

# *Earliest Settlers*



## of Montgomery County

**Montgomery Museum & Lewis Miller Regional Art Center is pleased to sponsor a certificate program that will highlight the names and stories of these ancestors.**

The Earliest Settlers program offers two levels of acknowledgment:

**Intrepid Pioneer** level covers ancestors who were living in Montgomery County prior to January 1, 1811.

**Settler Community Builder** level covers ancestors who were living in Montgomery County prior to January 1, 1850.

### *Documentation*

1. We encourage genealogical research and request photocopies of original documents as proof of lineage and dates of birth, marriage, and death for each generation. Each date entered on the Line of Descent Chart should have accompanying documentary proof. Do not send original documents. They cannot be returned. While primary sources offer the best proof, secondary sources may be considered if primary proof is not available.
  - *Primary sources include:* Birth, death, and marriage records, wills and probate records, deeds/land, church, tombstone, Bible, military, letters, pages from diaries, court cases, tax, census records and eye-witness accounts.
  - *Secondary sources include:* Newspaper clippings (include name of newspaper, location and date of publication) published biographical histories and/or sketches, private family papers, and other records made by persons who did not witness the event.
2. All documents must include a full citation of source. The location, title, volume, and page number must be written on the copy itself. For secondary sources, a copy of the actual page where the fact was found, plus title of source, author, and page number, must be submitted. Bible records must include a photocopy of the title page with publication date and current owner's name and address.
3. Female ancestors should be identified by their maiden name. Exceptions are in cases where the maiden name/ surname cannot be proven.
4. If an ancestor has already been proven by another individual, the applicant need only submit proof to the nearest common ancestor. A citation to the name and Earliest Settlers' number of that individual must be included.

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***Inadmissible Documentation:*** Hearsay, oral or written family group sheets, and online family trees that do not have full citation including title, volume and page number of the source for each fact (marriage, will, etc) will not be accepted. Evidence that appears to have been altered will also not be accepted.

***Submitted Materials:*** All applications and supporting documentation will become the property of the Montgomery Museum genealogy library. Eligibility shall be determined by a committee appointed by the Montgomery Museum. The committee's decision will be final. Incorrect or incomplete applications will be returned for additions and corrections, and the applicant will be encouraged to resubmit at no additional charge.

Mail applications and photocopied proofs, along with a nonrefundable \$25.00 check or money order made payable to the Montgomery Museum:

**Earliest Settlers of Montgomery County  
c/o Montgomery County Museum and Lewis Miller Art Gallery  
300 South Pepper Street  
Christiansburg, Virginia 24073**

Genealogical research from the genealogy library staff of the Museum (540 382-5644) may be requested to assist in documenting lineage. A \$25.00 hourly fee will be charged for research services. The Montgomery County Courthouse, Clerk of Circuit Court's Office (540 382-5760) may have a list of current researchers available upon request.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Museum (540382-5644), leave a detailed message, phone number or email address and someone will get back to you.

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### Application Form

**Application Form Instructions:** Complete the attached Application Form, Line of Descent chart, and Source Records sheet in black ink or typewritten. Applicants that have more than one qualifying ancestor should complete a separate Application Form, Line of Descent chart and Source Records sheet for each ancestor. Additional material is strongly encouraged, such as newspaper articles, photos of people, homes, tombstones, and other material that may be of interest to future researchers.

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**Full name as it is to appear on the certificate**

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**Street address**

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**City**

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**State**

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**Zip Code**

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**Email address**

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**Phone number**

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**Name of ancestor of the applicant proven to have settled in Montgomery County, Virginia on or before**  
(check one)  **January 1, 1811** or  **January 1, 1850.**

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**Year settled**

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**Ancestor came from (if known)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby affirm/ swear  
that the statements set forth in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I  
understand that by submitting this application all supporting data and documents attached will become  
the property of the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center and its genealogy library.

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Signature of Applicant

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Date