



# History and Genealogy of Peter Montague: Of Nansemond and Lancaster Counties, Virginia, and His Descendants, 1621 1894 (Classic Reprint)

George William Montague

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Excerpt from History and Genealogy of Peter Montague: Of Nansemond and Lancaster Counties, Virginia, and His Descendants, 1621 1894

The compiling of this work has been a pleasure. Every moment that has been spent upon it, has been an enjoyment. The task however has been no easy one, obstacles arose at the start which seemed insurmountable. The first one hundred years of the Virginia colony [1620-1720] as far as family history was concerned, appeared to have passed into oblivion. No printed work was found which threw light upon family history during that period. Families had not to any extent moved from original homesteads, the generations had lived and died in the same neighborhood, and each generation seemed to have borne the same names, of William, Thomas, and Peter, of Elizabeth, Catherine and Frances. It seemed impossible to separate one from the other. Even when all the records of all the counties were in hand, it was found impossible to form from them a connected pedigree. It was only when copies of the few vestry books of Christ Church, Middlesex, were used in connection with the various Co. records, that light began to appear, and the early branches began to assume the places they occupy in this work. And the record of them here given, however imperfect it may be considered, can only be regarded as facts snatched from the very verge of oblivion. The church records that have been saved from fire and war are few, and it has been impossible in some cases to obtain the full maiden name of the wives of the Montagues. The wills on Co. records give only the Christian name, and the surname is in some cases lost. This is to be regretted, especially in the case of Cicely, the wife of the emigrant Peter Montague.

Printed works of a genealogical character, that relate to Virginia families appear to be rare; a few there are, which, although written for other objects, contain fragmentary notices of family history; of such are the 13 Vols. of Hening's Va. law statutes, and Bishop Meades old churches and families of Va.

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