

Morford Historian

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

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Annual subscription, \$6.00

Vol. 4, No. 1

January 1983

GARRY MOORE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A MORFORD!

IN THE EARLY NEW JERSEY records, the Morford name appears in several instances in one of its many variant spellings, "MORFIT". Three brothers who served in the Militia in 1715 were listed as Thomas Morfit, Benjamin Morfit, and John Morford Jr.

Thus, it may be logical to suppose that the Lieut. Henry Pitner Morfit who is found in the service of the American army in 1777, as a member of "Flying Camp", a name given to the Pennsylvania Regiment to which he belonged, may have been a descendant of one of the New Jersey Morford brothers.

John Morford, one of the "presumed" brothers of Monmouth County, N.J. (who later moved to Middlesex County), made a deed in 1710 to a Richard Pittinger of Middletown. This surname might, in slurred and softened pronunciation, have evolved into "Pit'n'er". It is not known whether Richard Pittinger was related in any way to John Morford; but if he had, perhaps, married one of John's daughters, it might account for the use of that name as a middle name, honoring an uncle.

Theorizing a bit further, it is suggested that Thomas Garrison Morford [1737-1820] of York Co., Pa. and Maryland, whose first wife is said to have been Jane Richardson, might be a logical candidate as the father of Henry Pitner Morfit, among whose descendants appears the combination of names of Thomas Garrison Morfit. Also significant is the fact that a son of Henry Pitner Morfit bestowed the first name "Richardson" upon one of his sons -- might it have been because it was his grandmother's surname?

Henry Pitner Morfit, with a tradition of English ancestry, was born about 1754. From his widow's pension application we find that he married, 13 December 1783, in Princess Anne County, Virginia, Hannah (sometimes called "Henrietta") Porter, whose birthyear does not appear in the pension papers. She died 10 January 1843, and is said to have been buried in Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

Although Lieut. Morfit died about 1794, his widow did not apply for pension until 40 years later, when she was, in her own words, "far advanced in age". Of the two children of this marriage the first, John, died young; the only surviving child was the second son Henry Mason Morfit, born 1 January 1793 at Norfolk, Va.; he died in 1865.

Henry Mason Morfit married, 1817, Catherine Campbell [1801-931, by whom he had fifteen children, among them being Hason Morfit [1836-ca 1922], who married 1863 Eliza Meigs Garrison. Of the latter couple's nine children only five lived to maturity, one being Mason Pitner Morfit [1879-1955], who married Mary Louise Harris. The third and last of their children was Thomas Garrison Morfit, born in 1915, who took the stage name of "Garry Moore", gaining fame for himself as a TV star.

MORFORD HISTORIAN WELCOMES PICTURES AND NEWS ITEMS OF MORFORDS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS!

WHO'S WHO AMONG MARFORDS, MOFFORDS, MORFORDS AND MURFORDS

HERE IS A PARTIAL LIST of known entries in various "Who's Who" publications, for these variant spellings of Morford. We have copies of those marked with an asterisk before the name; and would appreciate having xerox copies of all the others, with a notation as to the full title and date of the book in which each appeared. Readers living near the Library of Congress or other large libraries having biographical compilations, may help us by sending copies of those we need, as shown below, or of others not listed.

MARFORD, MIRIBLE [1814-1827] , N.Y. Hist. Society Dictionary of Artists in America, 1957

MOFFORD, ROSE, Women in Public Office, 197/6

* MORFORD, CASSIUS ARDEN [1882-1958], Who's Who in Engineering, 1941

MORFORD, CATHERINE ANNE, Who's Who in South & Southwest, 1978; WW in Amer.Women 1977-9

MORFORD, DOUGLAS HARRY, Who's Who in American Law, 1978, 1979

MORFORD, ELBERT S. [1905-], Who's Who in Methodism, 1952

MORFORD, GEORGE WILLIAM, Who's Who in the West, 1974, 1976, 1978

* MORFORD, GOLDA, Who's Who in the West, 1968

* MORFORD, GUY, Who's Who in Kentucky, 1955; American Men of Medicine, ca 1962

* MORFORD, HELEN HAWKINS, Who's Who in American Women

MORFORD, HELEN SMITH [1899- Who's Who in American Women, 1961, 1964, 1966

MORFORD, HENRY [1823-18811

MORFORD, IONA, Biographical Directory of Librarians in U.S. and Canada, 5th ed., 1970

* MORFORD, J. LEE [1873-1940], in Michigan Biographies

MORFORD, JAMES RICHARD [1898-1959], Who's Who in America, 1974, 1976, 1978

MORFORD, KENNETH JAMES [1897-1961], National Cyclopedia of American Biography

MORFORD, MARK PERCY OWEN, Dict. of Amer. Scholars, 1974, 1978; Who's Who in Amer. 1974

MORFORD, MYRON LEE [1935-], Who's Who in Education, 1974

MORFORD, RICHARD A., U. S. Biographical Record, 1974

MORFORD, THOMAS, in Supplement to Allibone's Critical Dict. of English Literature

MORFORD, VILAS JAY [1900-], American Men & Women of Science, 1973, 1979

MORFORD, WARREN NEWTON [1930-] Who's Who in Amer. High Schools; Who's Who in Amer.

Professionals; Who's Who in Ohio

MURFORD, NICHOLAS, in Supplement to Allibone's Critical Dict. of English Literature

DR. GUY MORFORD, anesthesiologist (listed among Who's Whos above) was born 22 August 1906 at Bruceville, Indiana, son of John Buford and Edna (Hill) Morford, and grandson of John M. and Jane (Watson) Morford. Educated at Indiana State Teachers College, Dr. Guy received his M.D. degree at Indiana Medical School in 1944. In 1942 he married Mildred Bernice Jackson. From 1944 to 1947 he served in Japan in the U. S. Medical Corps. His home address until about 1970 was Owensboro, Ky. The Historian corresponded with Mildred some years ago. We now have additional information on the ancestral connections of this branch of the family, and hope someone will put us in touch again with Dr. Guy and Mildred Morford.

OUR SUBSCRIBER Russ Gunder, of Washington, Indiana, sent this excerpt from the Butler County (Ohio) Historical Cyclopedia of 1882, page 456: "In 1837 Methodists formed the Oxford and the New Haven Circuit, which embraced the Lebanon District. There were 15 appointments, including some MOFFORD names." If any reader has access to the actual records of these appointments, we'd like to have a list of the Moffords mentioned.

PLEASE - Don't throw away the cover in which your HISTORIAN was mailed; instead, give it to one of your Morford relatives and tell him he'd enjoy a subscription, too!

PLEASE HELP US FIND THESE "LOST" MORFORDS!

LISTED BELOW are 303 Morfords whose copies of MORFORD HISTORIAN were returned during the past 2 years because of incorrect or obsolete addresses. We need current addresses and some identification of these persons (names of their parents, siblings and spouses.

A. , Moline IL	E. A. "Tony", Lexington KY	June, Yakima WA	Rick, Portland OR
Adrian G., Dallas TX	E. D., Brawley CA	Karen L., Los Angeles CA	Robert, Pearl City HI
Albie T., Export PA	E. R., Omaha NB	Kenneth, Springfield IL	Robert, Zionsville IN
Allen W., Ormond Beach FL	Earl , Salem OR	Kenneth, Dickinson NO	Robert, Sewickley PA
Arnie, Rock Springs WY	Earl R., Salem OR	Kenneth A., Union Gap WA	Robert A., Los Angeles CA
Art, Topeka KS	Edna R., Omaha NB	Kenneth D., Carterville IL	Robert A., Chattanooga TN
Arthur Gene, Agoura CA	Elizabeth (Capito), Indpls IN	Kenneth Gerald, San Francisco CA	Robert A., Rossville TN
Arthur F., Moab UT	Elmer, Corvallis OR	Kenneth J., Laurel MD	Robert D., Omaha NB
Arthur Perry, Aurora OR	Esther L., Indianapolis IN	Kenneth W. , Kalamazoo MI	Robert E., Connersville IN
B., Wilmington DE	Etta B., Prineville OR	Kent, East Lansing MI	Robert Gregory, Indianapolis IN
B., Walla Walla WA	Eugene C., Ocean Park WA	Kevin McKean, Bellingham WA	Robert L. , Poniona CA
B. C., Bethlehem MD	F. A., Long Branch NJ	Kim, Riverside CA	Robert L., Sunnyside CA
B. J., Buffalo NY	Finlay A., Oceanside CA	Kim, Colton CA	Robert M. , Indinapolis IN
Becky, Coeur d'Alene ID	Floyd A., Yucca Valley CA	L., San Francisco CA	Robert T., Narberth PA
Bert F., Bakersfield CA	G. C., Bellevue WA	F., Lansing MI	Robert Thomas Jr., Lexington KY
Beryl C., Deming NM	Gary, Lafayette LA	L., San Antonio TX	Robert W., Lansing MI
Blenda N., Muskegon MI	Gary Lee, Toppenish WA	L. A., Topeka KS	Rodger W., Santa Ana CA
Bradley, West Des Moines IA	Gary Lee, Zillah WA	Larry, Mattoon IL	Roger, Omaha NB
Bradley Jay, Seattle WA	Gene C., Long Beach WA	Larry Andrew, Hills IA	Roger G. , Sweet Home OR
Brady, Giddings TX	Gene (Eugene) C., Ocean Park WA	Larry D., Lincoln NB	Roger L., Oniaha NB
Brady, LaMesa TX	Gene Harvey, Eldridge IA	Larry D., Jackson TN	Ronald, Houston TX
Brian Keith, Seattle WA	George A., Tucker CA	Larry J., Seattle WA	Ronald D., Annandale VA
Bruce A., Indianapolis IN	George D., Champaign IL	Lea Lahaina HI	Ronald I., Genesee MI
Bruce D., Buffalo NY	George Martin, Rolla MO	Leon, Pinconning MI	Ronald K., Ellensburg WA
Bryan L., Boise ID	George Milton, Spokane WA	Leonard, Pomona CA	Ronald R., Cuyahoga Falls OH
C. J., Cleveland OH	Gerald E., Carbondale CO	Leonard Elmo, LaVerne CA	Ruth (wid.Verle H.), Peoria AZ
C. M., Urbana It	Gerald W., Jackson MI	Leonard F., Watsonville CA	S., Cardiff-by-the-Sea CA
Carl J., Bloomingdale NY	Ginnie, Wheeling WV	Lewis, Rock Island IL	S., East Lansing MI
Charles, Tucson AZ	Gladys, Wapato WA	Mrs. Lewis, Sheridan IN	S. A., Lawton CK
Charles, Cadillac MI	Glen, Rice MN	Lillian, McCammon ID	S. A., Seattle WA
Charles, Toledo OH	Glen Orion, Jacksonville FL	Linda A., San Antonio TX	S. H., Nashville TN
Charles A., Cadillac MI	Glenn K., St. Cloud MN	Louis H., Danville IL	Samuel , Cal dwell ID
Charles Franklin, Janesville WI	Gloria J., Ft. Myers FL	Louis Ray, Rock Island IL	Stephen, Janesville WI
Mrs. Chas. H., Manhattan NY	Gregory M., Cincinnati OH	Lyndall, Citrus Heights CA	Stephen Lossee, Moline IL
CharlesRobert, Lincoln City OR	Gregory P., Des Moines IA	M. , Kalamazoo MI	Steve, Lexington KY
Cheryl, Omaha NB	Guy, Bloomington IN	M. A. Kalamazoo MI	Steven D., Eugene OR
Chester, Topeka KS	Harold H., Atlanta GA	M. L., Naples FL	Steven Ryan, Yakima WA
Chris, Yakima WA	Harry B., Roselle IL	M. O., Clarksburg WV	Susan, Rock Island IL
Craig Franklin, Okemos MI	Harry C., Los Altos CA	M. Tolman, Jackson MS	Susan , Indianapolis IN
D., Seattle WA	Hugh Ray, Pontiac MI	Marilyn, Albuquerque. NH	T. L., Lansrig MI
D.A., Cincinnati OH	lone, Pratt KS	Mark, Minneapolis MN	Ted, San Juan Capistrano CA
D. L., Elmwood DH	Irvin F. , Omaha NB	Marvin R., Marysville WA	Terry, Saginaw MI
D. M. , Battle Creek MI	J., Santa Ana CA	Marvin Roy, Wenatchee WA	Terry A., Fresno CA
Dale, Dowagiac MI	J. , Pittsburgh PA	Melvin M., Aurora CO	Terry W., Walnut Creek CA
Dale, Junction City OR	J. E., Chicago IL	Merrill F., Valley NB	Thomas Joseph, Highland IN
Dale A., Niles MI	James, Kingston WA	Michael, Chicago IL	Timothy A., Goshen OH
Dale D. , Sari Bernardino CA	James C., Trenton NJ	Michael, Oklahoma City OK	Toin R., Oakland CA
Dale D. , Oniaha NB	James C., San Francisco CA	Michael Carl, Spokane WA	Tracy , Oshtemo MI
Dan , Kansas City MO	James H., Burton WA	Michael E., Cincinnati OH	Verlie, New Richmond OH
Dan, Huntington WV	James M., Hazelwood MO	Monroe A., Lincoln NB	Vernon, Yakima WA
Daniel Alan, Houston TX	James P., Coraopolis PA	Ona (Brooks), Fultonville NY	Vincent, Indianapolis IN
Danny Joe, Belton MO	James W., Excelsior MN	Otto Irvin, Franklin IN	W. A., Spotsylvania VA
David, Council Bluffs IA	James W., Minneapolis MN	P. , Miami FL	W. B., Bellevue WA
David, Newton KS	James Wesley, Tracy CA	P. A., Marshalltown IA	Wallace, Yakima WA
David, Rock Springs WY	Jay F., Elkhorn NB	Paul, Frankfort KY	Walter D. , Farmington MI
David C., Mercer PA	Jeff, Chicago IL	Paul R., Frankfort KY	Walter D., Muskogee OK
David D., Corning NY	Jeff, Springfield OH	Paul V., Thousand Oaks CA	Walter F., Indianapolis IN
David D., Liverpool	Jeffrey Glenn, Corvallis OR	Peter, Ithaca NY	Walter P., Riverside CA
David J., St. Joseph MO	Jeffrey James, Miami FL	Peter M. II, Blum TX	Wayne, Addison MI
DavidLawrence,BloomingtonIL	Jim, Yakima WA	Phillip, Hays KS	Wayne, Jackson MI
Dawn M., Carson IA	Jim Jr., Fort Lauderdale FL	Quentin A., Wichita KS	Wayne A., Anies IA
Dawn M., Scotts MI	Joann L., Arroyo Grande CA	R. , Kalamazoo MI	Wayne Allen, Ames IA
Dennis Gene, Prosser WA	Joe, Yakima WA	R. A., Indianapolis IN	Wesley, Watsonville CA
Dennis Gene, Toppenish WA	Joe D., Hayward CA	R. V., Tucson AZ	William, St. Petersburg FL
Denise F., Sweet Home OR	Joe Douglas, Hayward CA	Ralph H., Greensburg PA	William, Easton MD
Diana, Battle Creek MI	John A., Kansas City MO	Randal W., Seattle WA	William, Buckeye Lake OH
Diane, Canoga Park CA	Mrs. John A., Fultonville NY	Randy, Yakima WA	William, Jackson TN
Don, Bonner Springs KS	John A., Canby OR	Randy G., Connersville IN	William C., Wellington CO
Donald J., Lincoln Park MI	John Leroy, Decatur IL	Raymond Edward, San Antonio TX	William D., Wapato WA
Donald W., Nashville TN	John M., Saginaw MI	Raymond Scott 3d, Peoria IL	William Douglas, Aurora IL
Dorothy, New York NY	John T., Winchester KY	Rhonda L., Tacoma WA	William Douglas, Decatur IL
Dorothy J., Melrose FL	John W. Jr., Vienna WV	Richard A., Stevensville MI	William H., Baltimore MD
Douglas, Tampa FL	Joseph, Oklahoma City OK	Richard A., Arlington VA	William H., Nashville TN
Douglas Fred, Tampa FL	Joseph W., Dearborn Hts. MI	Richard B., Clarksville TN	William J., Lexington SC
Douglas H., Jacksonville FL	Judith D., Caldwell ID	Richard R. Jr., Oceanside CA	William Wallace, Pontiac MI
E., Kansas City Mo	Julie G., Goodell IA	Rick & Trina, Corvallis OR	

MAJOR JOHN D. MORFORD, A MAN OF MYSTERY

MAJOR JOHN D. MORFORD, who is said to have come to Bracken County, Kentucky, in 1802, arriving with only a horse, and sleeping in the woods on a four-fork bed tick, remains a man of considerable mystery. We can only guess at his year of birth, as probably between 1750 and 1765, and his birthplace as either in Pennsylvania or in the part of Virginia which later became Kentucky. As shown in our July issue, page 86, he was a veteran of the War of 1812. It is strange, therefore, that the department of Military Service Records in Washington, D.C., has no file for either Maj. John D., or for any military service of his son, Maj. John W., who was born 12 February 1798, in which year his father was serving in the 28th Regiment, 5th Brigade, Second Division, of the Mason & Bracken Regiment, Cornstalk Militia, having the rank of a Captain.

Major John D. Morford's first wife, Rachael, whose maiden name has not been learned, is reported to have owned and operated a tavern in Bracken County during the War of 1812, from which she "reaped a rich harvest". Rachel was living as of 27 February 1830, but died between then and 19 August 1839, when Major John D. Morford took a 2d wife, the widow Mary Lewis. He died just two days short of a year later, his widow, by virtue of a pre-nuptial agreement taking a third portion of his estate. His will, dated 26 September 1839 (five weeks after his marriage) reads as follows:

"In the name of God, I, John D. Mofford of the County of Bracken and State of Kentucky, being much enfeebled by the hand of time and disease and being anxious to make such a disposition of my worldly goods as shall leave but little trouble to my Executors or representatives, do make this my last will and testament—

First, I wish the payment of all my just debts and funeral expenses. Having recently entered into a marriage contract with my present wife and conveying her one-third of my personal & real estate in perpetuity without reversion as will appear of record in the Bracken County Court.

I will the sum of \$100 to be expended in erecting a tombstone over my grave and the like sum to be expended in like manner over my deceased wife, also the sum of \$50. be expended in erecting a permanent stone wall to enclose the grave of my deceased son John and the grave of myself and my deceased wife.

It is my wish that my Executor shall give one years's indulgence to all my debtors in the collection of all my outstanding obligations.

The residuary part of my estate both real & personal & mixed I wish to be divided one half to my legal representatives, the other portion to be given to my present wife and her legal representatives, hereby empowering my executors to sell and convey by deed all such property necessary to carry into effect this will.

It is my wish that my friends Stanfield C. Pinchard and Jos. Frazee shall act as my executors hereby revoking all former wills.

In testimony whereof I annex my hand & seal this 26th day of September 1839.

Attest Jas. W. Coburn, Robert P. Dimmet, Wm. Ingram

JOHN D. MOFFORD

Major Morford died 17 August 1840, and the will was proved 24 August. Although the will makes no mention of a daughter, he did have one, as a notation in the inventory, which included a list of slaves, indicated that a negro boy William, valued at \$200., was "subject to Daughter's claim"; none of the several slaves shown was among items sold at the September sale. A Bible was purchased for \$1.00 by John Boys; he may have been a son of James and Jane (Morford) Boyce, whose marriage is recorded in Bracken Co., Ky. Book 1, page 11, as having taken place 18 January 1829. We believe that Jane must have been a daughter of Major John D. Morford.

Major Morford's son, John W. Morford, who had married 9 November 1824 Emily Coleman, died 1 April 1826, just 28 years old. He was buried on the family farm in Germantown,

Bracken County, Kentucky, which later became the Maple Grove Cemetery after Major John D. Morford had deeded the land to Ebenezer Smith, James A. Holton, Joseph Free, and James W. Coburn, on condition that a church be erected there, and that the son's grave would have perpetual care. This church, originally Baptist, became a Christian church following a split in the congregation. In 1857 the first building was replaced by a brick building, which served the people for 65 years before it was again remodelled and enlarged in 1924. Following a fire set by an arsonist in February 1975, causing \$100,000. worth of damage, the building was once more completely restored in 1975.

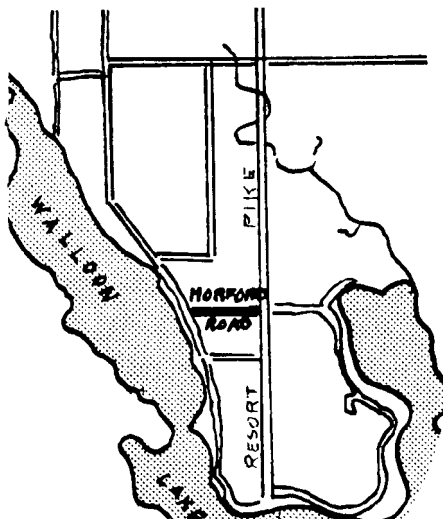
The present gravestone, erected according to directions in Major Morford's will, shows an inscription only for the Major. The "4" in his death date (1840) has apparently weathered to the point where it looks like a "V"; and apparently there was no inscription for Rachael Morford, or else it had weathered and become completely illegible by 1975, when the present caretakers replied to the HISTORIAN's inquiry about the grave.

The Major's daughter-in-law, Emily (Coleman) Morford, remarried 25 April 1827 in Harrison County, Ky., Sidney S. Fithen (or Fisher?). She filed suit against the estate of Major Morford; but the Historian's attempt to obtain copies of the pertinent papers from the court in which the suit had been filed met with no response; the case may have been settled out of court.

A document found in records of Greene County, Pennsylvania appears to prove that James Morford [1766-1839] of that County and state, who had died almost a year and a half before the Major's death, was probably his brother. Signed by Jeremiah Burge of Linn County, Iowa whose deceased wife had been Hester (Morford) Burge, daughter of James of Greene County, Pa., it empowered Joseph Morford [1813-1836; a son of James of Greene Co., Pa.] to serve as Jeremiah's representative for the purpose of making a claim upon Major Morford's estate. This document, dated 10 February 1842, states: "By right of my wife Hester, late Hester Morford, I am entitled by inheritance to a certain amount of money from the estate of John Morford, late deceased, of the state of Kentucky, near Maysville Thus it appears that Hester (Morford) Burge must have been a niece of Major John D. Morford; and it follows that Maj. John D. and James Morford were brothers.

A ROAD NAMED FOR CLYDE HENRY MORFORD OF PETOSKY, MICHIGAN

Here is a map. showing another Morford Road, this one located in Emmet County, Michigan, where WILLIAM LANE MORFORD pioneered in 1879. He was born in 1835 in New York state (not in Pennsylvania, as Michigan State Library's Pioneer record #762 has stated), and was a son of William Lane Morford Sr. [ca 1791-1874] and his wife Biphnah Wood. The younger William Lane Morford [1835-1901] and his wife, Frances (Dickerson) Morford [1846-1919] are both buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Petosky, Mich. Their eldest child was CLYDE HENRY MORFORD, and it is he for whom Morford Road was named, about 1950, by official action of the Township of Resort. It is a short east-west road about 3/4 mile long, between Resort Pike and Walloon Lake to the west. Thanks to the kindness of Clyde's son, Gilbert C. Morford of Petosky, we have a very attractive road map of Emmet County, from which the sketch at left was made.



We have been told there is a Morford Street, in London; and would like to hear from anyone having access to a map of that great town who can prove this statement!

EXTRA COPIES of this or earlier issues of MORFORD HISTORIAN available at \$2.20 each; publication began July 1980, so there are only 2 issues for that year, July & October.

THE FASCINATING AND UNIQUE retirement activity of Burries and Ethel Morford, of Stockton, California was the subject of a feature article in *THE STOCKTON RECORD*, 13 November 1982, and also in Vol. 5 1982 of *ABC PEOPLE*, a publication of The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. The activity? Restoring penny gum ball machines -- not just a few, but hundreds! First we'll tell you where Burries (pronounced as if it were spelled "Burriss") fits into the Morford family. He is a descendant of the "Greene Co., Pa." Morfords, the first of whom was James Morford [1788-1839] who married, 12 October 1790, in Frederick County, Virginia, Jane or Jean Kennedy. They seem to have gone directly to Greene County; but their 5th child, John, was born in Virginia in 1801 (Jane must have been visiting her family at the time). John's wife was Jemima, whose last name we have not learned. The first 6 of their children were born in Greene Co., Pa., but by the time Burries' great-grandfather John D. Morford was born in 1838, the family had moved to Iowa. John D. and his wife, Electa E. M. Showers, had but one child, a son Burriss W., born in 1860. The mother died just six months after Burriss' birth, and the baby's father died in 1863. Undoubtedly Burriss must have been brought up in the family of one of his relatives, but at this point we do not have that information. He did remain in Iowa, though, and with his wife, Johanna "Josie" M. Rose, was living in Boone County, Iowa, at the birth of their eldest child, a daughter Myrtle, in 1881. She married Roy Haberbush. Burriss and Josie had a second child, Earl Wilbur (Burries' father) who was born in Kansas in 1885; the third child, a daughter Lydia E. (who married Otto Smith) was born in January 1887. This family moved to Minneapolis, Minn., by 1905. Earl married, 1908, Lizzie May Nelson. The elder of their two sons was Burries John Morford, born 1 September 1909.

We pick up their story at this point from the *ABC PEOPLE* magazine:

"Married 48 years, Burries and Ethel Morford may be busier now in their retirement years than they were in their 34 years serving American Baptist churches in Wisconsin, South Dakota and California. They buy old penny gum and candy machines, and in their attractive home in suburban Stockton clean, repair and restore them to their original condition. The brightly colored and good-as-new machines are then sold by the Morfords at antique shows and street fairs in the state. The income from this hard and time-consuming work is larger than one might expect and provides an important supplement to their modest retirement income . . .

Ethel puts the old machines in carburetor cleaner overnight to remove the chipped paint, gives them a primer coat and adds a glossy finish with spray paint. She sands the wood machines, and, using a fine steel wool dipped in Danish tung oil, rubs them down to a beautiful smooth finish. "She does all the work," says Burries, but it isn't quite the whole story. He has access locally to a sandblaster that removes rust from metal machines, in especially bad condition, and has parts made by a sand-caster in Stockton. New glass globes are ordered



from the only person in the country who has an original mold and makes them for the Morfords.

"Gum ball machines started about the turn of the century," Burries explains when asked about the history of penny candy and chewing gum mechanical devices. "Some machines are older than that, of course. They have long metal legs and all kinds of filigree ornamentation. But most of ours are from the 1930s and '40s. The interesting part of this whole thing is that it introduced us to the whole field of antiques and collectibles."

How did the Morfords get involved in this intriguing and unusual retirement activity? For one thing, supplementing income is nothing new for Burries Morford. He began teaching school part-time when he was 53 and enjoyed teaching immensely. "I'd always thought about vending things because it was a thing you could do without interfering with your ministry." In Nevada City, Cal., where Burries, for health reasons, had accepted a call to a small American Baptist Church, he started with 10 vending machines and increased the number to about 80. They were the kinds of dispensing machines that you find in filling stations, laundermats and supermarkets. When Burries became pastor of Stockton's Memorial Baptist Church, it was agreed that their pastor could continue to teach school part time and have a small business to supplement income. From 80 machines, the number grew eventually to 450.

"So then I got close to retirement," said Burries, "and someone said that somebody had a whole bunch of penny gum ball machines, and I tried to find out where they were. Finally a neighbor said, 'My son works for the Post Office and knows where this fellow is.' It was October 1973 and I wanted to have them for the Christmas season." As it turns out the man accepted Morford's offer, and there were actually 250 machines instead of 150, and 60 stands. "We had gum ball machines from wall to wall in our garage!" says Burries with hearty laughter. "Ethel probed me. She said 'We've got to sell these machines.' She was fixing them and stacking them around the walls of the kitchen, but I still had 450 vending machines to service, I was teaching school and had a church to serve." So Ethel and Burries put the reconditioned machines in their van, and sold about \$1,000 worth at street fairs before Christmas and more before Valentine's Day and Easter. Then Burries sold his vending route by trading for old gum ball machines and obtained an additional 400-500 in this way.

Burries continues the story: "I was watching TV and there was an ad for an antique show in West Sacramento. My adventurous nature said, 'Why don't you call?' My conservative nature said 'You're an old fool.' So I picked up the phone and called the sponsor of the antique show. I said that I was selling old gum ball machines and found out that the cost was \$129 for space for two tables." Burries asked what was needed to finalize the agreement. The answer, "Just your word." "We'll come," said Burries. "We moved in at Thursday noon and here was an entirely new world -- and it was filled with antiques of all kinds ... top quality things. We didn't do anything for the first two hours and I said I wasn't sorry I was there. I only wanted to make my \$129. By the end of the day, we had taken in three hundred and some dollars." By the end of the antique show on Monday night, the Morfords had taken in six times that amount. "This was a revelation," exclaims Burries with delight.

The Morfords now concentrate their time and considerable energy on twelve large antique shows in California. Today each gum ball machine sells for between \$70-\$80, so the Morfords have regained and exceeded their original investment. Since 1973 Burries estimates that they have sold more than 3,000 machines. Once they took their gum ball machines with them in their van across the country on a trip to visit Burries, now

(Continued on page 109)

ADDITIONAL DATA DESIRED OF THIS BRANCH OF THE MORFORD FAMILY

DO YOU RECOGNIZE any of the persons shown in this chart, as having been related to you and your family? The George E. Morford shown here was said to have been "a loner on the railroad" -- possibly implying he had been a railroad employee before he started farming. Much of the information on him came from Mrs. Wm. G. Morford of Saginaw, MI, and has been augmented with data found in the 1900 census of the two brothers listed. They also had an elder brother, Charles P., born in 1843, and sisters Adaline (1845), Lydia A. (1850), and Philena (1852). In 1956 some members of George's family attended a Morford family reunion held in Pontiac, Michigan, where they met three brothers who were said to have been their cousins. These brothers, as well as a fourth brother, may have been sons of the James Morford, born 1857, shown at the right of this chart.

GEORGE E. MORFORD
b. Aug 1855, at MI
d. 19, at
[of Thetford Twp, Genesee Co MI, 1900]

JAMES MORFORD
b. June 1857, at MI
d. 19, at
[of Forest Twp., Missaukee Co MI, 1900]

MARY JUNE NICHOL
b. Nov 1863, at PA
d. 1940, at MI

ALICE NICHOL
b. Apr 1868, at PA
d. 19, at

GLADYS
b. 19
d. 19

James Sep 1884, Frank Feb 1887, Cecil Jun 1888, John Jun 1890, Lydia A.A. Sep 1897 md 19 Orrie Bretbenner

Children by Mary Nichols:

Emily Jerusha Sep 1881 d.
Fred T(homas?) Jul 1884 d.
Clara May Apr 1892 d. md 19 Lown
Katie I May 1897 d. md 19 Smith
George William 1901-68 m 1924 Melrose Snider 1905-

Children by Gladys

Raymond 19- [lived Elm Hall, MI]
Clarence 19- md 19 Margaret 19-
Robert 19-

William George 1925- m 1947 Martha Mary Carroll 1925-
Goldie 1927-29 d. yng.
Lawrence Henry 1929-1981 m (1) 1950 Harriet Aldred m (2)
Frances Mary 1930- m 19 Marvin Leroy Schmidt 1927-1977

HAVE YOU LOST TOUCH with some of your Morford relatives? Tell us as much about them as you can, and we'll publish a chart like this (no charge) so as to help you and ourselves in completing all Morford records, so our history will be as complete as possible.

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94-year-old mother in Florida. Making stops in Los Angeles, Phoenix and Houston, they sold machines in each city. "In Fort Lauderdale," says Burries, "a fellow came along and bought all we had except three machines, and paid us in \$50 bills!" The expenses for the trip were completely paid for.

"Well, it's been different," Burries concludes. "I think we block out in our lives what we can do and what we can't do. We say, 'I cannot do this,' 'I could possibly do this,' and that's what I did. I said 'I can't do anything mechanical; I'm not inclined that way.' So as a minister, I always called in someone in the church with mechanical skill to do that kind of work. They didn't mind and I certainly didn't mind. Then suddenly I had these candy machines, and I had to fix them. I began to buy tools and the first thing I knew, I was fixing almost everything. I haven't repaired a car yet, but we've done everything around the house."

Ethel, who was regional treasurer of American Baptist Women for six years and Love Gift chairperson for California and Nevada, works on Monday mornings in the church office. Burries still teaches the adult class once a month and says facetiously, "I live off the ego trip from that." He also tells stories in children's church, complete with sound effects. In February you would have seen him at a party of the adult class dressed as George Washington, wearing a rented white wig and greeting people at the door. Burries' costumed presence helped to make the party a success.

Life is still on the growing edge of discovery for Ethel and Burries Morford. New worlds still are opening for them in their retirement years. "We learn something new every day, don't we?" says Burries with a smile and a gleam of delight in his eyes. And like silent children, the gum ball machines wait for their next adventure, thanks to the Morfords.

NATHAN ALBERT MORFORD, EDUCATOR AND NEWSPAPER EDITOR

A CLIPPING from *THE PHOENIX GAZETTE*, dated Saturday, January 1, 1983, was received from our subscribers Willis and Gayle Morford, wintering in Phoenix. The article, looking back 100 years to what was going on in Phoenix on New Year's Day of 1883, mentioned that three residents, one of them N.A. Morford of the *HERALD*, "had recently completed neat little residences at a cost of only \$500. each." That amount might be sufficient today to build a front porch -- a very small one, that is!

The Morford mentioned was NATHAN ALBERT MORFORD [1844-1927], son of Nathan and Mary Ann (Smith) Morford of Mercer County, Pa. He had come to Arizona when it was still a territory, in 1882, probably shortly after his marriage, 7 June 1882, in California, to Alice Margaret Jones, daughter of George H. and Caroline A. Jones. His obituary, sent to the Historian in 1960 by the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, was as follows: "Nathan Albert Morford, after several years as an educator in California, came to Arizona in 1882. He purchased the Phoenix Daily Herald which he edited until 1899, when it was merged with the Republican, now the Republic. In 1892 he was appointed territorial secretary under N. Oaks Murphy, governor. He died in Phoenix, Arizona, April 30, 1927. He would have been 82 the next October... He lived in Phoenix from 1882 until his death; was survived by his wife, Margaret."

Nathan and his wife had three children, all of whom died in infancy. As Nathan was the eldest in his parents' family, perhaps his siblings Kate (1846), Mary Ellen (1850; wife of William Henry Ruhlilian) and Dr. Ralph Durant Morford (1854) may also have survived him. We'd especially like to know more about descendants of Dr. Ralph and Ida May (Olin)

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Morford's three sons, Nathan Todd (1884), Dow Durant (1887) and Quay Olin (1888). The family was of Geneva, Crawford County, Pennsylvania in 1900. Chicago directories for the years 1913, 1916 and 1923 listed Quay Olin Morford, and in the 1914 directory, at the same address, was listed an Oscar D. Morford. The Historian would like to hear from descendants of these Morfords.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Theodore Morford Jr., Atlanta GA

Dr. Theodore⁹ Theodore⁸ Theodore⁷ Samuel Denton⁶ Zebulon Jr.⁵ Zebulon⁴ John³ John² ¹

Julie L. (Tharp) Carper, Lacey WA

Thea (Morford)⁹ Tharp; Ottwell Jerome⁸ Jerome J.⁷ James⁶ John⁵ Thomas^{4,3} John ^{2,1}

Stella (Hackett) Morford, Nashville TN

wid. of Glen Orlando⁹ Wellington⁸ Joseph⁷ Richard⁶ John⁵ Thomas^{4,3} John^{2,1}

Clifford Dean Morford, Potter Valley CA

Earl Clifford Jr.¹⁰ Earl Clifford⁹ Sidney⁸ ⁷ Thomas⁶ James⁵ Thomas^{4,3} John^{2,1}

Norma Jean (Morford) Corrice, Central Square NY

Fred Noyes⁹ Morford; Alford Orlando⁸ Joseph William⁷ Joseph Baker⁶ William⁵ Joseph⁴ Thomas Jr ³ Thomas² John¹

Frederick M. Tharp, Vancouver WA

Thea (Morford)⁹ Tharp; Ottwell Jerome⁸ Jerome J.⁷ James⁶ John⁵ Thomas^{4,3} John^{2,1}

THE EDITOR'S CORNER: A Happy New Year to all, and especially to Golda Morford, who is home recuperating from a pacemaker implant operation ... Last August 82 Morford attended a family reunion in East Moline, Ill. of descendants of Reason Morford [1822-85]. Some came from as far away as Alaska. This year the reunion will be held August 3d at Kent, Washington. Our thanks to subscriber Ruby Boman, who returned to her home in Zapata, Texas after a long trip and much "digging" for Morford records. (Would that we had a "jewel" like Ruby to do this in every state where there are, or were, Morford families!) ... Since our mention of two interesting articles due to appear this year in *THE GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE OF NEW JERSEY*, we've had several requests for the magazine's address. Write to Genealogical Society of NJ, P.O. Box 1291, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. Subscription price is \$10.00 per year ... Are you all working on writing your own, your parents' and your



grandparents' histories, as well as those of your children and grandchildren? You're the only ones who can do this, and these histories are essential to the success of our book, MORFORDS OF AMERICA. You surely don't want your family to be a mere skeleton in the book -- it's your stories that will put flesh on the bare bones statistics of marriages, births and deaths. To date only one such history has been turned in, so now that the holidays are over, get busy and write your own memoirs. Also, keep those newspaper clippings coming, and any other tales with Morfords as the principal characters. Our English research on the origin of the Morfords has been initiated, but we can still use additional contributions to the "kitty". If each subscriber would send in just \$5 or \$10 it would not be a big burden, individually, and all of us will be thrilled to find out just where the English ancestral home was located, and to learn the names of the parents of our brave immigrant ancestor who crossed the Atlantic to make a new home in the New World! And, please take time to check through that long list of 303 "lost" Morfords to see which ones you know; and if possible, send us their current addresses, and help us to identify just where each one belongs in the family. Surely almost every one of our readers can "spot" a cousin, an uncle, a nephew, maybe even a brother or a sister-in-law, or some other relation on the list ... so please tell us who they are!!

Enid