

Morford Historian

RECORDS AND NEWS OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE MORFORD FAMILY OF AMERICA, PUBLISHED
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HENRY MORFORD OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY - POET, NOVELIST AND PLAYWRIGHT

By Shirley Horner



Henry Morford (1823-81). His "striking figure, Greek face and magnificent head covered with masses of curling brown hair" were well known to the literary society of his day.

N. Y. Times, August 9, 1881.

(Photo from Rhymes Of Twenty Years by Henry Morford 1859)

WHEN HIS DAY of full literary recognition finally arrives, Monmouth County residents will have special reason to be proud of Henry Morford, for many of them are related to this remarkably talented author.

At his death in 1881, the New York *TIMES* referred to Morford as a "well-known writer who, by his literary ability and genial manners had endeared himself to many persons in Europe as well as in this country." The Monmouth *DEMOCRAT* extolled the one-time Monmouth resident who had "never lost his affection for his native county." Moreover, the *BIBLIOGRAPHER*, an eminent English literary review, praised the work of this "ingenius versifier."

These judgments justly rouse curiosity about the man who was born in 1823 into a mercantile family of English descendants in Chanceville (now New Monmouth) in Middleton township in Monmouth County. His father, William Morford, a justice of the peace, along with other members of the Morford family, owned lumber and coalyards in the area and pioneered in the construction

and transportation of steamboats between Port Monmouth and New York. After the death of young Henry's mother, Elizabeth Willett Morford, in 1836, William Morford married Johanna Johnson who bore him two children, Margaret and George. Mrs. Theodore Parsons, daughter of Mrs. Harry Morford of Little Silver, is a direct descendant of George Morford.

The small towns of Monmouth County were burgeoning with new commercial opportunities, but Henry Morford was more influenced by historical traditions. His poems, both patriotic and romantic, were being accepted by the Philadelphia *SATURDAY EVENING POST* and the *NEW YORKER*. The Museum Library holds a manuscript scrapbook from this period (1840) that reveals the influence of English and American poets as well as the strong patriotism that Henry Morford would always have.

The increased recognition of the next ten years posed a problem: should he heed the

temptations and move to the larger literary circles of New York City or should he remain where he was now the successful publisher of the New Jersey *STANDARD* (established in 1852)? In 1844, he had married the former Blanche De Von Patterson of New Egypt and by 1856 was the father of four daughters.

The move to New York City in 1856 was indeed a dramatic act. Henry Morford wrote plays, edited the New York *LEADER*, contributed to the numerous city newspapers, and wrote three Civil War novels that are yet to be acknowledged for their powerful realism. The first, *SHOULDER STRAPS* (1863), is subtitled *A Novel of New York and the Army*. The background is almost cinematic in scope: a dismal picture of the repulsive slums of lower Broadway precedes a description of the impressive parades of arriving regiments that pass the crowded city on their way to the battlefields, terrible with "screams of blasphemy and desperation."

Accounts of his remarkable energy are attested to by the fact that at this time, Morford was a clerk in the Court of Common Pleas in New York City (the novels also reflect this experience), wrote long patriotic poems for the annual Tammany July 4th celebrations, and composed a libretto, *THE GREAT REBELLION* (1865).

The third act of this varied career was no less eventful. Annual trips to Europe from 1865 to 1878 resulted in travel books that were very favorably received by tour-oriented Americans in the post-Civil War years. From 1871 on, these accounts also included the American scene to assist European visitors. Again, Morford's capacity for work was astounding; during this period, he wrote six additional plays (*THE BELLS OF SHANDON* was successfully produced at Wallack's Theatre in 1867), a song to promote General McClellan for president, a sequel to the unfinished *MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD* by Dickens, two historical novels (*THE SPUR OF MONMOUTH*, 1876, was inspired by the approaching Centennial celebration), and produced an exquisite art monthly, *THE ALDINE*.

Before his death in 1881, Henry Morford had traveled far from the days when his main desire was to bring subjects of local and international interest to the people of Monmouth. He had become a member of the Lotos Club, a circle of luminaries like John Hay and Mark Twain, and his guide books were now describing California. In 1879, the town of Brooklyn (it was only a town, then) could boast his residence. Here, in his final two years, Morford published the Brooklyn *NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE* in order to acquaint this community with "many of the best minds in America and Europe." Yet even then, he remembered vividly from his boyhood days the veterans of the Revolutionary War, the "pensioners." He could recall -- from the time he had worked in his father's store -- when as pension day came round, these gentlemen "with the kindly greeting of garrulous and failing age" would tell over and over again the account of their service beside Washington and Lafayette. "I have no prouder memories than those," he wrote, "that I loved them living, and listened fondly to their tales. . . . when this giant land was a willful child, unjustly scourged by a tyrant mother."

The foregoing article, which was first published in the September 1973 newsletter of the Monmouth County Historical Association, is reprinted here by courtesy of that organization and by permission of the author, Mrs. Shirley Horner, a journalist who is now writing for the New York TIMES on historical and other topics. Shirley would be grateful for any information as to the present location of innumerable papers left by Henry Morford, as she hopes some day to write a book about him. Morford Historian appreciates the opportunity to bring this interesting account to a wider audience of Morfords and Morfords' descendants.

MORFORD HISTORIAN WELCOMES PICTURES AND NEWS ITEMS ABOUT MORFORDS & THEIR DESCENDANTS!

A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR THE TEXAS-TO-OREGON WAGON-TRAIN'S "MRS. MORFORD"?

Our subscriber and long-time correspondent, Mrs. Louise M. Dunn, suggests we consider the following data as being pertinent to identifying the Mrs. Morford mentioned in the article telling of the covered-wagon trip from Wise County, Texas, to Oregon.

She wrote, "The family Bible of Austin Wing and Mary (Osborn) Morford which my cousin owns, gives Thomas Perrine Morford's birthdate as February 18, 1850. He married S. Libbie Ritch on Thursday, May 22, 1876. They were divorced.....My mother born 1882 had no recollection of Thomas but she had some old papers with address: 'Thomas P. Morford , c/o Waggoners Farms, Wichita Falls , Texas' , on which in another hand was written a date, '1894'.

The death certificate of Thomas Lorenzo Morford who died 8 June 1956 in Spokane, Washington, shows he was born 8 March 1891 in Pendleton, Oregon, to Thomas P. and Martha (Townsend) Morford. This couple might very well have gone to Texas between 1891 and 1894; and when the 1910 census is available, perhaps they can be located and we may be able to ascertain their birthplaces and birthdates, which will be helpful in verifying whether they indeed are Thomas Perrine Morford and his second (or third?) wife. Might the Henry Morford who was mentioned in paragraph 4, page 72 of the April HISTORIAN, have been a son of Thomas P. Morford by an unknown second wife, who perhaps had died in Texas before Thomas and Henry made the covered-wagon trip to Oregon?

We'll report further on this puzzle as soon as the 1910 census has been checked.

ANALYSIS OF AARON LANE'S WILL MAY HAVE UNLOCKED ANOTHER MORFORD PUZZLE

There had to be a reason why one branch of the Morford family of New Jersey bestowed a middle name of "Lane" upon several of its descendants; so the Morford Historian made a study of wills of the New Jersey LANE family for clues as to a probable early marriage connection between the LANE and MORFORD families. It does seem likely!

Published abstracts of Lane wills indicated that an "Aron" Lane of Readingtown, Hunterdon County, N.J., mentioned a daughter, Hannah Monfort, in his will dated 27 November 1798. On the chance that an error may have been made in interpretation of the handwriting, a photostatic facsimile of the document was obtained for study, and it was discovered that Aaron himself had apparently not been able to write, signing his mark "X", the will having been inscribed by some other person for him.

Careful scrutiny of all words in which the letter "r" appeared revealed the intriguing fact that the unknown scribe used both forms of the letter: "r" and "r̄". The latter form (which *could* resemble an "n") was used 43 times, the former only 37 times; but occasionally both forms were found in a word having two "r"s. In the surname of the daughter Hannah, both of the "r"s were in the latter style: "Monfort" and while the first "r̄" might easily have been mistaken for an "n" it is the Historian's considered opinion that it does seem to be the second form of the "r"; and thus the name should be rendered as "Morfort", and not "Monfort".

Was Hannah (Lane) Morfort's husband the John Morford of Freehold, Monmouth County, N.J. whose history appears on page 56 of the October 1981 MORFORD HISTORIAN? Although the name "Lane" as a middle name does not appear in John's family, it is perhaps quite significant that some of his grandchildren's given names are found in the Lane family: Cornelius, Gilbert, Mathias and Timothy.

DEED FOR A MILLION ACRES OF OHIO LAND FILED IN NEW JERSEY; WHY?

This mysterious circumstance was the subject of an article in a long-since defunct publication, *THE NEW JERSEY GENESIS*, in October 1957. It seems that John Cleves Symmes, a land promoter and former judge originally of New Jersey, who later lived at North Bend, Ohio, on the tract of land in question, had contracted to purchase the million-acre tract in southwestern Ohio, but was unable to complete the payment. His default, of course, had clouded the title so that later purchasers of smaller tracts within the larger one were unable to obtain clear title to their property.

One such purchaser was Alexander Ray, who in 1807, with his wife Debra and six daughters, came to the Miami Valley in Ohio wherein was located the million-acre tract. Ray I bought from Baines, Clark and Highway, who laid out the town of Waynesville, all of section 4, township 3, range 5; then sold off portions of his tract to others. Many landowners were thus faced with having to pay a second time for their land, due to Symmes' default; but after passage by the government of an Enabling Act, the purchase was completed by Jonathan Crispin, Cornelius Morford, and John Warder, who paid two dollars per acre for the land.

Since many surnames of settlers in this region were the same as those of earlier New Jersey families, the supposition is that Symmes and his associates may have advertised or circulated prospectuses to encourage New Jersey families to migrate to the new territory. Many settlers had come from the vicinity of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and others from Delaware. Among the latter were Cornelius Morford Sr. and his son Cornelius Jr. [1770-1851], who married, as his second wife, Alexander Ray's daughter Margaret.

The deed for the million acres was dated 21 May 1796, filed and recorded a few days later in Essex County, N.J. [Book C, p. 48], and refers to certain indentures of three parts made 15 October 1788 between Samuel Osgood, Walter Livingston and Arthur Lee, Commissioners of the Board of Treasury of the United States, and Jonathan Dayton and Daniel Marsh of the second part, and the Hon. John Cleves Symmes of New Jersey, the third part. No reason for the filing of the deed in New Jersey has come forth; there was no reason it could not have been filed in Cincinnati, already established and in the area involved; but perhaps it was required by Jonathan Dayton, who with his associates was among losers in the transaction. Dayton, said to have been youngest of the signers of the Constitution, returned to his home in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

A "THOMAS MAUFORT" is said to have been one of the group of religious dissenters which left New England in 1643 under leadership of Lady Deborah Moody, settling in Gravesend, Long Island, then known as "New Netherlands". No such surname is found in Teunis D. Bergen's *REGISTER ... OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF KINGS COUNTY, LONG ISLAND, N.Y.*; but in a pamphlet, *RATE LISTS OF LONG ISLAND 1675-1676-1683*, p. 57 lists: MAFFOORT, JAN: 1 man one horse; and MAFFOORT, PIETER: 1 man, 2 horses, 1 of 2 yrs, 5 cows, 2 of 3 yrs, 1 of 2 yrs, 2 of 1 yr, & 12 morgens of land. (A "morgen" of land was originally the amount which could be plowed or mowed in a morning by one team or man. The old Dutch *morgen* was equal to about 2.1 acres.)

The Morford Historian would appreciate any further published references to anyone of the surname Morford (or its many variant spellings) found in records of the Lady Moody group. Reference has been made to the fact that a group of early settlers Of Monmouth County, N.J., had come from Gravesend; can any reader locate verification of this statement and a list of the names of the settlers involved?

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

One of the histories of Mercer County, Pennsylvania (its exact title and publication date not available at this writing), makes several misstatements about the brothers, James and John Morford, who came from New Jersey and were founders of what is called "the Mercer County, Pa." branch of the Morford family.

On page 999: "Among the early settlers of Mercer County were James and John Morford, who came from the vicinity of Trenton, N.J. ... about 1804." Mention of Trenton seems to be a case of selecting the nearest better-known town, instead of the actual one in which the brothers lived, which was Cranbury, about 15 miles distant. No doubt the brothers passed through Trenton on their way; but one would search Trenton records in vain for proof that the brothers ever lived there.

As to the year (shown as 1804), James, the elder of the brothers, is believed to have been of Fayette County, Pa., as early as 1790, the census of that year listing him as James "Marford", in Washington Township. Between then and 1800 James and all of his family except the daughter Rebecca who had married Jacob Harris, were of Mercer Co., Pa. [Jacob Harris was also listed in Washington Twp., Fayette Co., in 1790 census].

John Morford [1758-1840] and his wife Mary Cox had come to Mercer County, Pa. in 1802, according to John's own account in his Revolutionary War pension application.

In the same history, on page 1153 is this statement about the grandparents of Jeremiah Morford [1814-1903], son of Thomas and Susan (Hazen) Morford: "Thomas Morford was a son of John and Mary (Cox) Morford" [CORRECT] "who immigrated from England [INCORRECT] prior to the Revolutionary War ..." The facts are that both John and his wife Mary had been born in New Jersey -- he at Cranbury, Middlesex County, and she at Cream Ridge, Monmouth County. John's father, Thomas Morford [1716-1797] was son of an earlier Thomas Morford, born say about 1678, who died in 1717, and who also was a native of New Jersey.

MORFORD MARRIAGES IN MONMOUTH COUNTY, N.J. 1800-1843, ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY
[Known dates of birth and death have been added; additional data welcomed]

Dec. 30	1801	Thomas Morford [1775-1856]	Rebecca West [1782-1858]
Apr. 30	1816	John Morford [1784-1826]	Ann Hulsehart [1781-1855]
Apr. 2	1818	Garret Morford [1781-1865]	Catherine White [1798-1869]
Dec. 30	1818	William Morford [1796-1867]	Elizabeth Willett [1794-1835]
Nov. 19	1823	Emeline Morford [1805-]	Samuel [L.] Pyle
Jan. 27	1829	Thomas Morford [1805-1862]	Lydia Tilton [1807-1845]
Mar. 28	1829	Mary Morford [1800-1875]	Walter [C.] Parsons [c1795-1859]
Mar. 24	1831	[Dr.] John Morford [1802-1838]	Eliza Osborne
Nov. 22	1831	Elias Morford [1811-1877]	[Frances] Fanny Taylor [1808-1866]
Oct. 5	1832	Charles Morford [1807-1874]	Susan Herbert [1810-1885]
Nov. 18	1833	Austin W. Morford [1810-1874]	Mary Osborne
Dec. 18	1833	Lucy [Ann] Morford [1809-1892]	James Taylor [1810-1892]
Oct. 9	1836	William Morford [1796-1868]	Joanna Johnson [1803-1840]
Nov. 1	1840	Jesse* Morford	Eliza Herbert
Jan. 22	1843	Eliza Ann Morford**	Robert T. Tyson

* *The Historian's records show this given name as "James T." (1819-1887); perhaps an error was made in transcribing the groom's name in the original record*

** *Not yet identified by Historian; was this perhaps a second marriage of a widow?*

MOFFORD AND MORFORD NAMES FOUND IN KENTUCKY MILITARY RECORDS

The following records were obtained by the Morford Historian from the Department of Military Affairs, Military Records & Research Library, Boone National Guard Center, Parkside Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601. Where known the Morford ancestral line is shown; or additional information given as to soldier's identity. Readers who have further information are invited to send it to the Historian so that the data may be published in a later issue of MORFORD HISTORIAN.

JOHN MORFORD, Captain, 18th Regiment, 5th Brigade, 2d Division; 29 May 1798, Mason & Bracken Regiment, Cornstalk Militia 1792-1811; name included in list of commissioned officers, 1797-1798. *[This may be an early record for Maj. John D. Morford, below.]*

JOHN D. MORFORD, birthdate not recorded, died 17 August 1840, Veteran of War of 1812; served in U.S. Army; rank, Major; buried Germantown Cemetery, Germantown, Ky., 5 yds. to rear of church; information from headstone and old records; was one of the pioneer settlers of Germantown, Ky. and owned the land that the cemetery is located on, and donated the land to be used as a cemetery. (Data from Field Worker's Report, Registration of Veteran's Grave.) *[NOTE: The death date given here is accurate; the one on p. 78, April 1982 MORFORD HISTORIAN, came from a source which was in error. Major John D. Morford's line: Danie¹ John³ Thomas² John¹ Morford.]*

JAMES MOFFORD, private, mustered in 29 March 1813, until 28 September 1813; in roll of Capt. Thomas Lewis' Company of Infantry of the Kentucky Militia, Detached; commissioned by Lt. Col. William Dudley, War of 1812.

DANIEL MORFORD, JR., Corporal, enlisted 10 September 1814, to 9 October 1814; in Kentucky Volunteer Militia, commanded by Lt. Col. Andrew Porter. *[This appears to be Daniel (1793-1876) whose application for bounty land was made 23 Oct. 1850, Franklin Co. Ind, although there he claimed enlistment date as 25 Aug. 1814, discharge 9 March 1815; his pension declaration is dated 1 Apr. 1871 (SC 8094). Morford line uncertain.]*

THOMAS MORFORD, private, enlisted 1 January 1814 to 10 June 1814, Capt. Carey Nicholas' Company, 7th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, commanded by Lt. Elijah Montgomery; data from p. 337, "SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF 1812".

JAMES MORFORD, #29 on list of volunteers, Confederate States Army, Schoolfield's Battery Artillery, Kentucky; rank, private, enlisted 1862. Another record adds that he was buried in Baptist Cemetery, Powersville, Ky.; no headstone. Information given by Wm. Downard & Wm. Breeze, Brooksville, Ky. *[NOTE: There was a James Mofford or Morford (1790-1865), who had served in Capt. John Payne's company for 60 days during the War of 1812; he was buried in Willow Cemetery, Powersville, Ky. It does not seem likely that this Confederate soldier of the same name is the same person, as the War of 1812 man would hardly have entered service at the age of 72.]*

GEORGE MORFORD, #30 on same list as above; private, enlisted 1862.

JOHN J. MORFORD, #155 in Adjutant-General's report, p. 186, Roll of Company I, Fourth Regiment Infantry, Kentucky Volunteers, Confederate States Army; private; enlisted 11 September 1861, Maysville, Ky. *[John James Morford, born 21 September 1939, Maysville, Ky.; died 22 May 1899, Bluff City, Harper Co., Kansas; son of Theodore and Amelia (Morrison) Morford. He married, 21 December 1969, at Maysville, Serena Ellen Winter, born 21 July 1848, Maysville; died 2 January 1927, Galena, Cherokee Co., Kansas; (a daughter of Archibald Alexander & Elizabeth (Leitch) Winter.) John's line: Theodore⁵ John⁴ Zebulon³ John Jr² John¹ Morford.]*

WILLIAM MORFORD [1764-1816], FROM NEW JERSEY TO NEW YORK

MOST OF THE MORFORDS of states other than New Jersey appear to have been descendants of the elder of the two New Jersey Morford brothers, namely, John' and his wife, Margaret, of Middlesex County, New Jersey. However, here is one line which settled in New York state, probably in the decade just preceding 1795, which is known to trace back to the younger of the two New Jersey brothers -- Thomas' and his wife Susanna, of Middletown, Monmouth County, N.J.

The emigrant was William Morford, who was born in Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, N.J., probably about April 1764, and baptised there 27 May 1764 in Christ Episcopal Church. He was the second child and only son of Joseph Morford [1737-1765], and his wife Sarah Van Kirk. She was one of twin daughters born to William Van Kerk [sic] and Hester (Hankinson) Van Kerk; the other twin was Lydia, for whom Sarah named her first born child, born 22 September 1761.

After her husband's untimely death at only 28 years of age, Sarah married a second time, to William Perrine, who was made guardian of her three small children, Lydia, William and Hannah, about the time of their marriage (between 1667 and 1774). In the latter year, Sarah died.

Joseph Morford was a son of Thomas² Morford by his third wife, Hannah Burdge. Hannah married a second time, in 1754, to Thomas Cox, and had a son Fenwick (or Phoenix), in 1755. This step-brother of Joseph Morford was among the New Jersey group which moved to New York state following the Revolutionary War, settling in Charlton, Saratoga Co.

By November of 1795 William Morford was married and living in Newark, Wayne Co., N.Y., where his eldest son, Joseph Baker Morford, was born. Descendants had thought the town of Newark in question was the original one in New Jersey; however, the 1850 census of Joseph Baker Morford, then in Sun Prairie Township, Dane Co., Wis., indicates his birthplace was New York state.

William and his wife Sarah or "Sally" (whose maiden surname has not been discovered) moved from Newark to Charlton, N.Y. by 1800, where the census records the name as "Mauford". A later move took them to Carlisle, Schoharie County, N.Y., where William died 11 November 1816; his burial place has not been located. About three years later the widow, Sally, married, 2 October 1819, William V. K. Taylor, believed by the Historian to have been William Van Kirk Taylor, son of James and Lydia (Van Kirk) Taylor. [For records of this family, see THE EARLY JERSEY SETTLERS OF CHARLTON, N.Y., by Edward J. Raser, in the September 1968 issue of THE GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE OF NEW JERSEY, Vol. 43, No. 3, p. 142.]

Children of William and Sarah "Sally" () Morford:

Joseph Baker	b. 5 Nov 1795	d. May 1855	m 1: 1815 Lydia Van Sandt 2: 1823 Asenath Ward
Sarah "Sally" Lane	(*)	(*)	m. 1818 Reuel Hankerson/Hankinson
Cyrus William	19 Aug 1806	23 Dec 1857	m 1: 1825 Mary Ann Riggs 2: 1840 Mary A. Dwight 3: 1844 Margaret Ann Compton 4: (*) Betsy Powers

(*) dates not learned

It is noted that a Gilbert Lane [1750-1805] lived in Charlton, N.Y.; but it is not known whether he was related to William Morford's wife, Sarah "Sally", whose daughter was given the middle name of "Lane". Sally Lane Morford's mother was still living as of 4 June 1855; Reuel & Sally L. (Morford) Hankerson were of Brockport, Monroe Co, NY.

ANOTHER "OLD-TIME" OBITUARY

As promised in our April issue, we present here another of those old-fashioned obituaries which does not confine itself to the vital statistics, but gives what might be termed a "character sketch" of the deceased. Today's papers seldom have room for articles like this; in fact in some towns (Seattle, for one) only better-known citizens "rate" an obituary. Lack of space is, of course, the problem; but the families of the deceased are the losers, for few persons' lives have been written in narrative form so as to preserve family history; thus the obituary is the only item to fill the gap.

JAMES R. R. MORFORD

DIED. - At his home in this city, Sunday, 12:00 o'clock midnight, Jan. 12, 1908, Mr. JAMES R. R. MORFORD, aged 74 years 10 months and 2 days. Deceased was born in Maysville, Kentucky, March 10, 1833. He left his home, when a young man, and went to Chicago, and from there to Keokuk. Later he went to Macomb, where he resided for a number of years working at his trade, that of a tinner. He was married to Miss Ella Spellman at Macomb. Four children were born to them, three of whom are living: Samuel, of Los Angeles, Cal., Mrs. Ella Spellman of Heber, Arkansas, and Ed, of Big Lake, Minn., one dying in infancy. He moved from Macomb to Warsaw and in the late 'sixties came to LaHarpe where his wife died.

June 27, 1869, he married Mrs. Jane Gochenour, who survives him. One child was born to them, James Earl Morford whose death occurred November 17, 1905 at the age of 35 years 7 months and 10 days.

J. R. R. Morford was an inventive genius, but like most inventors never made an effort to profit by his inventions although their worth and utility was readily recognized as possessing commercial value. He was a man of extraordinary ability, but never sought advancement by claiming superior skill. His aptitude in solving problems was lost in failure to apply his knowledge in a practical way. He planned largely, but left it to others to execute. He thought profoundly and could express his ideas with exactness and forcibleness always, and cared little whether others were willing to accede to his conclusions or not. He was progressive in thought and reasoned well, but not advantageously to his own preferment. He was a leader and a lagger. To know him was to respect him and wonder why he was satisfied with the simple life he led. He could sway men with his eloquence but it was never done for self aggrandizement. He had no faults yet he was faulty. He was kind, sympathetic and helpful and ready to alleviate suffering, assuage grief or counsel wisely. In his official life, and he was for many years in a judicial position, he was just and generous. We have heard him admonish the wrong-doer in an impressive, effective way that must have carried with it weight and influence.

He loved Odd Fellow-ship and was active in its work. He played well his part in the dramatized work. He gave its lessons with a zeal and naturalness that was most interesting and instructive. Love and Tolerance were themes he delighted in setting forth. "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you do ye also unto them," the Golden Rule teachings of the Great Teacher. Religious toleration, or the right to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience was a deep conviction. It is a faith practiced, a hope enjoyed that prepares one to exemplify love in its highest sense. He had been an Odd Fellow for over fifty years. Its lessons had well prepared him for Love of God and love of humanity.

The funeral services were held at the Congregational church Tuesday at 2 o'clock, Rev. A. E. Hartwell officiating. He leaves besides his aged companion, three children and fourteen grandchildren and a wide circle of friends who will Mourn his passing.

The burial services were conducted at the grave by the Odd Fellows.

A beautiful rose pillow inscribed "Grand Father" came from the Thayer and Bradshaw families, of Chicago, Wednesday too late for the Morford funeral.

[His Morford line: *Isaac Newton*⁶ *James H.*⁵ *John*⁴ *Zebulon*³ *John*² *John*¹ *Morford*.

NEWS OF MORFORDS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

FERN M.. (McCLURG) MORFORD, widow of the late Woodman Jacob Morford [1897-1975], died 8 October 1981 at her home in Meridian, Idaho, aged 85; burial was in Sheridan, Wyoming, Municipal Cemetery. A daughter of Julius S. and Minnie (Archibald) McClurg, she was born 11 August 1896 in Davis County, Iowa, and with her parents pioneered in the state of Wyoming, where, on 4 August 1919, she married Woodman Jacob Morford, in the town of Torrington. In 1946 they moved to Sheridan; and following her husband's death in 1975, Fern moved to Meridian, just west of Boise, in Ada County, Idaho, to be near her daughters. She is survived by the daughters, Vivian Margaret (Mrs. Marvin L.) Davis, and Deloris Maxine (Mrs. Ralph G.) Davis, and a son, Wayne Woodman Morford of Miles City, Montana; also by 7 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and a nephew. Her late husband was a descendant of the "Greene County, Pennsylvania" branch of the Morford family, his line being as follows: *William Penn*⁸ *Remembrance*⁷ *Thomas*⁶ *James*⁵ *Daniel*⁴ *John*³ *Thomas*² *John*¹ *Morford*.

DILLARD "Paddy" ELLIS, retired carpenter and plumber of Augusta, Kentucky, died 1 Apr. 1982 in Hayswood Hospital, Maysville, Ky. Born 1 August 1901 in Bracken Co., Ky., he was a son of the late Charles Dudley and Yuma Dallas (Boone) Ellis, and grandson of Tarlton and Mary Ann (Morford) Boone. His wife, Hilda (Guy) Ellis, preceded him in death, in 1974. Surviving him are a daughter, Edna (Mrs. Thomas) Bratton, and a son Kenneth Ellis, both of Augusta, Ky., and another son, Clayborne Ellis of Schertz, Texas; 11 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and a sister, Beatrice (Mrs. Charles) Strasbaugh of Dover, Ky. Burial was in Highland Cemetery, Augusta, Ky. Dillard's grandmother, Mary Ann (Mofford) Boone, was a daughter of George Wm. Mofford of Bracken Co., Ky., whose line is probably: Daniel Jr.⁵ Daniel Sr.⁴ John³ Thomas² John¹ Morford.

JAMES HERBERT MORFORD, retired farmer of Lexington, Ky., died there 16 May 1982, and was interred in Buffalo Springs Cemetery. Second child and eldest son of the late James Clarence and Bessie Maud (McCarty) Morford, he was born 28 November 1902, in Garrard County, Ky. On 20 December 1923 he married Maud Davis, who survives him; she is a daughter of the late Sheridan and Martha Margaret (Harding) Davis of Pulaski Co., Ky. Also surviving are three sons: James Herbert Jr., of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Robert Thomas of Frankfort, Ky., Edwin Floyd of Lexington, Ky., two daughters, Mary Alice (Mrs. Victor Preston Leach) of Stanford, Ky., and Nellie Frances (Mrs. Robert Preston Beck) of Lexington, Ky.; two brothers, Samuel Glass Morford of Lexington, and Raymond Elbert Morford of Buena Vista, Ky.; two sisters, Lucile Flowers (Mrs. Goebel Wilson of London, Ky.), and Clara Louise (Mrs. Robert Peele of Lancaster, Ky.). Ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren also survive. James' line: *James Clarence*⁸ *Thomas Elcano*⁷ *George Washington*⁶ *John*⁵ *Isiah*⁴ *Thomas G.*³ *John Jr.*² *John*¹ *Morford*.

MORFORD (or MOFFORD) T. LANGLEY, born in Bracken County, Kentucky 11 March 1894. to Abraham and Drusilla "Doolie" (Morford) Langley, a lifelong resident of Brooksville, Ky., died on Sunday, 16 May 1932, at Edgmont Manor Nursing Home in Cynthiana, Ky., where he had resided for the past eight years. His wife, the former Mary Oscar Golden, predeceased him. Mrs. Langley was a retired insurance agent and real estate broker, and served his country in World War I. Interment was in Powersville Cemetery. His mother's line: *John Black Morford*⁷ *James Morford*⁶ (probably allied to the Greene Co., Penna. line of Morfords).

LULA (HULL) MORFORD, 98, died Tuesday, 20 July 1982, in Maysville, Kentucky. She was born 6 July 1894 to James "Jim Buck" and Sallie (Patterson) Hull; and was the widow

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of the late Lewis "Louie" Hervey Mofford [1881-1956], whose parents were George William and Mary Ann (Downing) Mofford of Bracken Co., Ky. She was preceded in death by two sons, John D. Mofford [1905-1975] and Ted Hazel Mofford [1908-1971]. Survivors are two grandsons, Leland "Tubby" Moford of Brooksville and Herbert Moford of the Minerva community; five great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren. Burial was in Brooksville Cemetery. Her husband's line: *George William, Jr.⁷ Geo. William⁶ Daniel, Jr⁵ Daniel⁴ John³ Thomas² John¹ Morford.*

THE EDITOR'S CORNER: Just in case you forgot to read page 80 of the April HISTORIAN, read it NOW, and then sit down and start writing you own and your family's histories.



Subscriber #1, Joe Allen Morford, of the "Greene Co. Pa." branch was, logically enough, the first to send in his family's life sketches, and we have several other interesting historical contributions, but we need ALL your histories to make the book complete. We found that prices for clipping services were astronomical, so we'll have to depend on readers to send in all possible Morford news items (both new & old items); we'd also appreciate copies of Morford biographies from county histories or from "Who's Who" books We learned that there'll be a delay in getting 1910 census reels to places where they may be read, so we have some additional time within which to gather pictures and stories for our book, MORFORDS OF AMERICA. In the meantime, don't waste any money on the latest "scam" purporting to be a history of the family! (More about this, later.) Our dear friend and "sharer" of Morford data, Golda Morford manages to

write fairly often despite her injuries from a fall earlier this year. We know all her friends and correspondents are thinking of her and hoping she'll make a quick recovery.....Thanks to Sue Morford of Albany, N.Y. for several trips to the State Library, copying death records of Morfords and to Mary Jane Steinhagen, who sends little tidbits of Morford data gleaned from her research.....On a recent research trip, we learned that marriage license applications (which often contain more genealogical information than the actual license or return) are being destroyed after 7 years -- this refers to King County, Washington. Too bad they can't be turned over to local genealogical societies to index so that the data will be available for future genealogists On a more pleasing note, one state will provide researchers with uncertified death records for only 90¢ each, instead of the fee of anywhere from \$3.00 to \$15.00 being charged for the regular certificates Two interesting articles will appear in the *GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE OF NEW JERSEY*, perhaps late this year. One has data from a recently discovered Woodruff family Bible which provides proof of the marriage of a Nathan Woodruff to Mary Morford (she having been a daughter of Cornelius Morford of Burlington Co. , N.J.) We could have published this in the HISTORIAN, but felt that it deserved a wider audience.....the other article will be a surprise -- all we can say is, why not subscribe to the GMNJ, especially if your ancestral roots include other New Jersey lines in addition to the Morford line which all but a few of our subscribers have? ... For the benefit of those who have received a sample copy of this issue, back copies of all issues, starting with July 1980, are still available at \$2.20 per issue.....We'd appreciate any new listings you find in phone books or city directories, of Morford names, to add to our list to whom sample copies are sent..... We enjoyed a visit from Louise Dunn, who let me borrow her newly acquired copy of June Methot's book, *UP AND DOWN THE RIVER*, a history of the North Shrewsbury River and its people. We plan on including a few excerpts from the book, which mentions some Morfords, in our next issue.....Do you know of any streets or avenues named Morford? We know of a road, and two towns, which we'll tell you about in the October issue Guess that's about all for this time, except.....I'm still watching my mailbox for those personal biographies and character sketches of you and your family!!!

Enid