



THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY STORY

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THEIR NAME WAS MAGRUDER

BY
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One of the families which have made significant contributions to the history of Montgomery County is the Magruder family. Their ancestors were members of the MacGregor Clan in Scotland. These people were extremely warlike and seem to have been always fighting their neighbors, sometimes defensively and sometimes aggressively. Finally, on April 3, 1603, their enemies persuaded the King to issue an edict stating that the name of MacGregor should forever be abolished. All who bore it should forthwith renounce it and none of their posterity should ever afterward take the name under pain of death. No minister should baptise or christen any male child with the name of MacGregor. It was also ordered that the Earl of Argyle and the Campbell Clan were to pursue, slay and if possible exterminate the Clan.

The Clan throughout all their persecution retained their unity and increased in number. Charles II annulled these orders but William and Mary again proscribed the Clan and compelled them to take other names. This continued until 1774 when this ban was finally rescinded by the British Parliament. Members of the Clan took various names including Gregory, Gregor, Magruder, Greer, etc.

The first Magruder to come to Maryland was Alexander Magruder who was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in 1610. He was among the troops defeated by Cromwell at the Battle of Worcester in 1651. Members of the defeated army were sent as prisoners to the British Colonies. Generally they were indentured servants forced to serve whom ever purchased them for a certain number of years. At the end of this period they received a grant of land. Evidently Alexander practiced the Scottish traits of

industry and thrift for in a few years he purchased 600 acres in Calvert County, Maryland, and by the time of his death in 1677 he had acquired a considerable estate.

Alexander Magruder left a large family, all of whom acquired plantations near their father. The second generation in turn had large families, so as they became heads of households they spread "up country" with the trend of settlement. This brought them into what, after 1748, was Frederick County, which in turn became Montgomery County.

With their background of being Scots resisting England, it was to be expected that these Maryland Magruders would be active in the resistance to England movement. We find them active in all the Pre-Revolutionary groups - Committees of Correspondence, Sons of Liberty, groups boycotting British goods, etc.

When the Revolutionary group took over from the government of Lord Baltimore, they organized into a Convention to operate the new State. This Convention in 1776 divided Frederick County into three parts, with the Southern part becoming Montgomery County.

To get the new County started, a Commission was appointed, two of whom were Nathan Magruder and his brother Zadok. Named as one of the Justices of the Montgomery Court in 1778 was Samuel Wade Magruder.

These men and other Magruders helped win freedom from England and went on for many years thereafter as active and prominent citizens of their County and State.

Other Magruders left the parent State and went to Virginia, Mississippi, Arkansas, etc., where many of them became leaders.

Notable Montgomery County Leaders

The best known early Magruders in Montgomery County have received recognition in several instances.

On Sept. 6, 1921, the Janet Montgomery Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, placed bronze markers on trees around the Court House, each marker honoring one of the original Commissioners, including Nathan and Zadok Magruder.

On Oct. 22, 1926, the American Clan Gregor Society placed a memorial plaque in the Courthouse at Rockville in honor of men from Montgomery County named Magruder who served in the military service during the Revolution. These were:

Col. Zadok Magruder
Second Major Samuel Wade M.
Capts. Jesse and Joseph
1st Lieuts. Hezekiah and Samuel
2nd Lieuts. Charles, Nathaniel, and Nathaniel Beall
Ensign Josiah
1st Sergt. Enoch
3rd Sergts. Ninian and Richard
Privates Archibald, Basil, Daniel, Edward, Elias,
Ezekiel, Isaac, James, Jeffery, John Beall,
Ninian Beall, Levin, Norman Brude,

Samuel Beall, Walter William Beall, William
Offutt, Zadok

ALL MAGRUDERS

On June 29, 1940, the Janet Montgomery Chapter, D.A.R., placed a
marker on the home of Samuel Wade Magruder, Locust Grove.

The tablet listed the achievements of Samuel Wade Magruder.

In 1970, a school was named for Col. Zadok Magruder.

Information about these leaders follows:

NATHAN MAGRUDER

Nathan Magruder (1718 to 1786) was the son of John and Susanna Smith Magruder; grandson of Samuel and Sarah Beall Magruder; great-grandson of Alexander, the immigrant.

The year 1748 was a memorable one for him. In that year he received a gift from his father of a plantation which was known as Knaves Dispute, which is near Redland. About that time he married his first cousin, Rebecca Beall, and in that year he was made a Justice of the Peace for Frederick County (Montgomery County was not yet created). He held that position until 1751 in which year he was elected to the House of Burgesses for three years. He served another term in this body from 1761 to 1763. In 1758, when various members of Prince Georges Parish requested that it be divided, the name of Nathan Magruder headed the list of those requesting the change. In 1763 he was named a visitor or trustee of the Frederick County free school.

It is interesting to note the type of man selected to head the new Montgomery County Commissioners -- a prosperous landowner with experience as a Justice and as a Delegate to the Assembly. Although they obviously selected a warm supporter of the revolutionary cause, he was not a mere agitator. Many of his sons and relatives followed up their activities to secure independence by giving military and civil support after independence was achieved.

COL. ZADOK MAGRUDER

Nathan Magruder had a brother, Zadok (1729-1811). In 1745 Zadok inherited from his father, John, 600 acres near Norbeck. Here he built a modest home and later, about 1755, built a fine brick house, known as "The Ridge".

This house has been owned by various descendants; in 1932 it became the property of John E. Muncaster, a descendant. The house has been beautifully maintained. Roger Farquhar used a photograph of The Ridge on the jacket of his book, Historical Montgomery County (Silver Spring, Md., 1952).

Zadok was an ardent worker for the cause of resistance to England. His name appears on most of the Revolutionary Committees. He, like his brother Nathan, was chosen a member of the Commission to set up the new Montgomery County in 1776.

It is fitting that the School Board has named a school in his honor. Not only was he a civic leader, but he was a Colonel in the local Militia.

SAMUEL WADE MAGRUDER

Samuel Wade Magruder (1728-1792) was the son of Alexander Magruder, grandson of Samuel Magruder and great-grandson of Alexander Magruder, the immigrant.

By the time he reached his majority, his home county was Frederick County, created in 1748. From it Montgomery County was erected in 1776.

Samuel married Lucy Beall, daughter of George Beall. They built their home on Bell's Mill Road - a large brick house called Locust Grove. In it they raised ten children.

Samuel's public services were:

1. Lieutenant Frederick County Volunteers, French and Indian War.
2. Member committee to carry into effect resolutions by Congress adopted 1774.
3. Member committee to solicit subscriptions for carrying on resistance against Great Britain.
4. Tobacco Inspector 1759-1770, Rock Creek Parish.
5. Appointed Captain 29th Battalion, Montgomery County, Maryland Militia 1776. He declined to serve, whereupon he was appointed Second Major June 21, 1777, in the same Battalion.
6. Judge, Montgomery County Court, 1778.

Samuel, the man, is brought to life in the memoirs of William Wirt, Attorney General under President Jackson. Wirt was a pupil in Tusculum Academy across Bell's Mill Road from Locust Grove. He and other boys boarded in the Magruder home while attending the Academy which was presided over by the Rev. James Hunt. Wirt said: "Samuel Wade Magruder showed marks of Highland extraction. He was large, robust and somewhat corpulent, with a round florid face, short, curling, sandy hair and blue gray eyes. He was strong of limb, fiery of temperament, hospitable, warm-hearted and rough. At times he was kind and playful with the boys, but woe betide the unfortunate boy or man who became the object of his displeasure."

PATRICK MAGRUDER

Patrick Magruder was one of the sons of Samuel Wade Magruder. He was born in 1768. Locust Grove was his boyhood home. He attended Princeton University and was admitted to the practice of law in Maryland.

Patrick represented Montgomery County in the Maryland House of Delegates in 1797; was associate judge of Montgomery County Court in 1802; a member of the U. S. Congress 1805-1807; and from 1807 to 1815 he was Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives which made him ex-officio Librarian of Congress.

Patrick died in 1819 at his wife's home near Petersburg, Virginia.

LOCUST GROVE

Locust Grove became the property of Samuel Wade Magruder by the will of his father, Alexander Magruder II who died in 1751. Here soon afterwards Samuel built a fine brick house. He and his wife Lucy (Beall) raised a family of 13 children.

This old house is near the present Democracy Boulevard not far from Seven Locks Road. In the old days the road that gave access to the place was Bell's Mill Road, across which was the Tusculum Academy.

In the Star of June 3, 1917, the Rambler describes a visit to Locust Grove which had already lost its glamor, having been for many years in alien hands. He described it as a large brick house on heavy stone foundation walls. Three broad outside chimneys and an outside kitchen added to its appearance.

When Samuel Wade Magruder died in 1792 he left Locust Grove to his son Lloyd. Lloyd died in 1836 and the place was sold at public auction in 1838. It was bought by Lloyd's oldest daughter, Mary, and her husband, John Carter. Seemingly the younger brothers and sisters continued to live for a while at Locust Grove.

After passing through the hands of various owners, the house in 1969 had become the property of a College in California. By this time it had become surrounded by a group of apartments. A group of investors wanted to purchase the surrounding acreage; their plans for a complex of apartments, office buildings and commercial facilities included tearing down the old Locust Grove house to provide ground for a parking lot.

A group of interested history "buffs" including representatives of the Montgomery County Historical Society, the American Clan Gregor Society, and others appeared at a Zoning Hearing to plead for retention of a house which had been the home of a man who had been active in creating and developing the infant Montgomery County. The College agreed not to tear the house down. However, the property has now changed owners.

In a similar case in St. Mary's County some 20 years ago, a wealthy newcomer to the County, Mrs. Davidson, purchased the house Tudor Hall before it was destroyed and gave it to St. Mary's County for a Memorial to those who lost their lives in World War II. It has been beautifully restored and serves as the St. Mary's County Library.

Wouldn't it be fine if some wealthy resident of Montgomery County felt moved to save and restore Locust Grove?

SOME MAGRUDERS WHO LEFT MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Samuel Wade Magruder had 13 children. He died in 1792 leaving Locust Grove to his youngest child, Lloyd (1781-1836). Lloyd was only eleven years old. Apparently he and Samuel's other minor children continued to live at Locust Grove.

Lloyd married in 1803, and married a second time in 1807, the second wife being Anne Holmes. By these two marriages Lloyd had 13 children. They were (1) Eliza Lloyd (by first wife); (2) Mary Catherine Holmes who married John A. Carter; (3) Lucy Beall; (4) Eugenia; (5) Charles Brooke; (6) Anne Holmes m. Thomas Johnson;

(7) Olivia Dunbar m. Philip Stone; (8) Thomas Contee; (9) Arthur; (10) Lloyd (1835-1863); (11) John Holmes b. 1827); (12) William Ogden Chappell b. 1829); (13) Rebecca Johnson m. Robert Grant Davidson.

Lloyd died in 1836 and Locust Grove was sold at auction. It was bought by his sister, Mary Carter, and her husband, John, and once again the older children of Lloyd took care of his many minor children.

One of these younger children of Lloyd, John Holmes Magruder (1827-1853), left Locust Grove in 1849 to join the hordes of men going to California in the gold rush. He wrote letters to his brother, Thomas Contee, who lived in Washington and Thomas kept them. They finally reached a descendant, Helen Wolfe, who gave them to the Montgomery County Historical Society. We find it interesting to see how a son of Montgomery County fared.

LETTERS OF JOHN HOLMES MAGRUDER

In a letter from New York dated January 1, 1849, to his brother, Thomas Contee Magruder in Washington, John Holmes Magruder thanks him for \$50. He is vexed by delay in sailing. The agents wanted the Captain to take off brick he had put on as ballast and carry more freight. The Captain and crew refused. They considered the brick ballast necessary for safety.

John had been busy buying goods and stated:

We have bought a little of everything we could think of but our principal purchases have been groceries, clothing and a gold washer, which cost 40 Dollars. Our ship is about 500 tons burthen and will have about 130 to 150 passengers which will be pretty tight squeezing. We four have all one berth 6 feet long by 8 wide. Our rations will be ordinary Navy rations and anything extra that we are willing to provide...they charge nothing for freight so by a little additional cost we can have as good fare as one could wish under such circumstances. As we must make up our minds to undergo a good many hardships and privations before we get there or return, if we wish to meet with success, and the sooner we commence the better it will be in the end.

Instead of having cabin passage for \$150..., we have between deck which is nearly as good as first cabin, and there's a difference of one hundred dollars in price which you know is a very considerable object to me...I have just returned from Trinity Church and it certainly does exceed anything I ever saw in the way of churches and it seems almost impossible for any true priests to be found in such worldly extravagance and splendour. You can form no idea of New York without seeing it. Everything appears to be bustle and confusion from Monday morning to Saturday night. There's one thing I have not seen in New York as in Washington, that's pretty ladies.

He believes that Washington can boast of as many pretty ladies as any place in the Union.

In a postscript he says: "As to my prospects I think they are rather better; that's if there's any truth in the last accounts from California, though I am afraid they are too good to be true."

The next letter from John to his brother Thomas was dated March 9, 1849, and was written from St. Michael's Bay, St. Catherine's Island. John's ship had just arrived after 43 days out of New York. John is well and enjoyed the voyage. But he complains that they were deceived about the number of passengers. There were 166 passengers and about 30 crew and officers. One young man died and was buried at sea.

Reports from California received from passengers on a ship that left there last November are encouraging. Gold is very abundant; provisions are selling "enormously high"; pork is worth \$1 a pound; board is \$40 a month.

They have met a man anxious to join their party. "He has seen a good deal of Western life and understands cooking, which would be quite an acquisition to us."

If brother Thomas is planning to come to California, John advises him to take any other route in preference to Cape Horn. John asks Thomas to write to him in California where he expects to arrive about the middle of June. He concluded, "I am well and enjoying better Health than I ever did in my life."

John's next letter written June 27, 1849, warrants being read.

Ship Tahmaroo lat. 37°30' long 127 off Calif.
In 2 days sail of Calif. June 27, 1849

My dear Thomas

I wrote to you from St. Catharine's Island coast of Brazil by a whaler bound to the States which I suppose you are in receipt of ere this. At the time of writing I was too much hurried to give any account of our voyage which I propose doing now, but I shall have to be general in my description as it would fill a dozen sheets to give every little incident. We spent 14 days at St. Catharine's which gave us a pretty good opportunity of seeing and judging of its inhabitation. They are generally ignorant lazy and careless in their apparel particularly the females.

They have very few or no implements of husbandry or domestic animals. I saw one or two ox-carts and they were as primitive in construction as if they were made about the time of father Adam. The wheels were made of a solid block with a hole bored in the centre for axletree--a large basket used for the body. They live pretty much upon the fruits of the country which they have of nearly all the tropical kind in great abundance, oranges, limes, lemons, figs, bananas and coffee, etc. Oranges and bananas were then ripe and I can assure you I enjoyed them much after having been fed for 42 days on salt junk pork and beans and hard crackers. By introducing among them a little Yankee enterprise and industry, that portion of Brazil might be made a perfect Garden of Eden, but unfortunately the people are ground down by a military and church influence which is far worse than tyranny or despotism. The soil is good and the climate delightful; never warmer than June or colder than September in the "States".

I dined one day with a party of five, with a farmer who is considered by the natives to be in good circumstances, but I don't think his condition as good as our slaves. He set for a table a straw matt spread on the floor covered with a small linen towel for cloth, without either knives, forks or spoons to eat with so our fingers were called into requisition. Our dinner was two chickens, coffee and farina, the last used by them as a substitute for bread. His family consisted of wife, son and son's wife and six small children. They appeared to enjoy our mode of eating very much by sitting on the floor with us, and as soon as we got through, they commenced on the leavings like so many starved hyenas, so you can form some idea from this what kind of people they are. Their houses are generally built of sun dried bricks called "adobies", never more than 2 stories and oftener 1 in height. I saw as many as 15 persons living in one family.

We left St. Catharine's on 22nd March and had a pleasant time up to 1st April in lat 47° off Patagonia, where we had a severe gale which lasted from 3 o'clock till 4 o'clock next morning and to use sailors term "the sea ran mountains high" seeming at every moment ready to swallow us in its raging billows. It was the most awful and sublime scene I ever witnessed; our starboard bulwarks were stove in from mainmast to foremast; lost no lives, but the passengers were awfully frightened and to speak candidly I thought our time had come to render an account of this world's deeds, but thank Heaven it was ordained differently. We had several severe gales since, but not severe as the first, doing no damage or injury except washed several hogsheads and barrels of provisions and water off deck. We went as far South as 60° before we could make round Cape Horn and then we had to beat against headwinds for nearly 40 days, and during the greater part of that time, the weather was cold enough to freeze Greenlanders. When we got up to 30° Pacific had it more pleasant with good sailing up to 15° north of the Equator. Since then the winds have been light and unfavorable which had greatly disappointed our Capt. in the time he expected to make the voyage. He expected to make it in 4 to 4½ months and it will exceed 150 days which is a long time to be on water and one of the most remarkable things I ever knew, we have not had a serious case of sickness since we left N. Y. and the only thing to attribute it to is the plain fare we lived on. I have often sat down to dish of raw mush and molasses and enjoyed it with a better appetite than the most sumptuous dish in the "States", and, dear Thomas, shows how thankful we should be when we are in the possession of this world's pleasures and comforts. Don't think from this that I am at all dissatisfied or regret my course because I believe it will eventually benefit me very much. As regards my health condition and happiness, if my health should continue as good as it is at present I hope soon to realize my expectations and return to enjoy it with my friends.

We spoke with a Sandwich Island Schooner to-day bound to the Gold regions. They had news from there as late as 1st of this month; said that gold was more plentiful than ever, but represented every thing else in a horrible condition. The town of San Francisco was infested with gamblers, robbers and black legs from almost every nation,

Americans, English, Spanish, Malay, etc. which has completely unnerved our ships company and various are the speculations and calculations. Some are now examining and giving their pistols a new trial. But I hope for the best, and will be able to judge better when we arrive there and see for ourselves.

On September 11, 1849, John wrote his brother Ogden from Sacramento City, California. He says he arrived in San Francisco on July 1 and after gaining all necessary information left on the 6th in company with six for the "Eldorado."

He says that Sacramento is one of the most desirable locations in California for a city and there seems to be very little doubt of its going ahead of San Francisco as it has increased from the first of July 4,000 to 5,000 population up to this time and is rapidly increasing every day. The climate is pleasant and mild during winter and spring but during the summer months, June, July and August, it is excessively hot and very sickly. He has known the thermometer 114 to 120 degrees for weeks in succession in the shade without a breath of air stirring.

He says there are many doctors there who have never looked inside a medical work and have taken up the profession since they came here, thinking to humbug the people and make their eternal fortunes.

I will now return to my adventure to the mines. We left this place on 2nd day of our arrival in company with 8 others and our teamster, making in all sixteen strong and after marching 4 days over a prairie country with hardly a spark of vegetation except a few scattering oaks resembling very much our apple trees, we came in sight of the great "Eldorado," where many a buoyant heart is bound to meet with disappointment.

After pitching our tent and making a few other necessary arrangements three of our party went down to the River (Juba) to prospect (that is to look out for good diggins) but the result of their labors was not very flattering or encouraging and after remaining on that Barr some 5 or 6 days concluded to look out for better "diggins", being advised by Lieut. May of Washington to go farther up the river. He said that it was not so much crowded and the "diggins" were much richer. So we struck Tent and soon found ourselves on the same barr with May & Elliott his partner, who by the way is very clever and is quite a business man, much more so than May, has not that haughty manner that is so characteristic of the May's family, and, dear Ogden, there is nothing so objectionable to a man as that, particularly in California, every man here, blk wht grisly or any other color stands upon equality, provided he conducts himself right, and if he does not "we mighty soon call Mr. Lynch in force," so they are bound to walk a chalk line. Well we found the "diggins" very little more encouraging than the first, the average being not more than 6 to \$8 a day to a man, and in all the diggins where one makes his 3 or 4 ounces, there are 10 I might say 20 who do not more than clear their expenses. And if they happen to get sick in the meantime, they make themselves slaves 5 or 6 months to pay their physician's bill. I have heard of a physician charging \$1000 for writing 8 prescriptions, but they only charge such prices as those to the old miners who have a plenty of rocks. Their usual charge is 2 ounces a visit. We remained on this barr some 4 or 5 days.

Thinking we had given a fair and full trial, and a part of our company were sick and a part dissatisfied so we concluded to sell out and return to San Francisco where those that were sick could recruit their health. I was not one of the dissatisfied and if it had not been that a majority were in favor of returning and all our effects still remaining unsold, and still in storage at a heavy expense, I would now have been rooting up the bowels of the earth for that golden fortune.

He tells Ogden not to expect him to return within a few years although he wishes it might be so and then he could be settled down in old Montgomery with all the comforts and pleasures of life and once more have the sweet consolation of looking upon their sweet smiling faces. He goes on to say:

Labor is very high \$16 a day for mechanics and common laborers receive from 8 to \$12 but they do not make much more at those prices than they would in the "States" as their expenses are in proportion; board cost \$3 per day not including lodging, and if this place should overflow this winter as the old settlers say I expect it will take every thing a man can raise to get into a comfortable house as one half of the population are now living in tents, and of course will be without houses when the rainy season commences.

I have seen nothing of Lloyd yet. I wrote to him when I was at San Francisco August 6th and told him to write me at this place, but I have received no answer and if he has arrived I suppose he is in the southern diggins and poor fellow I am afraid he had a hard time of it as there has been much suffering crossing the plains for grass and water, and many have died with the cholera and some with fatigue and others with the mountain fever.

There was a large meeting held here last night to send relief to the emigration coming over the mountains. There was a strong appeal made to sympathies and benevolence of the citizens of Sacramento and it will be responded to in a manner that is characteristic of the American People. And in a few days there will be mules, horses and provisions on their way to meet a starving and worn out people, men, women and children, and should they arrive safe they will prove a great acquisition to this country as they are mostly families, and we are very much in want of the Lady's influence, and if there is any place where a man will set a fair value upon woman's character it is in a new country.

John reports that since August 10th he has been down with a Billous Intermittent fever and at one time the physician gave him up but through the mercies of kind Providence he is once more restored to the enjoyment of health.

Before closing one word to all the married men of our family and of my acquaintance not to think of coming to California at present no matter how glowing the accounts may be as they may rest assured that they are bound to be disappointed if they are governed by anything that is written in public print as nearly all those letters are written by interested speculators to get men here to increase the value of their lands.

A few days after writing to Ogden from Sacramento (namely Sept. 17, 1849) John wrote to his brother Thomas. Much of the contents of the two letters are similar. However, in his letter to Thomas, John indulges in some reflections:

There is a great deal of lottery about digging gold. If you happen to strike a good vein you may take out \$50 or \$100 a day but the chances are about 9 to 1 against you and where there is one that makes his two or three ounces there are 10 or twenty who do not average more than 5 or 6 dollars a day. So you may readily account for so many returning home dissatisfied and disappointed in California. They did not look at the dark side of the picture at all before starting out; came out here thinking they could pick gold off the surface; but when they got here found it quite different.

And no one can have any idea of the difficulty and labor it requires to obtain this gold until they give it a trial. The labor is much harder than any labor on a farm, even harder than stone quarrying and dear Thomas you know that is hard enough to break down any man who works at it constantly.

Sick and discouraged, the Company broke up. San Francisco did not offer any solution. Then John got bilious fever. Has been sick six weeks. He hopes to be able to start out once again in the near future.

Two years later, October 7, 1851, John writes from Marysville. Things have changed. He now seems to be in business with his brother Lloyd. He is interested in politics. He thinks he will settle in California. He thinks that if brother Thomas and his family were there they would like California better than either old Maryland or Washington.

We begin now to have as nearly many comforts and luxuries as you have in any of the old Eastern states and for independence of living and expressing opinions there is no people on God's earth to compare with us. Our mule drivers, ox teamsters, etc. are just as much respected as if they were members of Congress or any other prominent position. There is only one thing we lack and that is female society which is improving every day and so soon as that becomes established we will gradually get rid of all evils such as gaming, etc. which has been so common here.

After several business ventures (not detailed) he is now doing business about 100 miles above Marysville in the mountains. If all goes well by Spring they (he and Lloyd) will be in pretty comfortable circumstances, say 10 to 15 thousand cash capital which will start a fair business here which is at this time the most flourishing city in the State. * * * * "Mob law has prevailed here for the past month or so under the form of a Vigilance Committee which has done more to reform Society and check murderers, burglarism, etc. than any other law that we have yet had."

John Holmes Magruder died in California in 1853.

LLOYD MAGRUDER, JR.

(1825-1863)

In addition to the letters he received from his brother, John Holmes Magruder, Thomas Contee Magruder kept some letters from another brother, Lloyd. Those available to us were written from Marysville, California in the 1860s. They are personal and factual, and offer little, if any, insight into what was going on around him.

However, from various sources, a Magruder descendant, Helen Wolfe, has pieced together the salient facts of the life of Lloyd, Jr. Her story has been published in the Year Book of the American Clan Gregor Society (1932, pg. 49-51).

Lloyd was born in Locust Grove, the home of his grandfather, Samuel Wade Magruder, and spent his youth there with his aunt and uncle (John and Mary Carter) after the death of his father (Lloyd) and mother. Lloyd, Jr. attended the Rockville Academy, and his letters and activities show that he received a good education.

When Lloyd was twenty, he went to Batesville, Arkansas, to join his brother Charles. * * * Lloyd took up surveying and later completed his law studies under Judge Baker. He married Caroline Pelham, sister of the wife of his brother Charles.

Lloyd went to California in the gold rush, and joined his brother John out there. He spent a number of years in Marysville, California, where he was joined by his wife and children. He engaged in the mercantile business, practised law, was marshal of the county in 1854, clerk of the county, Justice of the Peace, and member of the Legislature in 1860.

In April, 1862, Lloyd went to Washington Territory. In 1863 he went farther, taking a large pack train laden with merchandise to Virginia City in Montana, the metropolis of Alder Gulch out of which was taken gold, aggregating over a hundred million dollars.

After disposing of his goods, Lloyd prepared to return to Lewiston, Washington, with 15 hundred ounces of yellow gold dust and over \$2000 in bills. Knowing that he would be likely to be waylaid, he employed four men to help him with the 75 mules and horses he was taking back for speculation.

On October 11, 1863, the party was in a lonely camp near the Bitter Root mountains. While Magruder was leaning over to light his pipe at the fire, one of the guards crushed his skull with an ax. The four assassins killed the other men in the party. The dead bodies and everything except eight horses were thrown into a deep canyon where everything was soon covered by deep snow.

Weather forced the desperadoes to go into Lewiston where they came under suspicion of Hill Beachy, the deputy marshal. By some good detective work Beachy succeeded in having the men arrested in San Francisco.

The men were taken back to Lewiston where there was difficulty preventing a lynching. Through a hole cut into the room where the prisoners were being kept, much information was obtained. One of the desperadoes turned states' evidence; he told the whole story and was set free to die later in a brawl. The other three were hanged March 4, 1864.

Beachy obtained for the widow and heirs of Lloyd Magruder the \$17,000 which the men had deposited in the mint at San Francisco. The bones of the victims recovered from the canyon were sent to their families. The widow of Lloyd kept his skull in her bureau drawer and had it buried with her.

THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

In 1909, a number of MacGregor descendants met and formed the American Clan Gregor Society. Today, in 1970, the Society has about 400 members from almost every state.

The objects of the Society are (1) To gather kindred together in fellowship; (2) to collect genealogical and historical data. This data is published in their annual Report of the American Clan Gregor Society.

The Clan holds an annual Gathering. Usually two or three days are given over to meetings which may include visits to places relevant to Clan history. Members who attend enjoy Scottish customs such as bagpipe music, eating haggis, and singing Scottish songs.

The Clan maintains ties with the Clan Gregor of Scotland and recognizes as its hereditary Chieftain the Chieftain of the Scotch Clan.

Records are kept by the registrar who is at present:

Mrs. Harry W. Blunt
8000 Westover Road
Bethesda, Md. 20014

WHO WAS WHO IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY
1776-1876

Many people have contributed to the Montgomery County of 1970. Most of them are unsung heroes and it is difficult to get information about them.

The Montgomery County Historical Society would like to have on file biographies of former County residents. Printed material is scarce. Scharf's History of Western Maryland contains a few biographies. Here are a few abstracts from this source:

Richard Johns Bowie was born in 1807, son of Washington and Margaret Bowie. He spent his youth in Georgetown and after studying law was admitted to the Bar at age 19. He came to Rockville where he established his law practice. In 1836 he was elected to the Maryland Senate, representing the Whig party. In 1849 he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives. In 1863 he was appointed judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland. He married the daughter of General Otho Holland Williams and lived at Glen View, outside Rockville (later the home of the Montgomery County Historical Society and today the Rockville Civic Center). Judge Bowie died March 12, 1881.

Roger Brooke was born at Brooke Grove near Sandy Spring in 1774. In 1804 he married Mary Younghusband and for his second wife married Sarah T. Gilpin. Among their children were: (1) Sarah, married Dr. Charles Farquhar; (2) Mary, married Elisha John Hall; (3) Roger; (4) George E. Roger Brooke died in 1860.

Nathan Cooke was born near Gaithersburg in 1803. His mother was Rachel, daughter of Colonel Magruder who later married Henry Dorsey. "Trained in book learning" by Rev. Mr. Reed, he later studied at Rockville. In 1825 he married Elizabeth Magruder, daughter of Dr. Zadok. Nathan avoided politics, his only public office being Trustee of the Alms House.

Henry Griffith was born in Anne Arundel County in 1720. About 1771 he moved to what is now Montgomery County and settled near Unity. He was very active in all groups opposing British tyranny, serving on many of the Revolutionary Committees. When Montgomery County was formed in 1776 Henry was one of the Commission to get the new County into operation. Of his thirteen children, four sons became famous as Revolutionary soldiers and patriots. Henry died in 1794. A monument to him and his sons is in the cemetery at Laytonsville.

Here is a biography sent in by our historian:

SAMUEL CLARKE VEIRS

Samuel Clarke Veirs, the son of Hezekiah Veirs and his wife, Anne Clarke, was born near Dawsonville, Maryland, in August, 1798. When a young man he moved to Baltimore and entered the mercantile business with Charles Diffendorffer. In 1819 Mr. Veirs married Juliana Diffendorffer of Baltimore, the youngest sister of his business partner. In 1833 the Veirs family moved back to Montgomery County to a farm on Rock Creek, south of Rockville. He served many years as magistrate and was postmaster of Rockville during Martin Van Buren's administration. He built a number of houses in Rockville. In 1824 he joined the Baptist Church. He held several public offices, among them: Judge of the Orphan Court, Judge of Elections of Rockville,

and in 1861 he was a member of the State Conference Convention assembled in Baltimore. He built and operated Veirs Mill sometime after 1838. The mill was on part of the 400 acres he purchased in 1838 and was part of the original land grant called "Prevention".

Samuel Clarke Veirs died on November 8, 1872; his wife died November 27, 1878. They are buried in the small Baptist Church cemetery in Rockville at the corner of Jefferson Street and Van Buren Street.

They had eight children who were: (1) Mary Ann Matilda Veirs married William Veirs Bouic; (2) Samuel Clarke Veirs II married Hester ?; (3) Edward M. Veirs married Sarah Riley; (4) Juliana Veirs married E. O. Edmonston; (5) Henry Franklin Veirs; (6) William Augustus Veirs married Rebecca Thomas Biays; (7) Catherine Veirs married A. Cummings; and (8) Virginia Veirs married Dr. A. H. Sommers.

We note that although these biographies contain much information, they also leave out many details that would be of interest to us. We would like our biographies to contain the following:

1. Date and place of birth
2. Name of parents (possibly names of brothers and sisters)
3. Exact location of boyhood home and his home when head of family
4. Name of wife; date and place of marriage
5. Names of children and whom they married
6. Education
7. Public career--offices held, etc.
8. Church affiliation
9. Date and place of death
10. Place of burial
11. Photographs of people and of the homestead, properly labeled.

Please note. We would prefer to receive this information written up as a biography. However, we would welcome the information in outline form.

Also note. We want biographies of your ancestors--farmers, merchants, professional people, public officials, etc. We do not expect brilliant rhetoric--we do want facts.

Won't you take the time to put your ancestors in our Hall of Fame? We hope to publish our Who was Who and do not want to leave out anybody.