Dates	Description
1799	Born in Waxhaw Settlement, South Carolina
1802	Migrated with his family to Natchez in Mississippi Territory
1831	Married Catherine Cameron, a native Mississippian of Scotch parentage
1831	Bought land in present-day Greenville, Mississippi
1838	Built a four-room log house on Locust Plantation and moved his family
1835–48	Had seven children Two sons died as infants—ages five and three (see page 258) Four sons and one daughter lived to maturity
1848	His wife, Catherine Cameron, died at age 37, after childbirth
1850	At the request of his wife, he married Evelyn C. Bacon
1850–61	Had six children with Evelyn C. Bacon—five died in infancy, between ages one month and two years
1861	Their remaining seven-year-old son, Alexander Pinckney Montgomery “Little Pink,” was fatally scalded
1861–65	The Civil War years
1868	His 21-year-old daughter Kate died in childbirth
1868	He declared bankruptcy
1872	Agreement executed to settle a dispute with William L. Nugent
1876	He died and is buried at Locust Plantation



*Portrait of William Pinckney Montgomery probably painted in the late 1850s. The painting was once thought to be by John James Audubon. Today it is owned by my third cousin Joan Warren Gandy, who is also his great-great-granddaughter.*