

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

MONTGOMERY FAMILY BACKGROUND

Some additional reference to the family of
Montgomery that in Gaspesia had particular
association with the New Richmond area.

KEN ANNETT

MONTGOMERY FAMILY BACKGROUND

FOREWORD

SPEC of May 31st., 1979 carried the "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" article No.12 on the life and times of the early New Richmond merchant trader, William Cuthbert and his wife, Christianna Montgomery. In time the Cuthbert's sister-in-law, Mary Montgomery Pidgeon, came to live in New Richmond and the Montgomery sisters were joined there by their brothers, Robert and William from their native Prince Edward Island. Thus, for generations, the Montgomery name was known in Gaspesia. It seems fitting that "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" attempt to recall something of the family background.

FROM THE MISTS
OF TIME

Among the out-migrations of peoples from traditional homelands few are more remarkable and dramatic than that of the Vikings or Norsemen. In the tenth century A.D. these fierce and hardy raiders from the fiords or "viks" of Scandinavia sailed their dragon ships with skill and daring to raid and settle in Britain, Europe, Iceland, Greenland and America. In 911 A.D. the great Viking chieftan, Rollo, won recognition from the French King as the Duke of Normandy. His son, Duke William I, known as "Longsword" consolidated and extended Norse rule and influence in both Normandy and Brittany. Prominent among his vassal lords was Roger Montgomery, known as Roger the Great.

This Lord Roger Montgomery had a son, Roger, born in the Montgomery castle of Lesieux, Normandy, about 1030 A.D. He grew up to inherit the baronetcy and to swear allegiance to his feudal over-lord, Duke William II of Normandy, known variously as William the Bastard or William the Conqueror. When Duke William made his momentous decision to invade England in 1066 A.D., Roger Montgomery was at his side. Following the historic Norman victory over the Saxon English at the Battle of Hastings, Duke William became King William I of England and rewarded Roger Montgomery with the earldoms of Wessex and Arundel and vast tracts of land in Scotland. In Britain the Montgomery family spread and flourished.

EMIGRATION
FROM SCOTLAND

Taking a long leap forward in time to the year 1700 we find a Hugh Montgomery living in the Campbeltown area of Kintyre, Argyleshire, Scotland. Kintyre is a peninsula on the western coast of Scotland jutting into the Irish Sea near the Firth of Clyde. It had a port and was a center for fishing and farming. Hugh Montgomery's wife was Mary, daughter of the Rev. James Boes, Minister of the Church of Scotland, Provost of Campbeltown, and resident of the property known as "Broomlands". Hugh and Mary Boes Montgomery had sons Hugh, Alexander and Richard, all of whom, in time, emigrated to Canada.

Of these sons, Hugh Jr. grew up to marry Mary McShannon, a local Campbeltown girl. For a time the couple lived on the McShannon estate known as "Lepenstraw". Six children were born to them - one of whom died in infancy. The other were: John (1753); Donald (1760); Margaret ; Helen (1768) ; Hugh (1770) In 1771 Hugh Montgomery and his brothers, Alexander and Richard, with their wives and families, decided to emigrate to Quebec, Canada. The voyage was a stormy one and as their supply of fresh water ran out the Captain of the vessel was forced to seek land quickly to replenish the water supply. He made landfall on the shores of St.John's Island (now Prince Edward Island) at Malpeque.

In his "HISTORY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND" the historian, Warburton, recalls that Mary McShannon Montgomery pleaded with her husband and the Captain of the vessel to be allowed to go ashore on St.John's Island. She had been sea-sick throughout most of the stormy voyage and insisted that she would remain there and not go on to Quebec. Consequently, her husband and the family removed their luggage and supplies to the shore and the ship, after filling its water casks, sailed on to Quebec without them. With regard to Hugh's brothers, Alexander returned eventually to his native Scotland while Richard moved on from Quebec to Upper Canada. One of Richard's descendants was proprietor of the historic "Montgomery's Tavern" near Toronto which was the meeting place for William Lyon MacKenzie and the "rebels" of 1837.

HUGH AND MARY
MONTGOMERY IN
P.E.I.

The settlement of Hugh and Mary McShannon Montgomery and family at Fox Point, Princetown, Prince Edward Island in 1771 is of particular interest to me as it was in that same year my Canadian ancestors, William and Elizabeth Siddon Annett arrived in Prince Edward Island from Old England. Though the Annett family moved on in time to Gaspé Bay the Montgomery name is identified closely with the political, social and cultural development of P.E.I. Hugh and Mary McShannon Montgomery were the great-great grandparents of Lucy Maud Montgomery, the famous author of the "Ann of Green Gables" stories.

JOHN MONTGOMERY
1753-1845

The eldest son of Hugh and Mary McShannon Montgomery. He married Ann Hooper. They settled in Bedeque, P.E.I. and are the ancestors of the Bedeque branch of the Montgomery family.

DONALD MONTGOMERY
1760-1845

The brother of John above. He married Nancy Penman, daughter of the Loyalist, George Penman, and lived at Fox Point, Princetown. He was a Member of the Legislature of P.E.I. for Princetown and Royalty for thirty-five consecutive years.

Donald and Nancy Penman Montgomery had seventeen children, namely:

John, who married Eliza Hamilton. They moved to Dalhousie, New Brunswick where John had a lumber and shipbuilding business.

Hugh, who also lived in Dalhousie, N.B.

George, who married Miss Ramsay. They also moved to New Brunswick where George died soon after the great Miramichi fire of 1825.

James, who married Rose McCary, daughter of the Rev. John McCary, in Ireland. On a voyage from Dublin, Ireland to Quebec the ship in which they had passage was wrecked on the Gaspé Peninsula. The schooner chartered to take them on to Quebec encountered violent storm and they landed at Sea View, P.E.I. James, his wife

and family resided at the Fox Point, Princetown home of the Montgomery clan.

Edward, married a Miss Campbell of Lot No.16. Their home was at Malpeque, P.E.I.

Archibald, married Mary Ramsay. Resided at Port Hill.

Donald, known as Big Donald Montgomery. As a young man he went to the Restigouche area of New Brunswick to work with his brothers in the lumber business. He was reputed to be one of the best rivermen of his time. A big man, he was able to hold his own with any of the other lumbermen in that area.

Returning to P.E.I. he was elected to the Provincial Legislature in 1838 and won re-election for the next twenty-four consecutive years. He served as Speaker of the Legislature and subsequently of the Legislative Council. Appointed a Senator of the Dominion of Canada in 1874 he served in that capacity until 1892.

As a girl, Lucy Maud Montgomery, spent much time with her grandgather, Big Donald, and his family at their Park Corner home. She recalled "the old house, a most quaint and delightful old place, full of cupboards and nooks and little unexpected corners". After her father left P.E.I. to live in Saskatchewan in 1881 Lucy Maud became even more attached to her Grandfather Montgomery-"a handsome old man, just like a grandfather out of a story book. I love him. He is always so good and kind and gentle to me". He became, in many ways, her real father.

Robert Twins who moved to New Richmond, Quebec and
and were involved there in the lumber business.

William

Christie Became the wife of William Cuthbert,
Christianna Merchant Trader, Shipbuilder and Member
of the Legislature of Quebec from 1848 to 1851. They
lived at New Richmond in Gaspesia.

Ref. "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" No.12 "WILLIAM CUTHBERT"

Elizabeth Married James Campbell of New London, P.E.I.
They lived at Sea View.

Helen. First marriage with William Woodside of Malpeque and second marriage with George Owen of Hamilton, P.E.I.

Mary. Wife of the Rev. Edward Pidgeon of French River, the first Presbyterian missionary sent out to P.E.I. from Britain by the London Missionary Society.

Mary and her children later moved to New Richmond, Quebec, where her sister, Christiana Montgomery Cuthbert lived.

(Ref. "GASPE OF YESTERDAY" No. 190 "REV. EDWARD PIDGEON")

Barbara Became the wife of Archibald Woodside.

Ann Wife of William Murray of Bedeque.

Jane Married Benjamin Murray of Bedeque.

Margaret. Died in her youth.

It is evident that Gaspesian members of the Montgomery family were members of an extended family network with its home base in Prince Edward Island. The above review will also serve to illustrate the diversity and richness of the family experience in farming, fishing, the lumber industry, the Church, Government and the Arts. No doubt the Gaspesian British Heritage Center at New Richmond will, in time, document in more detail the history of this early family. For it can be said with conviction that members of the Montgomery family contributed to Gaspesian life from an historic and interesting background.





MONTGOMERY

CREST BADGE: *A female figure proper, antequely attired, argent, holding in dexter an anchor or, in sinister a savage's head held by the hair, couped of the fist.*

MOTTO: *Gardez bien (Look well).*

GAELIC NAME: *MacGumerait.*

THE MONTGOMERYS are a lowland clan of Anglo-Norman origin. Roger de Montgomery, a Regent of Normandy, followed William the Conqueror to England where he was created Earl of Arundel. His grandson, Robert de Montgomery, came to Scotland in the train of Walter, the first high steward of Scotland in the reign of David I. Robert, who received the manor of Eaglesham, for long the principal home of the Montgomeries, witnessed the foundation charter of the monastery of Paisley in 1160.

Sir John Montgomery, 7th of Eaglesham, distinguished himself at the Battle of Otterburn in 1388 by capturing Henry Percy, called Hotspur. With Percy's ransom Montgomery built Polnoon Castle. He married Elizabeth de Eglinton, and obtained the lands of Eglinton and Ardrossan. Sir Alexander Montgomery was Governor of Kintyre and Knapdale in 1430, and some time later was created Lord Montgomery. Hugh, 3rd Lord Montgomery, was created Earl of Eglinton in 1507. Hugh, 2nd Earl, supported Queen Mary and was taken prisoner at the Battle of Langside in 1568. Hugh, 5th Earl, died without issue and the earldom passed to his cousin, Sir Alexander Seton, who took the name and arms of Montgomery.

George Montgomery, second son of Sir Alexander, 1st Lord Montgomery, was progenitor of the Montgomeries of Skelmorlie, and in the "Roll of Landlords in the Highlands and Isles where broken men dwelt, 1587," is mentioned "The Laird of Skelmourlie, for Rauchry." This was Sir Robert Montgomery of Skelmorlie, and Rauchry appears to be the island of Rathlin.

During the Plantation of Ulster at the end of the 16th century, Lady Montgomery of Eglinton set up linen and woollen manufactures in Ireland and encouraged the making of tartan there.

