

Morford Historian

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

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THE MORFORD FAMILY OF CASEY COUNTY, KENTUCKY

This brief history of a Casey County MORFORD family which died out in 1978, was written by Mary Alice (Morford) Leach and her son Allan R. Leach, who are, respectively, granddaughter and great-grandson of James Clarence Morford 1883-1964.

THE ANCESTORS of the Morfords of Casey County appear to have settled in the towns of Maysville, Mason County, Kentucky, and Ripley, Brown County, Ohio. Their predecessors were of Maryland and then New Jersey, beginning as early as 1663; thus the first of whom we have knowledge in our line is perhaps of the 7th generation in descent from the immigrant ancestor. His name was George Washington Morford. He was born 9 April 1813 in Kentucky. By oral family tradition his parents were supposed to have come on a flatboat down the Ohio River to Maysville, Ky. , then known as Limestone, about 1780. As was common then, their first home was built from the lumber used in constructing the flatboat. Mefford's Station (the name not to be confused with "Morford") is said to be the last of these so-called "boathouses" left standing. [see page 132, in the October 1983 issue of MORFORD HISTORIAN.]

George Washington Morford's first wife was Elizabeth Margaret Cahall or Cahill?, who was said to have been daughter of Solomon and Elizabeth (Parker) Cahill. Margaret, as she was called, was born 12 June 1814; she and George married in 1833 or 1834 (records of the exact date are in disagreement). They owned a farm in Brown County, not far from the town of Ripley, Ohio. George W. and Margaret C. Morford had twelve children, all of whom lived to adulthood. They were:

James Isaiah	born 13 Sep 1834	d 14 Jun 1904	m 1: 1860 Margaret Dixon
Amanda M.	14 Apr 1836		m 31 Dec 1856 Peter Akels
Elizabeth	1 Nov 1838		m 25 Dec 1864 Jason T. Preston
John 28 Jan 1841	20 Jul 1882		m 1867 Susan Bean Huntsman
Phoebe 28 Sep 1842	5 Jul 1918		m 7 Jan 1866 Rev. John A. Hicks
Letticia Ann	18 May 1845		m William Overturf
George Washington Jr.	31 Jan 1847	21 Sep 1926	m 1: 1873 Anna Belle Barton
Malinda Cynthia	12 Apr 1849		m 22 Jul 1874 John J. Halfield
Thomas Elcano	1 Feb 1851	15 Oct 1917	m 23 Oct 1873 Alice Weaver
William Perry	22 Mar 1853	1902	m 30 Dec 1880 Eudora Susan Weaver
Oliver Perry	7 Feb 1844		m 5 Mar 1885 Alberta Tremble-Dunn
Robert Wilson	22 Aug 1857	14 Dec 1930	m 19 Sep 1878 Fetney Jane Williams

In his early years, George W. Morford would build a raft each year to transport his farm produce from Ohio to the New Orleans markets, returning home on foot. One story tells of the time when, returning from Louisiana, he became aware that he was being followed. and spotted a large bear, hot on his heels. George ran, looking for shelter, and came to a swollen stream. Although this was in the dead of winter, his only safe course was to swim Across the stream, which he did. Reaching the other side. he hid

in a large hollow tree. Eventually the bear gave up, and retreated on the opposite side of the stream, while George, soaking wet, continued on his way in the freezing cold, finally arriving safe at home.

George was remembered as being a very large, muscular man. When the family homestead burned in the 1870s, Margaret was in the barn, picking geese, while George and his older sons were working in the river bottoms, when one of the sons saw that the house was on fire. Both boys jumped on their horses and took off for the road leading to the house; but old George, leaving his horse, ran on foot across the fields to the house, getting there before his sons and their steeds arrived. They got there just in time to rescue Margaret, who by this time had also discovered the fire and was trying desperately to enter the house to save the family Bible and other cherished items. Just as George and her sons caught hold of Margaret at the door, the roof fell in, and all their belongings, including the Bible, were destroyed. Later on they purchased a new Bible, which still remains in the family.

George Washington Morford was not only physically strong, but was also strong-willed. As master of his house, no one dared to cross him. When each of his sons reached the age of sixteen, old George gave each one a slave of his very own. It was over the slavery question that George and Margaret would later separate and get divorced.

Margaret, a very religious woman, and a devout member of the Methodist Church, was well liked in her neighborhood, and was well-known for her ministrations to the sick and elderly. Her husband is said to have resented his wife's work with the ill, and her faithful church attendance; but, strong-willed as her husband, Margaret did not permit George's attitude to stop her work with the elderly; nor did she let him keep her from taking the children to church. Never approving her husband's ownership of slaves, Margaret did everything in her power to prevent her sons from keeping the slaves given them by their father.

With the coming of the Civil War, at least two of Margaret's sons fought on the Union side. These sons were responsible for having saved the life of one of their officers during a battle, and when they returned to their home community were given some sort of special welcome. At this, George, a supporter of the Confederacy, was so angry that he left his wife, and they were later divorced. Margaret's patriotism is reflected in the old family Bible which still contains two small American flags, just as she had placed them there one hundred years ago.

George moved to Indiana and remarried, making his home in Washington Township, Clay County, where he died 15 August 1904 at the age of 92. His second wife, Sarah Ann (Crafton) (Bean) Morford, died two years later at the age of 70.

The Morfords' farm in Brown County, Ohio, was sold, and Margaret and her four younger sons bought a farm in Pendleton County, Kentucky. While living at this farm Margaret continued to rear her younger children in accordance with her own strict religious background. It was Margaret's influence on her sons which would have the greatest effect on her descendants who would later reside in Casey County, Kentucky.

In the late 1870s Margaret learned of cheap land which could be purchased in far off Casey County, more than 300 miles southward. She determined to sell the Pendleton Co. farm and buy land in Casey County. Because of incomplete indices to the Casey County deeds, no record has been found of Margaret's first farm purchase there; but we know that she and three of her younger sons moved there between 1875 and 1878. These sons were Thomas E., Oliver Perry, and Robert W. Morford. Thomas had married, in 1873,

Alice Weaver, a sister of Eudora Susan Weaver who later, in 1880, became wife of William Perry Morford.

The Morfords in Casey County

The sons set out for the new farm first, their wagons loaded with furniture and other belongings. Margaret and her two daughters-in-law travelled south by train on the newly completed Cincinnati and Southern Railroad, with the understanding that the men and women would meet at the railroad depot at Moreland, Lincoln County, Kentucky. At that point all climbed into their wagons and set out for the new farm on Casey's Creek, in Casey County. However, the land there proved to be too hilly, unsuitable for farming, and after a few years Margaret sold this land, buying another farm, also on Casey Creek, not far from the first place.. During the time they were living at the first farm, Thomas' wife Alice declared she could no longer stand to live in a place where "one cannot even hear a train whistle". So, about a year or so later, Thomas and his wife returned to Bracken County, and later settled in Danville, Boyle County, the adjoining county north of Casey.

Thomas' children became farmers, owning farms in Garrard County, where they prospered; and his family spread out all over central Kentucky. All of his children received good educations; several of his granddaughters became educators in Kentucky and other states. James Clarence Morford, son of Thomas, bought a farm at Buena Vista, Garrard County, where he became a respected citizen and staunch leader in the Republican party. The road on which he lived was known for years as "Morford Road". Samuel N. Morford, James' brother, bought a farm near Bryantsville in Garrard County, where he lived for many years. Most of Thomas Morford's family members are buried at Bellevue Cemetery, in Danville; some of his children and grandchildren are buried in Garrard, Lincoln and Jessamine Counties, Kentucky.

Although Margaret Morford was somewhat dissatisfied with Casey County, she nevertheless remained there several years before returning for visits to her other children in the northern part of Kentucky. Her son Oliver Perry Morford never really settled down, even though he did own a small farm in Casey County. "Uncle Perry", as he was called, was engaged to marry a Miss Harriet Sweeney, but backed out on his intended wife, who then sued Perry for breach of promise. As a result, Perry lost his farm and almost everything he owned. He spent the rest of his days wandering among various family members and cousins. He had married in 1885, in Pendleton County, Alberta Tremble-Dunn, by whom there were four children, Avery S. , Ora, Jessie, and Elmer LeRoy. In his later years he is recalled as having been somewhat eccentric. He died in northern Kentucky at the home of one of his brothers.

Robert Wilson Morford was the only one of Margaret's children who desired to remain in Casey County. Devoted to farming, "Uncle Bob", as he was commonly called, liked the land and its people, and stayed there for the duration of his life. His mother Margaret sold her interest in the second farm to Bob, in 1895 (Deed 21:484). Margaret continued to live and visit among all her children until her death at age 97 in 1910, at the home of one of her sons in Pendleton County.

The Family of Robert Wilson Morford

Margaret Morford's second farm on Casey Creek was less hilly than the first, and thus more suitable to planting crops. More than 2/3 of the farm was covered by a forest of virgin timber a small gold mine in itself. Bob, however, cut only a small portion of the trees perhaps intending to retain them to provide financial security for his

family. When Margaret bought the farm, an old double log house with a "fox-trot"; connecting the two rooms, was already standing on the farm. Later on, the house was remodelled to form a single unit, thus enlarging the living space. Here the family of Robert W. Morford would spend its best years.

Robert was described as having been very good looking, with blond hair, in his younger days. In September 1878 he married Fetney Jane Williams, whose family had come to Casey County from Fentress County, Tennessee, just before the close of the Civil War, having fled northward to escape the savage guerilla warfare taking place there. The father of the family had been killed in the war. His widow and children, reaching the Cumberland River, found it swollen by the winter rains, and since all nearby bridges had been destroyed or were occupied by troops, the family was forced to make their horses swim the river, despite the bitter winter cold. Fortunately, the crossing was made in safety, and, soaking wet, they raced forward until they felt they were safely in Union territory. They reached a farm house; but before the mother, Cynthia Williams, could dismount from her horse, the farmer had to build a fire in the barn so that the brave woman could be thawed out, as her wet clothing, saddle, and even her legs had frozen to the horse!

Bob took his bride to live with him in the old log home. Fetney Jane had at least one brother - Pleasant "Doc" Williams, who visited their home occasionally. It is interesting to note that both the Morfords and the Williams were destined to settle in Casey County as the result of issues and events concerning the Civil War. Bob and Fetney Jane (nicknamed "Fet") had seven children, all girls, born to them between 1880 and 1895. Of these the two eldest, Eva Pearly and Ella Nora, and the youngest, Mollie Esther, lived to adulthood. The third daughter, Mary Jane, died in 1887 aged 2; her next younger sister, Betty Ann, born in 1887, died "very young", of measles; and Tabitha (or Talitha), called "Minnie" born in 1889, died about 1906, also of the same childhood disease.

Bob Morford made a good living on his small farm, managing to save considerably more money than most farmers of that area. He wanted his girls and wife to be financially secure. His rule was akin to the motto: "Buy only what you need, and when you do buy, buy quality". Thus their home was not excessively cluttered, but what things they had were better than those of most families in the area. This was evidenced by the fine glassware and table settings they used-for many years. Fetney Jane and her daughters kept their home sparkling clean, and never threw anything away until it was completely worn out. Relatives recall that the Morfords were very concerned about sanitation as well as cleanliness. When the girls went to the old spring to obtain their drinking water, they always carried cloth dippers which were used carefully to remove any scum or leaves which may have collected on or in the spring. After this tedious chore, the girls would then dip the water jug into the water and cover it carefully before walking back to the house. Bob was described as being somewhat stingy, but, as one old-timer put it, "That is an unfair description; he was, rather, a very, very, very frugal man, and other farmers would have done well if they had managed their finances as well."

Bob Morford did his best to treat everyone fairly; at the same time, he expected others to treat him likewise. Having money to lend, he was always eager to help those whom he knew to be in need. Once or twice someone would try to take advantage of his generosity. One incident, often recounted by his daughters, was of a time when Bob had loaned a man some money, which was not repaid when due. Going to the man's home on Campbellsville Road, Bob asked the man to repay him. The man said that he did not yet have the money; but apparently Bob knew better. He proceeded to place his horse in the

man's barn, and to make himself at home. When the man asked what he was up to, Bob replied, "Since you cannot raise the money, I am just going to live here with you until I have eaten up your debt to me in food and lodging." The man went into the kitchen and promptly returned with the money!

Bob Morford died in December 1930 of pneumonia, at the age of 73. Fetney Jane and the three daughters remained on the farm, where Fetney died in March 1933 at the age of 77. The three girls, Eva, Ella and Mollie, remained on the farm for several years.

In their youth, the girls were all rather attractive, and often spoke of their "beaus", of their shopping trips to Liberty and neighboring towns, and of attending the always popular Casey County Fair. They did not lack for social life, and carried on much correspondence with friends and neighbors around the countryside. But their father had taught them to be very careful lest they marry a man who wanted them just for their money. This over-cautious attitude was perhaps the reason for all three of the girls becoming old maids. In their later years, there must have been many times that they wished that at least one of them had married.

Bob Morford's fears were found to be justified, for not long after Fetney Jane's death the girls went to Danville on a shopping trip, and on starting homeward became aware they were being followed. Acting calmly, they kept going until they reached home. After they had been in the house for some time, the girls' dog began to bark. Eva, the eldest, soon spotted two men hiding behind trees near the lane leading to the house. Taking their best pistol, she went to the door and shot at one of the men. The shot just missed him, but blew a large piece of bark and wood loose from the tree, directly beside the man's head. Both men fled. The bullet mark on the tree would long be a source of pride for the sisters as evidence of their ability to defend themselves. The pistol was always kept loaded and ready for service, which it saw on several other occasions.

However, the Morford sisters never felt really safe, living alone so far out in the country, so in early 1940 they finally decided to sell the farm and move closer to Liberty, where they could be near a grocery and a doctor. By this time Eva, the eldest of the sisters, was nearly sixty years old.

In 1934, after their mother's death, the sisters had sold all of the farm equipment, and had rented the place to a neighbor. At that time the farm remained much as Bob Morford had left it; the large stand of virgin timber had never been cut. Many persons thought that selling the farm was the biggest financial mistake made by the sisters; some said that the proceeds were a mere pittance compared to the value of the timber. Sale of the farm to Leonard and Hattie Wilson took place in 1940 [Casey Co. Deeds 55:118]; as of March 1985, the Wilsons are still living on the farm. Mr. Wilson cut and sold the timber, and built a new house near the road. He burned the old log house and outbuildings, and had the land cleared. Today, there is no sign of where the old Morford home stood.

The Morford sisters bought a home and a few acres just east of Liberty, on the Middleburg Road. A modern two-story log home had been erected there, and appealed to the sisters as it reminded them of their old home on Casey Creek.

It was at the sale of the farm equipment in 1934 that the family of Thomas E. Morford came into contact once again with their cousins in Casey County. James Clarence Morford, Thomas' son, saw an announcement of the sale in the Garrard newspaper, recognizing the name immediately. Even though they had long known of their cousins in Casey County,

Thomas' children had never met Bob Morford's children. Eager to renew the family ties, James C. Morford and his son James Herbert Morford went to the sale to meet their cousins. A close friendship developed, resulting in frequent visits from both the Garrard and Lincoln County Morfords. The Morford sisters made their Sunday visits a special time, with much cooking which was both praised and criticized, for the sisters (to the horror of some people) never, or rarely, used any seasoning in their cooking!

When they sold the farm on Casey Creek, the sisters' problems, unfortunately, were not left behind. Indeed, their most trying times in life were yet to come. They had always been leery of anyone who might try to take advantage of them. At times they required help with their small farm and limited finances; and because they never owned a car, they were dependent upon others to take them to town to shop for groceries, or to visit the doctor, or go to the bank. On one or two occasions the sisters were "taken" in minor incidents which seemed to befall them. Fortunately they had two neighbors who were of much help in their old age; one of these, however, was later found to have been somewhat untrustworthy.

Mary (Mrs. Ed) Rogers proved to be a lifelong friend and helper, taking very little pay for her services. The sisters were most grateful for her unselfish assistance. Another neighbor who helped the sisters with their farm and finances was Raymond Smith. Later some sort of schism, not completely understood, took place between Mr. Smith and the sisters. Apparently he had agreed to take care of the Morford sisters for the rest of their lives, in return for running their small farm. Later, the sisters claimed, he swindled them out of their life savings. After a legal battle lasting for many months, a settlement was made which the sisters forever claimed was unfair to them. Whether Mr. Smith, or anyone else, was guilty of any crimes is not of concern here; but the fact remains that the farm wound up in Mr. Smith's hands, the sisters being left with only a small portion of their former wealth. Apparently several thousand dollars disappeared, which could never be accounted for. The sisters claimed that Mr. Smith had parlayed this money, but this was never proved, one way or the other. Mr. Smith had agreed to provide a home and other necessities for the sisters as long as they lived. This he did.

Mr. Smith had the sisters' home moved about 200 yards south of its first site, to a point nearly opposite the old Fair property. This home remains today, covered by white siding. He then erected for himself a fine home on the site of the old house, building a smaller home beside his house for the sisters.

The sisters remained very bitter toward Mr. Smith the rest of their lives. Although a member of Mr. Smith's own family admitted the truth of the sisters' accusations, it is likely that the Morford girls' own attitudes may have worked against them at times. Stories fabricated about their "shooting days" on Casey Creek, coupled with their old-fashioned way, caused a few persons to wonder about them. Garbed in old-fashioned bonnets and long dresses, the sisters seemed like ghosts from a bygone century when they appeared in public.

Prior to meeting Mr. Smith, Ella had taken care of the sisters' financial affairs. One day in March 1961, having taken sick, she sat in a chair, waved to the other sisters, and quietly died. Thereafter Mollie, the youngest sister, then took care of their financial affairs. Unlike the eldest sister, Eva, who was willing to forget their problems with Mr. Smith, Mollie continued to criticize him, and in her later years hardly even spoke to him. Had she been less high-tempered and bitter, the final years of the sisters might have been more enjoyable. As it was, Eva and Mollie had a good home, even though they did not own it, and they were never in dire want for anything. Eva,

always eager to tell and preserve the Morford family history, was always the favorite of the two sisters. Mollie, though a fine person, simply refused to accept the situation, even though she was powerless to change it.

Mollie and Eva continued to receive visits from the family of James H. Morford and his cousins, who were the sisters' closest relatives. James then lived at Turnersville in Lincoln County. In December 1974, Eva became ill, and, much as her sister Ella had done, she quietly said to her sister, "Mollie, I am leaving you, girl", and died, at the ripe old age of 94 years. Thus Mollie remained, the last of Robert and Fetney Jane (Williams) Morford's seven children, living by herself for the remaining four years of her life. During this time arrangements were made for numerous family items to stay in the Morford family; several such items were given to Mary Alice (Morford) Leach and to Elizabeth Brumfield of Jessamine County, who was a cousin of James Clarence Morford. By 1974 these were the only Morfords left anywhere in the vicinity of Casey County, and were the only ones to maintain contact with the sisters. Mollie suffered a stroke in December 1978, and died just two days before Christmas, 1978.

Now all members of the family of Robert Morford were interred at Brush Creek Christian Cemetery; the family had come to an end. With the help of Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Rogers the sisters' belongings were finally disposed of, except for a few items inexplicably missing. Thus ends the story of two families which, as the result of the Civil War, had settled in Casey County. Today, Mary Alice Morford Leach and family are the only Morford descendants left in the vicinity. Contact with the Morfords of northern Kentucky had been lost around 1900, when Margaret (Cahall) Morford returned to Pendleton County. As to the Morford sisters' uncle, Pleasant "Doc" Williams, it is not known if he left any descendants; however, the sisters did have cousins on their mother's side who married into the Atwood family.

Eva Morford was perhaps wisest of the girls, in inducing her sisters and relatives to treat Mr. Smith fairly and respectfully, and it is to her credit that the family of Mr. Smith and the remaining Morfords are now cordial friends. Eva's one wish, which best represents the sisters' upbringing and background, was that the people of Casey County would one day come to understand their circumstances and to realize that they never intended to hurt anyone's feelings. Although a few of the Morfords of Garrard and Lincoln Counties looked down on the sisters as mere "Casey knob-rabbits", the sisters were always proud of the fact that their father elected to remain in Casey County when the rest of the family left. They had a fierce loyalty and respect for Casey County and its people. When the sisters purchased a common gravestone, on which was inscribed "Gone But Not Forgotten" they hoped that Casey County people would come to understand that they would never forget their many friends and good years there, and also that they themselves would not be forgotten and ignored as "old eccentrics".

Those who knew the Morford sisters best know that in many ways their life was a series of tragic disappointments. Nevertheless, their determination to stand up for their rights, their neighbors, and good old-fashioned Christian morals is a testimonial to their strict upbringing by the principles of their grandmother, Margaret C. Morford. They are gone, but their greatest gift lives on in the hearts of a few persons in Casey County who knew them better than most -- and they are certainly not forgotten.

WE HOPE this article will inspire you to write accounts of your families, starting with your grandparents or an earlier generation. Enclosed with this issue is a checklist which may help "tickle" your memories as to family anecdotes which will make MORFORDS OF AMERICA an heirloom to be cherished by your family and all your descendants for many generations to come. Don't wait ---- WRITE IT NOW !!!

GEORGE MOFFETT, OF GREENE CO. , PA. , WAR OF 1812 SOLDIER

ON 13 JUNE 1871 , at Oak Forest (near Waynesburg) , Greene Co., Pa., Mrs. Martha (Bayard) Moffett signed a declaration of a widow for a pension, based on the services of her deceased husband, George Moffett, in the War of 1812. At this time Martha was aged 79, a resident of Center Township, Greene Co. Her birth year was thus about 1792.

Her declaration states that her husband had enlisted in Capt. John Spencer's Company, Dunn's Regiment, at St. Michaels, Maryland, in May 1813, serving as a Lieutenant until his honorable discharge in August 1813, at the same place. The date of Mr. Moffett's death is not indicated. The widow stated that she had been married under the name of "Martha B. Bayard" to George Moffett on the 14th of January 1813, by the Rev. Burton of Middletown, Delaware; and that her husband had died at Greene County, Md. There is no "Greene County" in Maryland, so this was probably an error for "Pa." Witnesses to the widow's declaration were George Hoge and Perry A. Bayard, the latter's relationship to the widow not stated.

As "Moffett" was one of many variant spellings of "Morford" found in records of both Pennsylvania and Maryland, it seems not unlikely that George Moffett may have been a cousin in some degree to the James Morford [1766-1839] of Greene County, Pennsylvania.

The Historian will welcome further information as to George and Martha (Bayard) Moffett so as to determine just where they may "fit" into presently known Morford records.

A STORY WITH A MORFORD CONNECTION

AN INSTANCE of a known misspelling of the Morford name appears in a book entitled "Old Days in Nashville, Tenn.", by Miss Jane H. Thomas, a photocopy of which was sent to us by Mary Jane Steinhagen of McLean, Va. Here's an excerpt from pages 41 and 42:

"Josiah Nichol owned a block on Cherry Street, between Union and Cedar. He built a large two-story house, containing only eight rooms, but it was considered large then. He was a dry-goods merchant, and kept a store on the south side of the Square.... Josiah Michol 's brother, John Nichol , married Rachel Bosley. She had four children and died, and he afterward married Miss Harriet Mauford, of Boston, whose sister married Locke Weakley, the only son of Col. Weakley. His third wife was Miss Bradford, who had three children ..."

Two entries in the Historian's files, from "Abstracts from Early Tennessee Newspapers, copied from card file in Tenn. State Library & Archives ; Editor, Rev. Silas E. Lucas , Jr. [1978] prove that the Miss Harriet "Mauford" "of Boston", was actually Miss Harriet Morford of New Jersey:

p. 337: Miss Harriet Morford to Mr. John Nichol

p. 353: Mr. John Nichol of Nashville married in this county on Tuesday last to Miss Harriet Morford late of New Jersey."

Nat'l Banner & Nashville Whig, Sat. 5 Jan. 1828"

Mary Jane is taking this documentation to get the librarian to change the spelling of the bride's surname to "Morford", and to specify that she was from Princeton, N.J. If more of us took the trouble to see that such corrections are made to existing library references, it would certainly aid researchers to obtain accurate records and not perpetuate existing mistakes appearing in print.

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

COUNTY HISTORIES OFTEN UNRELIABLE

ANOTHER OF THOSE turn-of-the-century books purporting to give the ancestry of leading citizens of a county or state, has been brought to our attention by Mrs. Preston Leach, whose article about the Casey County Morfords appears in this issue of MH. Entitled "A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians...", Vol. III, by E. Polk Johnson, it was published in 1912 by Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago and New York. On pages 1635-6 appears a biographical sketch of ARCHIBALD L. MORFORD, M.D., a son of John S. and Emma (Lane) Morford of Fleming County, Kentucky. Having stated this one fact correctly the compiler skipped the next generation to make the inaccurate claim that "the great-grandfather of the Doctor was Major John D. Morford, who settled at Germantown, Mason County, Kentucky, in an early day."

Unfortunately, the compiler was either ignorant of, or sublimely oblivious to the fact that Major John D. Morford had no surviving male issue, his only son having predeceased his father on 1 April 1826, leaving a widow Emily (Coleman) Morford but no children. The elder John D. Morford, whose birthyear is not recorded anywhere this editor has searched, but which was probably in the 1750/60 period, survived his childless son by 14 years, dying 17 August 1840 in Bracken County, Kentucky, leaving a daughter by his first wife Rachel, and survived by a second wife, Mary (-) (Lewis) Morford by whom he had no children. [see pp. 104/5 of January 1983 MORFORD HISTORIAN for a more full account of the younger Major John D. Morford, Jr.]

Having thus demolished the purported descent from Major John D. Morford, Sr., the Morford Historian suggests that Dr. Archibald Morford's great-grandfather was Daniel Morford [1761-185_], very likely a brother of Major John D. Morford Sr. Records show that Daniel's son John "Jackie" Black Morford [1798-1882] did have a son John S. Morford born about 1839, whose first wife was Emma or "Emily", born about 1847; and that the latter couple had a son A.L. Morford, born in 1869, who married Maggie Dillon. This A.L. Morford was certainly the Dr. Archibald L. Morford who was the subject of the sketch on pages 1635-6 of "A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians..."

We suggest that any interested reader having access to a library owning newspapers of Bracken County for the year 1882, might check issues of 23 January and a few days later for an obituary of John Black Morford who died on that date. Fleming County newspapers should also be checked for an obituary of John S. Morford, who died 22 January 1929. If these articles do not mention both the parentage and the children of the deceased, another means of checking would be to obtain death certificates for Archibald L. Morford, who died 4 March 1914 in Fleming County, Ky.; and for the latter's father, John S. Morford, who outlived his son Archibald by 15 years. Whether the 1882 death certificate for John Black Morford would contain his parents' names, we do not know; but it certainly might be worth a try.

The moral of this story is: "All that's in print in a county history is not necessarily true. Check the primary sources to get the true facts."

A NEW TWIG ON THE MORFORD FAMILY TREE

HILARY REBECCA MORFORD, born 10 September 1984 at Andover, Ashtabula County, Ohio, is the daughter of James Milton and Cynthia Ann (Burt) Morford, and granddaughter of the late Floyd Fern and Florence Anna (Taylor) Morford. Her maternal grandparents are Fred and Ida Burt of Williamsfield, Ohio. Her grandfather Morford's line: *William Vance*⁸ *Vanransler Vance*⁷ *John*⁶ *John*⁵ *Thomas*⁴ *Thomas*³ *John*² *John*¹ *Morford*.

ATTENTION, MICHIGANDERS! Could some of you living near the Michigan State Library, go there and search for obituaries of these Morfords?

Garrett Morford (born 1788), died 15 April 1873, Moscow, Hillsdale Co. , Mich.

William Lane Morford (b. 1790/1) , died 14 Jan. 1874, buried Barry Co. , Mich.

Eunice (Wood) Morford (b. 1792), died 23 Dec. 1878, Moscow, Mich.

Thomas Morford (born 1819) , died 22 February 1883, Lake City, Mich.

Mary "Polly" (Morford) Cutler (b.. 1816) , died 23 July 1888, bur. Moscow, Mich.

Garrett Morford Jr. (b. 1821), died 15 Apr. 1891, Moscow, Mich.

Arden Liden Morford (b. 1827), died 30 Jan. 1895, Johnstown, Mich.

Emogene L. (Estes) Morford (wf. of Adelbert), d. 15 Aug. 1908, Cedar Creek, Mich.

Adelbert Derial Morford, died 29 Nov. 1909, Cedar Creek, Mich.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER: First, an apology is due to any who will be disappointed because we have not included in this issue the promised continuations of several types of lists -- New Jersey Morfords who served in the Revolutionary War; Some Early Unidentified Morfords; Morford Gleanings from the 1900 (and 1910) census. We omitted these so that we could present the long article about the Casey County Morfords in its entirety, since it illustrates so well what can be accomplished in writing an interesting and factual account of several generations of a family. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that the really interesting material from which good family histories are made is the individual stories known only to you and your family. While the editor has many of the vital statistics, census records, some obituaries, a few biographical accounts from books, etc., these are much more impersonal, therefore less interesting than your own recollections of your grandparents, great-uncles and aunts, or of stories recounted by even earlier generations of your family. You don't have to be the world's greatest novelist, or winner of the Podunkville spelling bee -- the editor will correct errors of grammar and spelling!



Some have the idea that the book will be completed this year. If you all could see the 38 three-inch binders containing our file of Morford data, totalling upwards of 40,000 names (as a reasonable estimate); and if you can imagine how long it will take to enter each of these names in the computer just to produce an index, and how long it will take to type one or more pages for each family with its biographical data, you'll recognize what a colossal undertaking this will be. With a staff of only two persons -- Ye Editor and Ye Editor's husband, both of whom also have other duties to perform along with all the typing and proofreading and correcting, as well as the photographing of each page and making the metal masters from which pages are printed, and then printing them, it's a cinch that a lot more than 12 months will be required, even if we were to give up eating or sleeping (or celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary on June 22nd this year -- no gifts, please)!

It may be necessary during the "finalizing of the book, for us to cut down on the size or frequency of this bulletin; perhaps each issue will be only a progress report sent three times during the year. We do promise full 10-page issues in July and October this year; beyond that we'll have to "play it by ear". We'll probably have to spend considerable time writing some of you for more information; if we do, your prompt replies and cooperation will expedite what we're all looking forward to the great day when MORFORDS OF AMERICA makes its appearance in print!

Enid