

## The Montgomery Family 1901 - 1977

This is the story of members of the Montgomery Family who were residents in Juniper Green from 1901 to 1977

The first member was **Alexander Robertson Montgomery** who was born 1874 in Pilrig, Edinburgh. His parents were **James Montgomery** from Humbie, East Lothian and **Jessie Robertson** from Currie. He had an elder brother **James** who was born 1871 in Edinburgh. Alexander and his brother spent the early part of their life in Edinburgh but moved to Chester a later date when their mother set up home with her new husband John Hood after James Montgomery had died. The family came back to Edinburgh sometime in the 1890s. Alexander qualified as a draughtsman with the Ordnance Survey. His brother James had married Ellen Winward and was a Dairyman at Hunters Tryst Dairy, Oxfangs/Fairmilehead Road for many years. This is now a restaurant. He also had trotting horses that he raced.

Towards the end of the 1890s **Alexander** was transferred back to Chester with his job where he met his wife **Eliza Willcock** from Penyffordd, near Hawardan, North Wales. She was in service as a ladies maid in a large house in Chester. They married in April 1900 in Chester and straight after the wedding travelled by train to Edinburgh to start their married life together.

They first settled in Dalmeny Street where their first child **Alexander** (known as Alec) was born. During 1901 they moved to **Juniper Green** to live in Pentland Cottage, Woodhall Terrace. A further six children were born there between then and 1911 namely, **Walter, Ada, James, Nina, Thomas and Anne**. Sadly James died at the age of 5yrs from Meningitis. The children all grew up in the cramped conditions of Pentland Cottage and from here they all attended the local school.



*Eliza and Alexander Montgomery*



*The Montgomery Children  
Walter, Annie, Nina, Tom, Ada, Alec.*



*Bath time at Pentland Cottage  
Annie and Tom with older brother Walter*

In the 1914 – 1918 war Alexander was a sergeant in the 2/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Scots serving first at Killarney, Ireland, then at the Quartermasters Department at Kilmarnock before being posted to France. Fortunately he came home from France safe and well and returned to his job with the Ordnance Survey.



Sometime after the 1901 census and before her death in 1922 **Jessie Hood** (nee Robertson, /Montgomery) Alexander's mother, moved into **Cairnbank Cottage**, Baberton Avenue Juniper Green with John hood. After her death Alexander (also known as Sandy) bought the property and moved his family into Cairnbank. This was a small cottage but had a third of an acre of land and this was used to the full. There was a large orchard with chickens freely running around, a large soft fruit area, a flower garden, a huge vegetable garden, a very large greenhouse with rose beds adjacent within a walled area and a small lawn. Sandy was extremely keen on gardening so much so that he entered all the local shows and some of the larger ones in Edinburgh including Dobbies winning many trophies and medals. The days of the shows caused much tension within the family as they were all given strict instructions as to how everything was to be handled, prepared and transported to the venues without causing any damage to the vegetables, fruit and flowers.



*Front View of Cairnbank  
Baberton Avenue*



*Alexander with his awards*

Sandy was also very keen on photography, many of his photos were published in books about the South of Edinburgh, Colinton, Currie and Juniper Green and “A Water of Leith Walk”. He also took family portraits of the villagers and the ones taken of his own family show the fashions at that time. He was greatly assisted by his wife Eliza in the development of the plates and making copies of the prints. They did not have the technology of today’s processes.

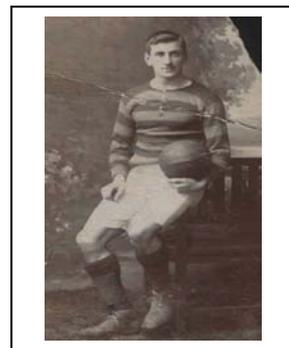


*Ada, Annie and Nina*

*Tom  
And  
Annie*



Another claim to fame was that he played football under the name of Sandy Hood with a team called St. Bernards. It is understood that he was invited to play as reserve goalkeeper for Heart of Midlothian the first time that they won the Cup.

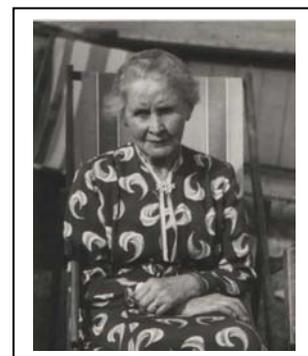


*Sandy Hood the footballer*

In the mid-late 1930s he drew up plans for the Edinburgh City By-pass. It was not until many years later that the A720 was constructed and is now an extremely busy motorway carrying more traffic than was ever envisaged.

Alexander Montgomery died in 1940 aged 65yrs. Eliza had the use of the cottage for the rest of her life where she remained with the children who were still at home.

**Eliza Montgomery** was a very hard working lady with seven children to look after, a house to clean help her husband with his photography. She was brought up as a Methodist. She was born in the Chapel House, Penyffordd in 1874 where her mother was the caretaker of the Primitive Methodist Chapel. She was very proud of her Welsh heritage. She was a lady of great faith and became member of St. Margaret’s Church, when she moved to Juniper Green. She was also a member of the Ladies Guild for many years. She was an excellent cook and provided food for some of the socials at the church. She was well known within the village and being a very kind hearted lady she was always rushing around willing to help when it was needed.



She continued to live in Cairnbank Cottage after her husband's death until her own death in 1963. Her two youngest daughters Nina and Annie also remained at home to help look after her. Eliza and her husband and Son James are buried in Colinton Churchyard.

**The Children:**

**Alexander Montgomery** was the eldest child of Alexander Robertson and Eliza Wilcock and was born in early 1901 at Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh.



*Alec  
Montgomery*



*Charlotte  
Linton*

Alec as he was known attended the local school. He was a keen member of the Boys Brigade. After his school days were over he became apprenticed for a short time to a firm of lawyers in Edinburgh. He enlisted in the RAF during the year of the national strike in 1926 and was posted to Croyden, Leuchars and the Middle East with 208 Squadron Transport Section. He returned to Juniper Green in 1933 where he met his wife **Charlotte Linton**, (the Linton family owned a shop in Baberton Avenue). They were married in late 1934 and moved to Dunfermline where their only child **James** was born in 1936. At the outbreak of WW2 Alec was recalled to the RAF this time serving at Scapa Flow and then on the Island of Tiree. In 1944 he returned to his job in Dunfermline and in 1953 he and his family moved back to Juniper Green and worked for John Wightman & Son, wholesale egg merchants until his retirement. They lived at 8 Belmont Road just around the corner from Cairnbank.

*Alec and Charlotte  
Montgomery*



Alec was kept busy looking after his wife who suffered with Arthritis for many years. He also helped to look after the garden at Cairnbank and became involved with the church and later became an Elder at St Margaret's. Like his father he was successful at the local flower and vegetable shows. Alec died in 1977 and was the last member of the Montgomery family to live in Juniper Green. After his death Charlotte became a resident in a nursing home in Edinburgh and died in 1980.

### **Walter Montgomery**

Walter was the second son and was born in 1902. After attending the local school he was apprenticed for a short time to John S. Howitt, Joiner and Undertaker, Fernie Cottage, Baberton Avenue opposite Cairnbank Cottage, He was later employed as a delivery van driver for a grocer on the Lanark Road. He then became a coach driver with Greyhound Tours and at some stage moved to Glasgow where he met his wife **Helen Anderson**. They married in 1927 and had three children. Liliias born in 1928, but died at 3 months, Alexander (Sandy) born 1930 and John (Jack) 1932.

Walter was never called up to serve in the armed forces. However in 1939 he was asked to drive a number of German prisoners of war from a ship docked in Glasgow down to London in his coach. In 1956 he won a sum of money on the football pools and purchased a newsagent/tobacconist shop in Glasgow taking his elder son into business with him. This did not prove to be a successful venture and the business failed. The family then emigrated to Australia. Walter and Helen were not happy there and returned to Scotland and settled in Glenrothes. Walter died in 1984 and Helen in 1990.

### **Ada Montgomery**

Ada, the eldest of three daughters was born in 1903. In her youth she enjoyed dressing up in fancy dress and joined her sisters and brother Tom in the local pageants. Her first job after leaving school was that of a clerk in the Co-OP, Juniper Green. She later met her husband **John Lloyd** who was a Ladies' hairdresser and they married in Edinburgh in 1927. After the wedding they moved to Dundee where their only daughter **Sheila** was born in 1931. The family returned to Edinburgh in 1939 and settled at Sighthill. Ada was employed as a full time clerk with SMT (Scottish Motor Transport) in Bread Street, Edinburgh until she retired.

John was employed as a Ladies hairdresser at Passe's (Princes Street) but later developed Dermatitis and was unable to continue doing perms and as a result of this he became a Gents Hairdresser. Both Ada and John were regular visitors to Juniper Green up until the death of her mother Eliza in 1963. John died in 1966 and in 1967 Ada moved to Caiystane Terrace to be near her younger sister Anne who had already moved to Caiystane Gardens some two or three years earlier. She loved the view of the Pentland Hills from her home.

Ada died in 1987. Ada's daughter Sheila who was married to Brian Dickinson and lived in Surrey died in September 2006.



*Ada, Sheila and John Lloyd*



*Ada and Sheila Lloyd*

## **Nina Montgomery**

Nina was the fifth of seven children, born in Pentland Cottage in 1906. She attended the local school along with her siblings.

She was very keen on sport especially tennis and was a member of the tennis club at Juniper Green. There was always great rivalry between her and her sister Annie when they played in the tournaments as they both thought that they were the better player.



*Alec Howitt, Nina, John Scott, Kate Henderson and Tom*

Nina was employed as a Shop Assistant, her first job from school is unknown. She did however, work at Peter Allens, The Bridges for several years before moving to R J Forsyths in Princess Street. She was very interested in clothes and was always well dressed, everything had to match. She did some lovely work in embroidery.

Nina married later in life than most women. She was 51yrs when she married **Thomas Farmer** in 1957 whom she had met while working in Forsyths. It was company policy that married couples should not work together so she obtained another job at Binns, at the West End of Princess Street. She was employed in the Girls School Department where she sold uniforms for the private schools.

After five years of marriage Tommy took ill with heart problems and had to retire from work. Nina also had to give up work to look after him.

She surprised the whole family when at the age of 55 she started to have driving lessons and was able to pass her test. She was a very nervous person preferring to drive on the minor roads. Being able to drive gave them the chance to get out of the house from time to time.

When Tommy died in 1987 Nina continued to live at Allan Park/Craiglockhart for several years before becoming a resident in a nursing home at Church Hill where she died in 1998 aged 92yrs.



*Nina Montgomery*



*Tommy and Nina Farmer*

## **Thomas Montgomery**

Thomas known as Tom was the youngest son born 1910 in Pentland Cottage. At the local school he was often in trouble. He had to help his father with the garden particularly at show time. He loved to go down to the Water of Leith to play with his friends.

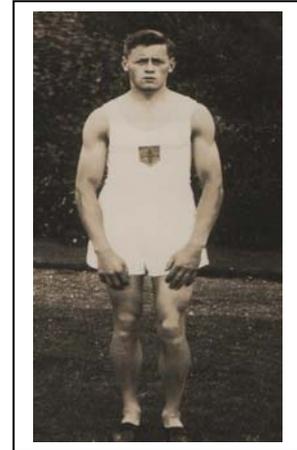
On leaving school he got a job as an apprenticed joiner with a firm of builders. He was a member of the 31<sup>st</sup> Midlothian (Juniper Green) Scout and Rover Scouts. It was in 1927 that Tom took an interest in Athletics and in 1928 he joined the Edinburgh Rover Scouts Club and was Novice and Senior track champion as well as being runner up in the Novice and Senior Cross Country championships but his main interest was in Field Events.



*Tom as a Scout*



*Group of Rover Scouts  
Tom second on the left*



*Tom the Athlete*

Late in 1937, however he met with a serious accident and there were fears that his left leg would have to be amputated. Skill on the part of the surgeons and his own determination along with his physical condition saved his leg. During his athletic career he won many Championships and set records and continued to compete in field events including pole vaulting after the age of 40. He developed an interest in coaching and after passing all the exams he became the Honorary Chief Coach to the Scottish Women's AAA in 1951.

Tom married his wife **Margaret Lowe**, a childrens nurse, in early 1937. They lived at Sighthill and had two children namely **Alistair** born 1937 and **Margaret** born 1939. When Margaret was six weeks old they moved to Burntisland where the first bomb of WW2 was dropped. Tom had been rejected for the armed forces on account of his weak leg but was employed at Rosyth Dockyard camouflaging the big oil tanks. He became a sergeant in the Home Guard before returning to Edinburgh with his family. They were in rented rooms in Juniper Green before moving to Parkhead View, Sighthill.



*Tom and Margaret Montgomery*

Tom studied Civil Engineering at the Heriot Watt University Edinburgh and at that time was employed by the National Coal Board working in Fife and later at Dalkeith. In 1956 the family moved south over the border and settled first at Morpeth, Northumberland where he was in charge of a huge Open Cast mine. He later became the Chief Civil Engineer with various private companies working in different parts of the country on some large projects namely, The construction of the Cold Mill at Llanwern Steel Works, Newport, the Early Warning Station at Fylingdales, Near Whitby and the Moat Street Flyover in Coventry. His final job was the construction of the Aston Expressway in Birmingham. They settled in Solihull when he retired. His hobbies became bridge, painting and indoor bowls. This was the one thing that his wife Margaret could beat him at. She became a member of the league team and won several awards.

Tom did return to Juniper Green in 1984 for the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Juniper Green Scout Group. He thoroughly enjoyed that weekend and was pleased to meet with some of his friends from the past.

Tom died in 1996 aged 86yrs and his wife Margaret became the last surviving member of the Montgomery family when she died in August 2006 aged 97yrs.

*The Scout Diamond Jubilee Celebration*



*Tom is second on the left*

### **Anne Montgomery**

Anne or Annie as she was known will probably be the best remembered one of the family as she lived the longest in Juniper Green and took part in village life.

Annie was the youngest of the family born in 1911 at Pentland cottage. She was a tomboy and loved to get into mischief with her elder brother Tom and his friends. She also loved sport.

Her first job on leaving school was that as a clerk at the Co-op. She worked there for 13 years before working with W Carmichaels (Civil Engineering) as a cashier. She had a wonderful memory for figures and could remember telephone numbers and co-op numbers off by heart for most of her life.

In 1942 at the age of 30 years she was called up and joined the ATS where she served for two and a half years. She did her initial training at Eskbank then learned to touch type at Leicester College. She worked with REME for a short while before serving the rest of her time at Chilwell (Trent Valley) where she learned to drive army trucks.

She was nicknamed Monty and tried to make the men believe that she was related to ("Monty") Field Marshall Montgomery. She made three life long female friends and

perhaps this was one of the happiest times of her life. She returned to Juniper Green and continued to work for W Carmichaels for 30 years.



*Annie Montgomery*



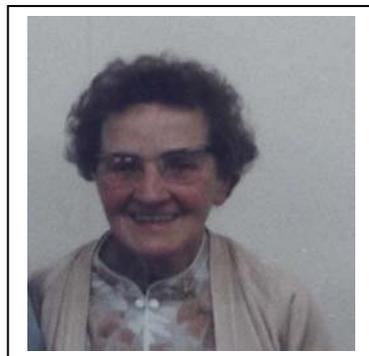
*Annie in the A.T.S*

Annie was a Sunday School teacher for many years at St Margarets. She also sang in the church choir until the church closed. Like her mother she was also a member of the Ladies Guild. We are told that over the years she must have made thousands of pancakes for the church. When the church closed she became a member of the church at Colinton. She attended church regularly even up until the last few months of her

life. People living in Baberton Avenue will remember her running to catch the bus both in the morning and again at lunch time when she came home to see her mother. She was always rushing at the last minute.

After her mother died the cottage had to be sold so reluctantly she left the village in 1964 and moved to Caiystane Gardens/Fairmilehead where she lived for approximately 40 years. The last two years of her life were spent as a resident at Drummond Grange Nursing Home at Lasswade.

Annie was a lovely lady and loved by all the family. She had a good sense of humour and could always tell a few jokes and recount conversations and events that happened in the past. She was also a lady with a strong faith. She died in May 2006 aged 95 years.



*Annie Montgomery*

This brief history of the family is presented by Margaret Williams, daughter of Thomas Montgomery. If any of the older people in the village can remember the family and can tell me more about them then I would like to hear from you. I can be contacted on [margaret.williams15@bopenworld.com](mailto:margaret.williams15@bopenworld.com) or on 02476 385540. That is a Warwickshire number.

I don't know anybody in the village, I lost touch when my grandmother died. I am currently researching the family history so any information would be helpful.



*Margaret Williams*