

Morford Historian

RECORDS AND NEWS OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE MORFORD FAMILY OF AMERICA, PUBLISHED
QUARTERLY

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"MERCER COUNTY MORFORDS" ENTITLED TO CLAIM DESCENT FROM EARLY SCOTTISH MATERNAL LINE

Even though evidence appears to point to England as the homeland of the first Morfords to come to America, at least one early branch of the family has a Scottish ancestress, in Ann Lawrie or Laurie (1718-1799) whose marriage to Thomas³ Morford [1716-1797] took place 25 September 1739, in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Of the nine children of this couple, two sons left their home in Cranbury, Middlesex County, N.J. , where they were living in the late 1790s, and came to Pennsylvania, eventually settling in that part of Allegheny County which in 1800 was set off as Mercer County. These sons were James Morford [1753-1809] and John Morford [1758-1840].

Ann (Laurie) Mofford may have been related to Governor Gawen Lawrie of East Jersey, a Quaker, who died in 1687; but thus far her parentage has not been ascertained. Ann's very name evokes visions of heather-clad Scottish moors, of gaily colored tartans and kilts, of skirling bagpipes. She was born only a generation later than the date, in 1685, when William Douglas, in love with the beautiful daughter of Sir Robert Laurie, wrote the poem which became familiar to all of us, after it was set to music in 1838, under the title of "Bonnie Annie Laurie". Alas for William, he did not win his love, for she became the bride of Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch, who was said to be a descendant of Fergus, Prince of Galloway in the twelfth century.

It seems pertinent, at this point, to bring up the subject of heredity. Can a person inherit a *nationality*? We doubt it. What one does inherit, through the 24 chromosomes received from each parent, can include physical characteristics, such as color of hair, eyes and skin, slenderness or stockiness of body frame, and so on, even to such intangible qualities as musical ability.* The average number of chromosomes received from each grandparent would be 12; from each great-grandparent, 3. By the time we get to the 10th or 12th generation from a given ancestor, the odds against having received even *one* chromosome from him (or her) are 21 to 1 , and 85 to 1, at those respective generations. What our ancestors can transmit to each successive generation is a sense of reverence for the history, the traditions, the customs, of the original homeland of the early ancestors. In some of us this strikes a responsive chord, and we feel ourselves to be a part of that heritage; while others "couldn't care less" about their ancestral roots. One more point: the children of Thomas and Ann (Laurie) Morford were no less of Scottish descent with an English father and a Scottish mother, than if it had been the father who was Scottish and the mother English. In fact, it is more usual than not, for the mother to transmit to her sons the physical traits of her father, rather than those of her spouse.

* See Chapter XXXI, *YOU AND HEREDITY.*, by Abram Scheinfeld, 1939, Garden City Publ. Co.

Coming in our July issue: The 99-year old Morford who lived to see 180 descendants.

MORFORD HISTORIAN SUBSCRIBERS are grouped here, according to their earliest known ancestor. Following each person's name are listed his parent, grandparent and so on; small numerals indicate generation to which each belongs. When a line has not been traced back to one of the two early Morfords of N.J. [*John*¹ or *Thomas*¹], we have determined approximate generation of known ancestor. Assuming 26 years to a generation, we deduct a series of 26s from the known date of an ancestor. *EXAMPLE*: Zebulon Morford [1722-1794] is assumed to have been son of a man born about 1696, and grandson of a man born about 1644, give or take a few years. As the early Morford brothers were adults in the 1670s, they must have been born about 1650-1660; Zebulon therefore must have been of the 3rd generation; Daniel [1741-1833] of the 4th generation, and so on.

DESCENDANTS OF CORNELIUS⁴ MORFORD 1740-1825:

Artis (Morford) Anderson, Carmichael, CA
*Ralph Milton*⁹ *Morford*; *Anderson*⁸, *Isaac*⁷, *Frederick*⁶, *Isaac*⁵, *Cornelius*⁴

Ormond-Richard Morford, Carmichael CA
*Ralph Milton*⁹ *Morford*; *Anderson*⁸ *Isaac*⁷ *Frederick*⁶ *Isaac*⁵ *Cornelius*⁴

Weldon Dee Morford, Deland FL
*George Everett*⁹ *Gorge Marion*⁸ *Isaac*⁷ *Frederick*⁶ *Isaac*⁵ *Cornelius*⁴

DESCENDANT OF DANIEL⁴ MORFORD 1740-1833:

Rodney Odell Morford, Rapid City SD
*Leland Carroll*¹⁰ *Leland Reed*⁹ *Brinton M.*⁸ *Isaac Reed*⁷ *Jesse*⁶ *James*⁵ *Daniel*⁴

DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL⁴ MORFORD 1793-1876:

Virginia Mae (Morford) Fields, Westfield, IN
*Clifton Newman*⁹ *Morford*; *Lewis Franklin*⁸ *William Henry*⁷ *Daniel*⁶

Robert Eugene Morford, Idaho Falls ID
*Leland Ray*¹⁰ *Grover "Grovy" Emmet*⁹ *James Alvin*⁸ *William Henry*⁷ *Daniel*⁶

Clemmie (Storms) (Morford) Thacker, Nampa ID
*first wife of Leland Ray*¹⁰ *Morford*; *Grover "Grovy" Emmet*⁹ *James Alvin*⁸ *William Henry*⁷ *Daniel*⁶

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN¹ MORFORD c165 -173.:

Alfred Melvin Morford, Marysville CA
*Edward Gurn*⁷ *Jacob C.*⁶ *William*⁵ *John*⁴ *Thomas*³ *Thomas*² *John*¹

Doris (Armstrong) Morford, Saginaw MI
widow of Harold Durrell Morford; *Arthur Richard*⁸ *Thorough George*⁷ *William*⁶ *Richard*⁵ *John*⁴ *Thomas*³ *Thomas*² *John*¹

James LeRoy Morford, Olathe CO
*Joseph Marion*⁶ *John William*⁵ *John*⁴ *Thomas*³ *Thomas*² *John*¹

Larry Lee Wright, Eaton Rapids MI
*Roy Elam Wright*⁹; *Elizabeth "Bessie" Mary*⁸ (*Morford*) *Wright*; *Samuel Thomas*⁷ *Morford*; *Joel*⁶ *Thomas*⁵ *James*⁴ *Thomas*³ *Thomas*² *John*¹

DESCENDANT OF JOSEPH AUGUST⁷ MORFORD 1809-1834:

Roy Emile Morford, Holden LA
*James Alapheus*⁹ *Fergus*⁸ *Joseph August*⁷

DESCENDANT OF THOMAS MORFORD 1737-1820:

Esther Elda (Underwood) Gregory, Thousand Oaks CA
*Nellie Jane*⁹ (*Paddleford*) *Underwood*; *Ella Beatrice*⁸ (*Holliday*) *Paddleford*; *Temperance Jane*⁷ (*Eakins*) *Holliday*; *Catherine*⁶ (*Morford*) *Eakins*; *Thomas*⁵ *Morford* 1773-1815 (*married Temperance Robinson*); *Thomas*⁴ *Morford* 1737-1820

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CURRENT ADDRESSES NEEDED FOR THESE MORFORD DESCENDANTS:

Norma Princell Anderson, New Augusta IN
 Karen Coplantz, Gustine CA
 Morford Cord, Ravenna KY
 Jane (Morford) Corley, Greensburg IN
 Jeannette (Hair) Crim, Quincy IL
 Mrs. Donald V. Lack, San Bernardino CA

Mrs. Dorothy Laiche, Seattle WA
 Pansy (Morford) Page, Linton IN
 Maxine R. Severson, Bend OR
 Mrs. J. U. Thompson, Leavenworth KS
 Nancy McBride Timm, Rochester NY
 Emma (Weakley) Zelski, Atlanta GA

THE EARLIEST MORFORD WILL IN AMERICA

THOMAS¹ MORFORD, perhaps the younger of the two "presumed brothers" who were among the early settlers in Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey, made his will in December 1695. It was proved 24 March 1695/6. A literal transcript follows:

"Know all persons whom it may conserne that I, Thomas Morford of Middletound being sick of body but of a sound mind and disposing Memory doe Make and ordane this my last will and testament.

I will that all my debts be paid.

I give to my beloved wife Suseana my dwelling house and one hundred and two acers of land I hould by pattent Aioyning to New Sanes Rivet and nine acers of medow lying at Wak cake till my sonn Thomas comes to the age of twenty one years of age and then one halfe of the land lying next to Elisha Lawrence My will is my sonn Thomas shall have with halfe the nine acre of medoe douring my wife naturull life but at my wife decease then and not before I give and devise all the aforesaid housing and land and nine acre of Medow unto my sonn Thomas his heirs for ever.

I give bequeath devise unto my sonn John his heirs all that tract of land I bought of John Reid and eight acres of medow tying on the east side of Shoall harber and three acres of medow to say fresh medow.

but my meaning and will is that my wife shall have the use of all the tract of land and medow given to my sonn John till he come of the age of twenty-one years.

I give my sonn John one mare when he come of the age of twenty-one years and I give to my sonn Thomas one mare when he come of the age of twenty one years and I give to my sonn John my gunn.

I give to my daughters Katherine and Sary each of them a cow when they marry or come to the age of eighteen years of age.

I give to my daughter Johana twenty shillings money to be paid when she is eighteen years or marrys.

I give to my daughter Suseana twenty shillings money to be paid when she is eighteen years or marrys.

I give to my daughter Katherine a grate iron pot at her mother decease and to my daughter Sarah an iron kettell after her mother decease.

And of this my last will and testament I make my wife Suseana to be executrix.

Signed Sealed and published this the fifth Day of December 1695.

*Signed Seated and published in
the presens of*

Richard Hartshorne

John W. Willson Senior

x

(SEAL)

William C Cheseman

Midlton in ye County Of Monmouth in ye province of East New Jersey the 24th of March

Anno Dom: 1695

John Wilson Senior & William Chesman two of ye wittneses to ye wthin written instrument came before me commissionator for taking ye probate of last wills & testaments & did solemnly swear by Everliveing God that they did see ye wthin written Thomas Morford sign seat publish & declair ye wthin written instrument as his Las t will & testament and that at ye time thereof he was of sound mind & perfect memorie to ye but of their knowledge & understanding.

Jurat Coram me.

Thomas Gordon

Nothing further has been learned about Thomas' widow, Susannah, as to how long she may have survived her husband; nor has information of the burial place of either of them come to light. As to their children, the will shows that all were under age in 1695, the girls having been born after 1677, and the boys after 1674. As all were probably mentioned in the order of their birth, and we have some information as to the dates of birth of the sons, we place John and Thomas, logically, as the second and fifth of the

children. Katherine, the eldest child, was married twice; first, about 1701/2, to Edward Taylor [1678-1733/4], and second, 1741, to John Ashton [c1670-1743/4]. According to an unconfirmed tradition, John² Morford was born about 1685. Circumstantial evidence indicates that his next younger sister, Sarah, born about 1687, married, about 1710, Henry Leonard Jr., who after her death married Lydia Wall. Fourth was Johannah, born about 1689. She may have married, by 1710, Lewis Morris (the one designated as number 31 in Stillwell's *Historical & Genealogical Miscellany, Early Settlers of New Jersey and their Descendants*, Vol. IV, page 33). Next was Thomas² Morford [1692-1750] who married three times; first, about 1712/3 to Mary Wall; second, about 1721, Sarah Stillwell; and third, Hannah Burdge.* The youngest child was Susannah, born about 1693, who perhaps became wife of Joseph Lippincott.

[* *Hannah (Burdge) Morford married second, 1754, as his second wife, Thomas Cox (1700-1783) of Cream Ridge, N.J. By this marriage there were two children, Fenwick, called "Phoenix" Cox, born 1755, and Mercy Cox., born 1758, who married Edward Kelley.]*

On the basis of Henry Leonard's will, probated 1739, in which he mentioned "my brother-in-law, Thomas Morford", it has been asserted that Susannah, wife of Thomas¹ Morford, was a Leonard. However, as the first Thomas Morford had been deceased for 43 years at the date of Henry Leonard's will, and the will designated a Thomas Morford as one of the executors, it is obvious that the phrase referred to Thomas² Morford Jr., a contemporary of Henry Leonard, and brother of Henry's first wife, Sarah Morford. Confirmation of the fact that Henry's first wife was named Sarah is shown in an epitaph from Christ Church, Shrewsbury, N.J.: "Samuel, son of Henry and Sarah Leonard, died May 13 1790, aged 79 yrs., 3 mos. 14 days." [Vol. I, p. 212, Stillwell's *N. J. Miscellany.*] Samuel Leonard's birthdate was therefore about 30 January 1711; he had a younger sister, Sarah, who married, 12 November 1747, at Upper Freehold, N.J., Daniel Robins., of a family into which John³ Morford (grandson of John¹) had married in 1739.

MORFORD HISTORIAN will welcome any additional information relating to the children and descendants of the first Thomas¹ Morford [c165 -1695/6] of Middletown., New Jersey.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE MORFORDS!

APRIL: 1. Gary, Leah Elizabeth; 2. Craig Franklin; 3. Ann Jane, Dorothy, Vera Evelyn; 4. Alva Lee, Libbie Alice, Michael Duane; 5. Ivor Norman; 7. Betty Anne, Bonita Maude, Chalmers Zenos, Richard Roy; a, Deborah Jane, Rebecca; 9. Marcia Ann, Ward Vernon., 10. Clare Edmister, Eugene Charles; 11. Donald Dean. Kent Bradley; 13. John Albert, John C., Marvin Lawrence; 14. Arthur Rey, Donald Ralph, James David, Wedona Lane; 15. David Lee, Jeannette Jane, Mildred Muriel; 16. Brian Edward, Dorothy Maxine, Richard Kay; 17. Agnes Retha, Margaret Faye; 19. Bernice Catherine, Craig Locke, John Alexander, Thelma Aileen, William Melvin; 20. Doris Jean, James Russell, Joseph Vernon; 21. Ardis Bethel, Arlie Dale, Carol Ann. Dee Dee O'Dell John William. Marlene Mae, Martha Mary; 22. Herbert L., Oleva; 23. Elizabeth Ann, Ethel Clare, Leland Carl, Mary Jane Vern; 24. Lawrence Stearl; 25. Charles Jerome, Michael, Michael John; 26. Howard Derial, Sarah May Ida, William Harry; 27. Elaine Ruth, James Henry, Kenneth Wayne, Rebecca Susan; 22. Donald Lawrence, William Harrison, William N.; 29. Janet L., Leslie Earl, Victor Alvin; 30. Beverly Deloris Maxine, James Austin, Kenneth Craig.

MAY : 1. Kellene Elaine. Reita Glenda; 2. William Larry, William Leroy; 3. Vicki Lee; 4. Pauline Agnes, Randall Gene; 5. Joy Arlene, Rey Everett; 6. Gail Lee. James Otis, M Mary Elizabeth, Raymond E.; 7. Gareld Robert, Janice Marie, Ruth, Wanda Grace; 8. James Leroy, Mary Ruth; 9. Janice Ann; 10. Ernest Ray, Harold Raymond, Lloyd Gile, Myrna Miriam, Rhonda Sue, Robert Thomas, Virginia LaRena; 11. Gary Douglas, Harold George 12. Thomas Finch Jr.; 14. Kenneth Gordon, Lewis Franklin IV. Tim Eugene. Wilford Albert; 15. Koi Ryan, Robert Alan; 1C, Dianne Charlotte 17. Mary Alice, Poland Glenn, 18. Larry James, Mary Emily; 19. Wallace Gene; 21. Diane Cari, Frank Marion, Janet Sue; 22. Dean Russell, Glenda Pose, Rebecca Ellen, Shirley Ann; 23. Jared Richard, Myrna Laverne; 24. Barbara Ann, Daniel George, Dianna Lynne, James Eldon, Jonellen, Theresa Marguerite, William John; 25. John David; 26. Rose Lenore; 27. Beverly Jo, Frederick Richard, Gerald Lee, Jeffrie; 28. Monte Ray; 29. Dean Jay, Dorothy Ann, Michal Glen, Michial Ray; 30. Lucy Rice, Russell U., Warren Newton; 31. Thomas Owen.

JUNE: 1, Edward Carl, Joanne Doris, Norma June. Tommy Dale, Wesley William; 2, Gene Roland, Jane Ann, John Henry, Mardel, Ronald James, Rosalie Rebecca; 3, Clinton Leonard, Gertrude Elsie; 4, Paul Roscoe, Wayne Woodman; 5, Glenn Devere, Leonard Irvin, Rodney Lynn; 6, Bruce Dee Carla Renee, Clinton Jay, Debra Gay, Leah May, Leland Ray, Ralph Hugo Jr., Wilbur Arthur; 7, Kevin Eugene, Marcella Claire, Michael Joseph, Peter Stephen; 8, Eugene 9, Debra Evelyn, Robert 10, Lewis Eugene, Richard Arlen; 11, George Edward, Gregory Leroy, John Arthur, Richard Douglas; 12. Loren Melvin, Patricia Ann, Thomas Burton; 111, Anderson Leroy, Frank Edward, Galen Everett, Georgia; 14, Dorothy, Michael Craig; 15, D eborah Lee, Dorothea Alice, Leo William; 16, Donald, John Clark., Judith Ann, Susan Marie; 17, Barbara Jo. Eugene Charles, Helen Elizabeth, Margo Lynn; 18, Darrell Dean, Glenn Taylor, James Lee, Jill Patterson, Norma Jean; 19, Donald Young, Donna Mae, Michaelina, Pamela Anne; 20, Geraldine Ethelyn Shirley Helen; 21, Joan Edna, Judith Ann, Peter Lossee; 23, Mary Louise, Ormond Leroy; 24, Vicki Lynn; 26, Judith Jean, Margaret R. Ormond Richard; 27. Charles Irvin 11, David Wright, Joanne Bernice; 28, Earnest Franklin, Nancy Elizabeth, Peggy Elizabeth, Richard Franklin 2d; 29, Steven Duane; 30, Dorothy Mae, Margaret Catherine, Quentin Chase.

BLIND MORFORD SUCCESSFULLY IGNORED HANDICAP

A courageous young man, the late Gerald Raymond Morford [1926-1977], who lost his eyesight in a childhood accident when he was five years old, made his living at a job which many whose vision is perfect would not choose because of the danger. His former occupation of selling insurance, he found, paid little more than his car and baby-sitting expenses; so he turned to wood-working, becoming proprietor of G & M Manufacturing Company, in Auburn, Washington, in the early 1960s. At first he manufactured garden stakes and trellises for the area's garden stores, using the only tools he then owned, a rip saw and a band saw; but, as the business grew, more equipment was purchased and the workshop was moved out of the little building-in back of the house, to a more convenient location with more working area.



The December 15, 1965 issue of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* carried a feature article on Gerald, his business, his family, and his other activities, which included helping with the local Scouting organization. We quote from portions of the story: "As the whirling blade shrieked and the sawdust flew like a blizzard, the proprietor of the G & M Manufacturing Co. deftly fed a board into the re-saw machine, his fingers inches from the blade. Gerald Morford picked up another piece of lumber, adjusted the machine and fed it in, while his partner in the milling business took the piece from the machine.

Morford is aided in his work by Marilyn, his wife and "partner", and four children, Kathleen, 14, Ron, 11, Raymie, 8, and Colleen, 10. 'Marilyn does the measuring and sets the clamps on the machine, and then I operate it,' Morford said. 'I can usually tell when the measurement is off.' Morford spends much of his time working within close range of the lethal saw blades, an experience that has claimed more than one finger of other workers. 'It took some practice to get used to the machinery. It's something you don't want to get careless about,' he said. 'The hours were long when we first started. I had an order for bed slats, and for several days I literally worked around the clock to fill it.' His working day often extends from 12 to 14 hours; the children help around the shop, and Mrs. Morford drives the delivery truck."

Gerald was the son of Charles Emery Morford [1902-1980], and grandson of John Wesley Morford [1861-1946], who came to Washington state from Kansas in 1887, living first at Carbonado, Pierce Co., Washington, and later settling in the Yakima Valley. Gerald's great-grandfather was a Civil War veteran, John W. Morford [1820-1875], whose line has been traced back through Frederick Sr. [1788-1851], Isaac [ca 1760/5-1817], to Cornelius Morford Sr. of New Jersey, Delaware and Ohio.

At the time of Gerald's death in August 1977, he was living in Ashford, Washington. In addition to his wife Marilyn (now Mrs. Mierke), he was survived by two daughters, Kathy (Mrs. Tim) Spanring, and Colleen "Connie" Marie Christensen, and sons Ronald and Raymond, the latter three all of Ashford. Other survivors mentioned were his mother, Mrs. Kate Rubens of Tacoma, his father, Charles E. of Salem, Oregon (who has since died), a brother Gene of Ocean Park, Washington, and a sister, Irene Gindhart, of Fairbanks, AK.

Another blind Morford was Jerome [1865-1935], a violinist who died at Sharon, Mercer Co., Pa. He was the son of Seth and Hannah (Malone) Morford, whose line was: Enoch⁶ Thomas⁵ James⁴ Thomas³ Thomas² John¹ Morford. No doubt some of our readers can tell us more of Jerome's history and may even have pertinent newspaper clippings from which we may glean additional facts; if so, we will publish Jerome's story in a future issue of NH.

MARGARET (MORFORD EWING [1795-1881], A DESCENDANT OF ZEBULON MORFORD [1722-1794])

NOTE: For much of the following information, we are indebted to Mrs. Ethel K. Carnes, of Great Valley, N.Y., Cattaraugus County Historian. A word of appreciation is also due to the County and Town Historian program of New York state. These historians hold appointive (but, so far as we know, unpaid) positions, and have been chosen because of their knowledge of local history and records, and their willingness to help others.

In *The Weekly Courant* of 20 January 1881, published in Randolph, N.Y., appeared this obituary: "On Saturday morning last week the aged wife of Samuel Ewing, Sr. died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Nicholas Angle, in Coldspring, N.Y. She was buried in Steamburg. She was born near Princeton, New Jersey, on July 29, 1795. Age (at her death) nearly 86 years. She was' married at age 20. Moved to Randolph 1830. She was Margaret Morford. Her husband was about seven years older."

Mrs. Carnes learned from Mrs. Roberta Umstead of Ellington, N.Y., that the date of Samuel Ewing's death was 21 January 1885. He died at Randolph, N.Y.

From census records of Cattaraugus County (1850 and 1880 Federal, and 1865 state) sent by Mrs. Carnes it was determined that Nicholas Angle was born about 1820 in Saratoga Co., N.Y.; his wife, Mary Ann (Ewing) Angle was born in 1828. Their children were: Martha c1851, Anna c1853, Lida c1856, Millard c1859, Mary E. c1862, and Clara B. c1871; all born in Cattaraugus Co., N.Y. In 1880 both of Mary Ann's parents were living with the Angles in Randolph, and were then aged 92 and 84. As the Angles' names were not in the 1892 N.Y. state census, Mrs. Carnes next checked county land records and found that on 15 June 1892 Mary Ann and Nicholas Angle, then of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minn., sold their Randolph property to Lewis N. Woodworth.

A letter in possession of J. Sheldon Fisher of Fishers, N.Y. (another Zebulon Morford descendant) gives additional information. Written by Margaret (Morford) Ewing in 1881 (not long before her death), to Helen Pardee Fisher, after a visit to Victor, Ontario Co., N.Y., it says: "It gave me great pleasure to visit the place where my parents lived and where I was born ... Mary is well, her school closes in a couple of weeks ... Martha and Lida were well the last time we heard from Minneapolis ... my brother Finley is a grandfather. His daughter Kittee Ewing Peck has a son. They live in Oberlin, O."

It is obvious that many sources must be searched to put together an accurate history of any one family. One person alone could never hope to cover all possible locations having Morford or Morford-related data; and that's why the assistance of all readers is earnestly requested in checking local sources for Morford information. It simply is not true, as quoted from an unnamed source, that "if the Morford Historian doesn't have the information, it can't be found"! We all need to work together. Please help!

MORE NON-MORFORDS THAN MORFORDS ARE AMONG ZEBULON MORFORD'S DESCENDANTS!

This statement may be true of most Morford lines, not just this one. The ratio of non-Morford names to Morford names is three to one in Zebulon's posterity, and 7 to 1 in known descendants in the 6th generation from Zebulon. The list of surnames includes: Adams, Angle, Armstead, Arnold, Ashley, Bechtel, Blackmon, Brunson, Coffee, Davis, Ewing, Fisher, Hume, Hurlbut, Jones, Lang, Loofborough, Maynard, Mitchell, Morgan, Nelson, Palmer, Pardee, Payne, Reams, Rogers, Ross, Smith, Stout, Suffernan, Torino, Trigg, Weakley and Whitson. Many of these are enumerated in a large book by Samuel Anderson Weakley, entitled *The Southern Virginia Weakley Families and Their Descendants*. Xerox copies of the pages showing descendants of Evaline Belmont (Morford) Weakley [1804-1882] have been sent to MORFORD HISTORIAN by Evaline's granddaughter, Mary Jane Steinhagen, one of our subscribers

WAS YOUR MORFORD ANCESTOR IN OHIO BY 1820?

FIRST FAMILIES OF OHIO, an organization sponsored by Ohio Genealogical Society, had its beginning 20 January 1964; as of May 1980 there were 583 members who had proven their descent from one or more of 1,935 persons known to have been Ohio residents by 1820. To date no one has become a member of "First Families" based upon the presence in Ohio of the following Morfords (or similarly named persons):

Miles Morfott, who received marriage license from Gov. Arthur St. Clair, on 12 February 1795, to wed Mary Alter; they were of Batavia, Clermont Co., 22 Mar.1817 when as Miles and Polly Morford they signed a deed. (Vol. T-8, p. 90)

George Morfoot (perhaps related to Miles, above), licensed 10 May 1795 by Gov. Arthur St. Clair, to wed Ruth Lowry.

C. (Cornelius Jr.) Morford, of Wayne Twp., Warren Co., who married there, 1804, his 2d wife Margaret Ray. His father, Cornelius Sr. [1741-1825] probably was not in Ohio in 1820, unless he was living with one of his children, as he is not enumerated as head of a family in 1820.

James Moffett, bought land in Wayne Co. 1819; perhaps related to Frederick, below.

Elizabeth C. Morford, of Brookfield Twp., Trumbull Co., with three daughters, Mary Ann, Hannah and Phebe. Elizabeth was probably widow of William (born in N.J. about 1778), son of James and Ann (Clawson) Morford of Mercer Co., Pa.

Frederick "Morferd" [1788-1851], grandson of Cornelius Sr.; in 1820 resided in Wayne Co., probably that part which later became Ripley Twp., Holmes Co., where he was shown in 1830 census. In 1840 he was shown as Fred^k Morfit" in Jefferson Twp., Madison Co., Ohio; moved to DeWitt Co., Ill., by 1850.

Also listed in the 1820 census were many others in variant spellings of the surname: Henry, John and Tunis Maffett; Thomas Maffit; Thomas and William Marford; George, Henry and John Mefford; Joseph Moffatt; William Moffett, Abigail, Aquilla, Francis, James and William Moffit; Peter Morfeit; Jno. L. Morfert; 2 named John Morfoot; John Morfort; Daniel Mufford; Stephen Munford; and David Munfort. No in-depth research has yet been undertaken to prove any of these as possible Morfords.

For comparison with the names listed above, following is a list of similar variants in ,the 1830 census. showing page number, county and township in which found on microfilm:

MAFFETT WM	055	EFFE	ROS	MOFFETT JOHN	142	MONRO	CEN	MOFFITT SAML	208	STARK	ROS
MAFFIT BENJ	199	TRUMB	JAC	MOFFETT ROBT	208	STARK	ROS	MOFFITT WM	384	PREBL	LAN
MAFFIT THOS	199	TRUMB	JAC	MOFFETT SAML	025	TUSCA	OXF	MOFFITT WM	312	ROSS	JEF
MAFFITT TUNIS	159	HURON	CAD	14OFFETT WM	144	MONRO	CEN	MOFFITT WM	175	STARK	HRN
MARFORT ROBT	068	RICHL	PLY	MOFFIT ALEXANDER	351	PREBL	GAS	MOFFORD CANNARD	012	ADAMS	TIF
MEFFORD GEO	436	BROWN	UNI	MOFFIT CHAS	205	TRUMB	AUS	MOFFORD WM	027	ADAMS	JEF
MEFFORD GEO K	160	CLARK	14OR	MOFFIT EDWIN	205	GEAUG	BAT	MOFFRED FREDK	309	HOLME	RIP
MEFFORD HENRY	432	BROWN	UNI	MOFFIT FRANCIS	048	CHAMP	SAL	MOFITT JOHN	072	TUSCA	DOV
MEFFORD JOHN	435	BROWN	UNI	MOFFIT G	133	ASHTA	AST	MONFORD AARON	388	PREBL	LAN
MEFFORD JOHN H	259	KNOX	WAY	14OFFIT JOHN	480	GUERN	CAM	MONFORD JOHN	269	WARRE	WAY
MEFFORD JOUSHA(*)	438	BROWN	PLE	MOFFIT JOHN	205	TRUMB	AUS	MONFORT ARTHUR	215	WARRE	DEE
14EFFORD KATHARI14E160	CLARK	MOR		MOFFIT LEM096	ASHTA	MNR		MONFORT DAVID	194	CLINT	UNI
MEFFORD THOS	435	BROWN	UNI	MOFFIT LEV1107	TRUMB	HAR		MONFORT EL114OR	215	WARRE	DEE
MEFFORD WM	264	KNOX	M V	MOFFIT NATHANIEL	048	CHAMP	SAL	MONFORT FRANCIS	003	BUTLE	FAI
MEFFORD WM	261	KNOX	WAY	MOFFIT PETER	079	WAYNE	S C	MONFORT H 099	HAMIL	CW4	
14OFFARD ELIAS	134	TRUMB	VIE	MOFFIT PHILLIP	398	HURON	FAI	MONFORT HARRY	358	PREBL	WAS
MOFFARD ENOCH	139	WAYNE	BAU	MOFFIT THOS	310	ROSS	JEF	MONFORT HENRY	384	PREBL	LAN
MOFFET JAMES	049	COSHO	NEW	MOFFIT ZELOTES	157	TRUMB	MEC	MONFORT JOHN	256	WARRE	T C
MOFFET JOHN	088	JEFFE	WAY	MOFFITT ABIGAIL	160	TRUMB	BRI	MONFORT NANCY	215	WARRE	DEE
MOFFET JOHN	188	MONTG	DAY	MOFFITT ANTHONY	385	HURON	PER	MONFORT PETER	107	BUTLE	OXF
14OFFET JOSHUA	236	KNOX	UNI	MOFFITT DAVID	312	ROSS	JEN	MONFORT PETER	384	PREBL	LAN
14OFFET ROBT	479	GUERN	CAM	MOFFITT ISAB	312	ROSS	JEF	MONFORT RAMUS	234	WARRE	T C
MOFFET SARAH	479	GUER14	CAM	MOFFITT JAMES	147	HURON	ATH	MONFORT WM	133	HAMIL	CW5
MOFFETT GEO	007	MIAMI	WAS	MOFFITT JAMES	233	STARK	HIM	MORFORD CORNELIUS	273	WARRE	WAY
MOFFETT HENRY	163	HURON	AD	MOFFITT JAMES	172	TRUMB	FAR	MORFORD ISAAC	110	BUTLE	OXF
MOFFETT HOSEA	160	TRUMB	BRI	MOFFITT JOHN	170	TRUMB	FAR	MORFORD JOHN	246	CLERM	WAS
MOFFETT JACOB	142	MONRO	CEN	MOFFITT JOHN JR.	312	ROSS	JEF	MORFORD MILES	083	BUTLE	OXF
MOFFETT JAMES	142	MONRO	CEN	MOFFITT JOHN SR.	312	ROSS	JEF	MORFORD WM	117	BUTLE	OXF
MOFFETT JAMES D	007	MIAMI	WAS	MOFFITT JOSEPH	027	TUSCA	OXF	MORFORD W14	196	CLERM	TAT
MOFFETT JOHN	163	HURON	CAD	MOFFITT PATRICK	232	STARK	NIM	MORFORD WM	002	COSHO	PIK
MOFFETT JOHN	009	MIAMI	WAS	MOFFITT PRISCILLA	037	TUSCA	DOH	MORFORD JOHN	450	COLU14	CEN
				MOFFITT RICHARD ES	232	STARK	NIM				

(*) Perhaps error for "JOSHUA"

NEWS OF MORFORDS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

JOSHUA LEE RANDALL, born 11 January 1981 in Tucson, Arizona, is son of Jerry L. Randall and his wife Vera. His ancestral line is: *Raymond Lester Randall*¹⁰ *Lester Raymond Randall*⁹ *Abigail*⁸ (*Morford*) *Randall*; *John W. Morford*⁷ *Frederick Morford*⁶ *Isaac*⁵ *Morford Cornelius*⁴ *Morford*.

REV. MURRAY LEWIS MORFORD, of Anaheim, Calif., died there 1 February 1981 at the age of 74-3-15; after a memorial service at Anaheim, he was buried in Memory Garden Memorial Park, Brea, Calif. He is survived by his widow, Sarah Marie (Gray) Morford, three sons, Ray, Gene and Allen, and several grandchildren. His ancestral line: *Arthur Ray*⁹ *Morford* [1884-1972]; *Lewis Franklin*⁸ *William Henry*⁷ *Daniel*⁶ [1793-1876].

CHARLES HENRY THOMPSON took as his bride, on 14 February 1981, Kimberly Kay Gillespie, daughter of Dennis Gillespie and Carolyn (Pomeroy) (Gillespie) Huntley. The ceremony took place at the home of the groom's parents, George and Shirley (Rumon) Thompson, in Holly, Michigan. Attendants were the bride's sister, Karen Huntley, and the groom's brother, George Wesley Thompson III. The groom's ancestral line: *George W. Thompson*¹² *Zola M. (Edwards) Thompson*¹¹; ; *Hazel F. (Ostler) Edwards*¹⁰ *Cora V. (Cutler) Ostler*⁹; *Garret Luman Cutler*⁸; *Mary*⁷ (*Morford*) *Cutler*; *Garret*⁶ *Morford* 1788-1873; *Joseph*⁵ *Morford, of Freehold, Monmouth Co., N.J.*

PORTIA JANE MORFORD, of Lawton, Oklahoma, died early in March 1981. No details available as the bulletin was being prepared. Portia was born 26 January 1916, at Lawton, to Robert Boyd Morford and his wife Ora Eleanor (Edmister) Morford. Robert's line is: *John Thomas*⁷ *Joseph*⁶ *James*⁵ *Daniel*⁴ *Morford*. Portia was married in 1949 to her cousin Laurel Jesse Morford [1912-1964]; they were divorced in 1963. There were no children. She is survived by her brother, Clare Edmister Morford, also of Lawton.

HATTIE E. PAWSON, maternal grandmother of Michael Duane Morford of Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia, and Gary David Morford of Olympia, Washington, died Sunday, 8 March 1981, aged 92, in Vallejo, California. Born in Vinita, Cherokee Nation Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, in 1888, Mrs. Pawson was the daughter of Lee Morris Douthitt and Emma (Bicknell) Douthitt. In 1907 she married Rutherford Stewart Pawson, and they made their home in Washington state for many years, where their daughter Gladys Elizabeth married the late Robert Harold Morford [1907-1965]. Gladys is now Mrs. George E. Mayenschein, of Napa, California. Her first husband's Morford line is: *John Wesley*⁸ *John W.*⁷ *Frederick*⁶ *Isaac*⁵ *Cornelius*⁴ *Morford*.

CORRECTION, PLEASE --- LET'S GET THE STORY STRAIGHT!

In *Memorial & Biographical Record of Butler, Polk, Seward . . . Counties, Nebr.*, published 1899, page 389 had this to say about William E. Morford [1835-1899]: "John Morford [paternal grandfather of William E.] was one of the men who so valiantly fought for the freedom of the colonies, and our subject well remembers hearing him tell of his experiences at the Battle of Monmouth under command of General Washington and of other noted engagements including the first skirmish at Lexington." This was indeed remarkable, since grandpa John was born in 1766 and died in 1837, when grandson William was but two years old. Are we to believe that a two-year old, even if present when grandpa related the story, could recollect such facts in later years? Further, is it logical to presume that grandpa John, at the tender age of 9 (in 1775) and 12 (in 1778) had participated in battles fought in those years? Surely the story, if at all true, would have to pertain to great-grandpa Thomas Morford [1737-1820], thus placing the burden of recollection upon William E's father, William [1787-1872], who was a soldier in the War of 1812, and who may have heard the story from *his* grandfather, Thomas.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? GENEALOGICAL CLUES, OF COURSE!

PERSONS, other than the nobility, with more than a single given name were scarce prior to the 1800s. In some places middle names were forbidden by custom, if not by law, such distinction being reserved for the "upper" classes. Eventually this custom was ignored and parents began to bestow several given names upon their offspring, usually honoring maternal or paternal grandmothers by use of their surnames as middle names. Thus, where our indices show some 200 or more plain John Morford names listed before 1840, the later generations abound with second names which provide excellent clues as to earlier family connections. and we find John Black, John Brinton, John Burch, John Craft, John Randolph. Sometimes the married name of an aunt is found, and we have middle names such as Ashley, Baird, Creighton, Finley, Robison, Titus and Virden. It is common, too, though not genealogically useful, to see children named after one of the presidents; so we have George Washington Morford, Thomas Jefferson Morford, James Monroe Morford, Andrew Jackson Morford; and other public figures such as Daniel Boone, Francis Marion and John Wesley with their Morford namesakes.

Some excellent examples are cited here of names which are direct clues pointing to a maternal line: James and Nancy (Black) Morford had a son John Black Morford; he and his wife Pamela Brown had a son Alexander Brown Morford; Alex's wife was Elizabeth Frances Madden, and their son was Alexander Madden Morford. Zebulon and Susannah (Barton) Morford named a son Noah Barton Morford. The given name of Barton, appearing in a certain Pennsylvania family, has given us a clue to the probable origin of a previously unidentified branch of the family. (More about this in our July issue).

But ... there are some middle names which so far have eluded our research as to their earlier connection with the Morford family. Take "Amyot", for instance, a name used in the "Greene Co., Pa." branch. Pronounced today as "Ammott", it should be "Ahm-yoh" as it is of French origin. Another middle name found in the same family, as well as in the Cornelius Morford branch and one other branch, is "Newton", frequently used with the name "Isaac" either preceding or following it. All three branches once lived in Burlington Co., N.J. This is where Isaac Newton, first Secretary of Agriculture, was born in 1800; whether he was a descendant of the well-known Sir Isaac Newton [1642-1727], English physicist and mathematician, of falling apple fame, is not known. The several persons named 'Isaac Newton Morford, in these early families, were born before Isaac Newton of Burlington Co. reached his majority, so any connection which may exist would have to have been of an earlier time period. Anyone having knowledge of earlier generations of either the Amyot or Newton families is invited to let MORFORD HISTORIAN know where additional information may be found in print.

A final note to those of our readers who are providing new "twigs" for the Morford family tree: Why not revive the custom of honoring your grandmothers or great-grandmothers by giving your children their surnames as middle names? And then, when the children are old enough to understand and remember, tell them the histories of those for whom they were named. Family traditions may thus be initiated, as well as inherited.

MORFORD-RELATED QUERIES

17. MURFORD: Who was the Benjamin Murford shown in the 1790 census of Washington Co. Pa. as head of a family consisting of 3 males under 16, and 4 females?

18. MORFORD-GRAY: Want ancestry and descendants, date and place of death, of the John Morford who married, 1817, in Bourbon Co., Ky., Cynthianna, daughter of James Gray.

19. MOFFERD. Want data of John Mofferd, born c1834 Del.; residing Pencader Hundred, New Castle Co., Del. 1870 with wife Rachel, children Harry, William, Thomas and Amanda..

20. Want death date, place, of William Morford or Mofford, born about 1793, who was of Aleppo Twp. , Greene Co. , Pa. , with wife Susannah (VanDruff) [1797 -1874] ; she is buried in Waychoff Cemetery, Jefferson Twp. , Greene Co. , Pa. Their family consisted of a dau. born about 1815, a son about 1817, Elizabeth c1822, Nancy [1827-67; married first to a Mr. Ketcham, and 2d, 1864, to Elijah Morris]; James [1828-65; buried in Garards Fort Cem., Greene Twp., Greene Co., Pa., under name "Moffit"]; Hannah [1830-1912, married Henderson Waychoff; she is buried at Muddy Creek, Pa.]; Jessie, born about 1835, and a daughter Suny or Penny, born about 1840.
21. KETCHAM-MORFORD-MORRIS-STICKELS: Probable sons of Nancy (Morford) Ketcham, above, were James M., born about 1854, and John N., about 1856; want names, data of their descendants. By Nancy's 2d marriage there was a daughter, Emma Elizabeth Morris [1865-1921] who married, 1887, Johnson Stickels. Contact with descendants desired.
22. STOCKWELL-MORFORD-PRESTON: Want parentage John Morford Stockwell, born about 1816 in Ky; living Evansville, Vanderburgh Co., Ind. 1850 with wife Anne, children Mary 10, John 8, Sarah 5, Anne 1. The dau. Mary Hamilton Stockwell [1840-77] married 1858 Cyprian Preston [1826-1911]. Is there a Preston genealogy showing this family group?
23. ARMACOST- MOF FORD- MORFOOT: Isaac W. Armacost, born 1879, married 1902, Clermont Co. Ohio, Nora Mofford, b. 1885, dau. of John and Amanda (Goff)(Boulware) Mofford. Any relationship with John N. Armacost who married, 1850, Baltimore, Md., Sarah Ann Morfoot? Want death dates, places, and children of both couples.
24. BOGGS -MARFIT-MORFORD: James Boggs married, 1840, Butler Co., Ohio, Elizabeth "Betsey" Marfit (also known as Mofford or Morford), born 1800, Ky. 1850 census Liberty Twp., Butler Co., 0. shows them with son John, 6, born Ohio. Want later records this couple; especially Betsey's death date, place, and place of burial.
25. Alonzo Morford, born about 1811, living 1850 in Ross Twp., Butler Co., Ohio, with John Morford, born 1775, in Pa. Was John father of Alonzo? Where did these men die?
26. CASSELL-MORFORD: Benjamin Cassell married, 1818, Woodford Co., Ky., Ann Morford; who were her parents? Further data, death dates and places, descendants wanted.
27. SHAFFER-MORFORD: Franklin Shaffer married, 1 July 1869, DeWitt Co., Ill., Miss Mary Morford, born 1849, Illinois, probably dau. of Robert Morford [1825-67]. On 26 Aug. 1869, at same place, Joseph R. Shaffer married, as his 2d wife, Mrs. Mary E. (Marshall) Morford [1840-99], widow of Robert. Want 1870 and later census records for Franklin & Mary (Morford) Shaffer; children, if any; death dates and places for both.
28. MORFORD-LEIBER: Americus L. Morford, born about 1828 in Ohio, married 1850, Butler Co., Ohio, Mary Louise Leiber, born about 1832, daughter of Joseph Leiber. Want additional record this family; parentage of groom; contact with descendants.
29. Want data of John W. Morford, an adult in 1820, when he became an early land owner in Rush County, Indiana. Was he married? When and where did he die?
30. Contact desired with relatives of Melvin Leone Morford, born 1907, believed to have been first child born in Tulsa, just after Oklahoma became a state. He was of Oklahoma City 1961; had 3 daughters, Peggy Ann (Mrs. John E. Caldwell), and Louise and Shirley (married names unknown).
31. RICE-MAFFITT: Want parentage, siblings, descendants, of both Thomas P. Rice and Susan Maffitt, who were married 20 July 1862 in Clermont Co., Ohio.