

# LOCKED OUT!



It is Friday, August 5th in the evening, and I have just visited Montgomery Cemetery along with our landscaper who was to mow and trim the Hancock plot. Unfortunately, there is a new combination lock on the main gate to the cemetery and we have not been given the courtesy of having that number revealed to our organization, The W.S. Hancock Society. On further inspection, the locks to the Hancock plot area and the lock that enters into the General's mausoleum have also been changed without a word to us.

It is very unusual, after 16 years of toiling over this small but important piece of real estate using our own ingenuity, sweat and time, that the Historical Society of Montgomery County would do such a backhanded thing but, in fact, it has been done. Our volunteers have worked all this time all to the glory of W. S. Hancock. We have raised all of our own money to do the complete restoration of the mausoleum and the surrounding grounds. Not one cent ever came to us from HSMC. Folks in the county wonder why it is that it is so hard to get good volunteers, better yet, why is it that no one cares about history in our area. I think you have only to look at these actions to see that the answer is quite clear.

And so, it seems we no longer care for this most hallowed property but our work, our pride, and the numerous memories it has supplied us with can never be taken away. They are ours alone...

We can also be assured that Montgomery Cemetery would never have been saved from the developer had it not been for our intervention.

We will be there every Memorial day Monday come rain or shine as we made that commitment long ago and no one can stop us from honoring the life of General Hancock and the other most worthy inhabitants of Montgomery Cemetery. Our work continues..