

# *Morford Historian*

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

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## REUNION OF JAMES BYRON MORFORD'S DESCENDANTS PLANNED FOR AUGUST 17, 1986

PLEASANT HILL PARK, on route #163, east of Des Moines, Iowa, will be the gathering spot, on August 17th, for descendants and other relatives of JAMES BYRON MORFORD [1850-1932], a son of John Titus and Esther Myra (Hazen) Morford. For further information, write to Verta (Mrs. William) Sharp, 4445 N.E. 23rd Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50317.

The following brief history of James Byron Morford is based in part on an obituary sent to the Historian several years ago, by a descendant.

James Byron Morford was born in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, 26 November 1850, to John Titus and Esther Myra (Hazen) Morford. He was only four years old when, with his parents three older brothers and elder sister, he moved to Mercer County, Illinois.

There he met and married, 22 February 1882, Christine Olson, who was born in 1855, in Sweden. They had four children: Jessie Lora, born 23 December 1883 (who became Mrs. Fred Matthew Rich); Dora Glenna, born 28 February 1885 (who married first, Dick Smith, and later, Eugene L. Duden); Mamie Esther [1885-1965], who married, 1903, John B. Atwood; and Hazen Harrison, born 3 May 1888, died 27 December 1936, who married Margaret Faye McCart. Christine (Olson) Morford died just a little more than a year after the birth of her fourth child, and in May 1889 was interred in Green Bay Cemetery, near Humeston, Wayne County, Iowa.

About four years later, James Byron Morford married, 13 April 1893, Caroline "Carrie" Danford, who was born 30 December 1870 in Pennsylvania, and died 2 February 1921 at Drakesville, David County, Iowa. By this marriage there were four more children: Clara Alice, born 18 October 1897 (she married Wray Huggins); Maggie Merle, born 1 October 1899 at North Henderson, Ill., died 15 November 1976 at Des Moines, Iowa. She married, 8 March 1917, William Jerry Southern; Alta Ruth, born 8 October 1903, died 10 February 1985 at Bloomfield, Iowa [see July 1985 Morford Historian for her obituary]; and, the youngest of Callie's children: Arch Keith, born 6 April 1906, living at North Liberty, Iowa.

In 1902 James Byron and Callie (Danford) Morford moved to a farm in Davis County, Iowa, and when poor health caused him to retire from actively farming, he and Callie moved to Drakesville, Iowa, where, in February 1921, Callie died. Five years later he married Mrs. Martha Leziler, and moved to Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa. There James died, 1 February 1932, at the age of 81 years, 2 months and 7 days, as the result of a paralytic stroke. Survivors were his wife, Martha, and children Mrs. Fred Rich, Mrs. E. L. Duden, Mrs. John Atwood, Hazen Morford, Mrs. Jerry Southern, Mrs. Joe Garmon and Arch Morford; two brothers, Hiram and Jasper; a sister, Mattie (Morford) Steele; 26 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

NOTE: The Historian would appreciate information as to the names of Callie Danford's parents, and the exact town and county in Pennsylvania where Callie was born.

## WHAT THEIR AUTOGRAPHS REVEAL ABOUT THE EARLY MORFORDS

GRAPHOLOGY, the study of handwriting, especially the art of judging the character, disposition and aptitudes of a person from his handwriting, has seldom, so far as we know, been utilized in connection with genealogical research. In cases where we have found an early autograph, but lack evidence which might give us insight into the behaviour or achievements of an ancestor, we thought it would be interesting to our readers to learn what a professional graphologist might have to tell us about some early Morfords.

Where would we be apt to find their signatures? Few have survived in family records --perhaps a rare letter or two, or a name inside the cover of a book. Documents such as wills, pension applications, affidavits in court cases, or deeds with witnesses' signatures, do provide an opportunity for a study of some Morford autographs.

Usually these will be found as signatures only, not in holographic documents (those which are entirely in the handwriting of the person). Early documents were usually inscribed by a clerk trained in certain styles of script; the principal parties to the document, and the witnesses, then added their signatures. One of the earliest such Morford signatures is that of Zebulon Morford [1727-1794]. His autograph appears on a list of subscribers willing to donate a yearly sum for the support of the Rev. Thomas Smith. Autographs of two of Zebulon's sons, Stephen and Zebulon, Jr. , appear on the pension declaration of Major Stephen Morford [1756-1833]. Analysis of these signatures will be featured in the October issue of MORFORD HISTORIAN. Readers who have documents bearing autographs of their early Morford ancestors are invited to submit clear xerox copies of the portion of the document bearing these signatures; reports of the graphologist's analysis will be published in MH. We're sure you'll find the report interesting.

**BEWARE!!! SCAM "MORFORD HERITAGE" BOOKS (AND OTHERS) STILL BEING PROMOTED!**

No matter how many names these books contain, you may be certain that a high percentage of the addresses shown will be incorrect, so that if you were to write to every Morford on the list in order to exchange family data, a third to a half of your postage costs will have been wasted. Despite injunctions and lawsuits brought against the firms, a number of them are still preying upon the public. A lengthy article on page 25 of the Monday, November 4, 1985 issue of *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL* is "must" reading for anyone tempted to succumb to the promises of the promoters. As for any "heritage" involved, we suggest you look up the dictionary definition of the word, and then decide for yourself whether an outdated list of addresses for persons bearing your surname is worth spending thirty of your hard-earned dollars. Surely, a "heritage" should consist of something of considerable value. There are more than two dozen well-written handbooks on how to conduct successful genealogical research; only one of these costs more than the so-called "heritage" book.

A far better means of reaching persons who share your surname is to subscribe to family periodicals or newsletters. The May-June 1986 issue of *THE GENEALOGICAL HELPER* (published by The Everton Publishers, P. O. Box 368, Logan UT 84321) lists some 732 such publications. Most, if not all, of these accept and publish queries; some are free, for others there may be a small charge; but they're useful as a means of getting in touch with others who have an interest in the same surnames on which you desire information. A single issue of the *HELPER* Costs \$4.50.

Readers fortunate enough to own letters written by Morfords prior to 1880 are urged to send xeroxed copies to MORFORD HISTORIAN for publication in future issues.

## NEW MORFORD LINE APPROVED BY D.A.R.

FOR MANY YEARS there were only two Morfords whose descendants had been approved by the Daughters of the American Revolution (or its counterpart, Sons of the American Revolution) for membership in these two patriotic organizations. One was the John Morford [1758-1840] for whom the Morford Historian was instrumental in obtaining a beautiful bronze grave-marker in the cemetery which was the final resting place of the soldier. Another was Major Stephen Morford [1756-1833], whose biography appeared in the July 1984 issue of MORFORD HISTORIAN. The most recently published Patriot Index (1979) lists the name of Thomas Morford [1743-1818], of Shrewsbury, N.J., son of Jarrett and Rebeckah (Taylor) Morford. Thomas was a member of the Patriotic Committee of Shrewsbury in May, 1775. He was married twice; first to his own cousin, Sarah Taylor, who died in a severe epidemic of fever which occurred in 1766. Thomas married second, on April 3, 1768, in Shrewsbury, Esther (or Hester) Holmes [1738-1823], daughter of Josiah and Hannah (Dennis) Holmes.

Children of the second marriage were: Sarah, born 24 September 1768, died 30 September 1823 (married Joseph MOUNT); Hannah, born 19 November 1770 at Red Bank, N.J., died 23 August 1849 (married, 3 February 1798, Matthew PERRINE); Samuel, born about 1773, died before 1816 (no further record); Thomas, born 26 May 1775, died 19 February 1856 (married, 30 December 1801, Rebecca West); George Taylor, born 3 February 1778, died 20 October 1827 at Red Bank, Monmouth Co., N.J. (married, about 1801, Maria Wardell); and Garrett or Jarrett, born 3 May 1781, died 21 September 1865 (married, 27 April 1818, Catharine C. White).

The two other Morfords who served in the Revolutionary War., whose names were listed in the earlier (1966) edition of the D.A.R. Patriot Index, were John Morford [1758-1840] and Stephen Morford [1756-1833]. [See the July 1984 MORFORD HISTORIAN for an account of Major Stephen Morford.]

There are several other Morfords whose descendants would be eligible to join the D.A.R. or S.A.R., provided they can furnish documented proofs of every generation from their soldier-ancestor down to their own generation. We hope that some day such proofs may be located for the marriages and descendants of the following soldiers:

DANIEL MORFORD [1740-1833], who was of Woodbridge, N.J. before moving to Kentucky, and who died in Brown County, Ohio [U.S. Invalid Pension #16209];

JOSEPH MORFORD [exact dates of birth and death unknown], who was mentioned in the pension file of Matthias Lane as having served in the same regiment as Mathias. [See pages 56-57 of the MORFORD HISTORIAN, October 1981]

LEWIS MORFORD [1763-after 1830], son of Zebulon Morford. Although only 17 in 1780, he served as a teamster for the Continental troops at Trenton, N.J.; he was a Lieutenant in the Second Company of Militia, in Trenton, N.J. By 1800 he had moved to Westmoreland Co., Pa. and was still living there in 1830.

WILLIAM MORFORD,, whose name appears on a list of men who bore arms in Captain Barzilla Grover's district, Monmouth County, N.J., Militia, 5 March 1756.

ISAAC MORFORD, who received Certificate #1527 for £0:6:8, for the depreciation of his continental pay in the Middlesex County Militia.

(Continued on next page)

JAMES MORFORT, whose dates of birth and death are not known to us, served as a Lieutenant, evidently in the same company in which a Christopher Hartman [1750-1833] served. Hartman had resided in Bucks County, Pa., Burlington Co., N.J., and Williamsburg, Clermont Co., Ohio.

Pension papers of a Mathias Lane refer to a JOSEPH MORFORD who had served in the same company as Lane. This Joseph may have been ancestor of Elkanah Morford (a War of 1812 soldier), Garrett Morford Sr. [1788-1873] who married 1812 Eunice Wood, and other contemporary Morfords not as yet identified.

JOHN MARFORD, who enlisted 15 February 1777 and died 1 May 1778, served in the 4th Regiment of Pennsylvania, Continental Line, in Capt. Fisbourn's Company.

Another unidentified JOHN MORFORD was among prisoners taken at the Battle of Navesink, also known as the Battle of Middletown and the Battle of the Highlands. He was placed in one of the British prison ships in Wallabout Bay, where "the combination of winter cold, dampness, increasingly filthy conditions, and the lack of food and medical care resulted in the deaths of many of the prisoners", according to an article by Edward J. Raser in the May 1970 issue of the *GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE OF NEW JERSEY*, page 51. Vol. IV of *STILLWELL'S MISCELLANY* mentions a JOSEPH MORFORD who died aboard a prison ship in Wallabout Bay, and states that he had a brother William.

On page 345, Vol. 18, Archives of Maryland, in "Records of Maryland Troops during the War of the American Revolution 1775-83", is found the name of JAMES MAFFITT, in a list entitled "Recruits and Deserters in Cecil County, October 16th, 1780." Logically, it might be assumed that James was related to Samuel Maffitt, the only person of that surname shown in the 1783 tax list of Cecil County -- a Samuel Maffitt who owned or claimed several parcels of land there, including parts of "Benbebers Forest" and "Good Neighbor", "Gorce", "Maffitt's Division" and "Maffitt's Restitution". An index to the 1800 Federal census of Cecil County, Maryland, shows a Samuel Maffitt enumerated in So. Milford, and a Thomas Maffitt enumerated in Elks Neck. In Kent County, south of Cecil County, there were ten Moffetts: Enock, Haley, Jacob, John, Lancelott, Mary, Michael, Richard, Robert and William.

HARMON /HARMAN/HERMAN N MORFORD, of Somerset County, listed as serving 24 October 1777 as a private, from Somerset County, N.J.; again on 30 May 1778, 10 May 1784; discharged 23 August 1780. He appears to have been son of a John Morfit, who also had two daughters, Eleanor and Mary. In the will of a Heman Enoch of Lower Dublin Township, County of Philadelphia, Province of Pennsylvania, 15 March 1768 he bequeathed £100. each to a Herman and Eleanor Morfitt, son and daughter of John Morfit, and £20 to their sister Mary Morphet. It seems likely that the latter record pertains to the soldier, Herman Morford. [See article in July 1981 MORFORD HISTORIAN, page 42.]

There are, of course, other MORFORDS of records contemporary with those listed herein, whose descendants are eligible to join either the D.A.R. or the S.A.R. , because of the military services rendered by their Morford ancestors. The Historian would like to hear from any who are interested in "proving" their eligibility for such membership).

#### A REMINDER TO ALL MORFORDS AND MORFORD DESCENDANTS:

YOU, and only you, are best qualified to write your own, your parents' and your grandparents' histories. Set a deadline for writing your story; gather pictures you'd like to have included: be sure they're correctly identified and dated; and mail story and pictures to us SOON! After we have copied the pictures we'll return your originals.

## JAMES RICHARD MORFORD, PROBABLE DESCENDANT OF CORNELIUS MORFORD

JAMES RICHARD MORFORD [1898-1959], of Wilmington, Delaware, was undoubtedly one of the descendants of Cornelius Morford [1741-1825], who with his son Cornelius Jr. and probably others of his married children and their families, moved from Salem County, N.J., to New Castle County, Delaware, in the very early 1800s.

Late in 1955 the Morford Historian wrote to the postmaster of Middletown, Delaware, to learn what Morfords might then be living in that area. Her letter was answered by Mr. James Richard Morford, who wrote: "I have never been able to trace my father's side back of my grandfather, James Ephraim Morford, who was, I believe, born in the vicinity of Kirkwood, Delaware (which is in Red Lion Hundred), in the 1840s. My father's name was William Harrison Morford. . . he had a brother, James Randolph Morford, who died at an early \*age. My grandfather had a brother John who was in the Union Army during the Civil War, and who died in an unheated box car on the way back home after having lost his arm in battle .... An old family Bible in the possession of a cousin shows that James E. Morford was the father of James Randolph Morford [1809-186\_ ], who was, in turn, the father of my grandfather, James Ephraim Morford [1839-1904]. T have ascertained that the wife of James Randolph Morford was Mary A., who was buried in Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery...."

Mr. Morford commissioned the research services of Miss Jeannette Eckmann of Wilmington, with whom the Morford Historian enjoyed a decade of working together, by mail, in our joint efforts to discover and document Mr. Morford's connections with Cornelius and the other Morfords found in Delaware records.

On a research trip to Delaware some time after Miss Eckman's death, the Historian went to the State Historical Society of Delaware at Wilmington, and was able to obtain photocopies of many of Miss Eckman's research memoranda. In the file was a lengthy newspaper article from a Wilmington newspaper of 18 August 1946, which we reproduce here since it provides a good deal of Mr. Morford's history. The article was eighth of a series of personality sketches of leading figures in Delaware.

"LIFE, especially for the local newspapers, was really exciting when JAMES RICHARD MORFORD was attorney general in Delaware -- from 1939 to 1943. The newsmen could always depend on him for a story, because he always had something to say, and he could depend on them; they never violated his many confidences. As Delaware's crusading attorney general he was in the headlines almost every day where he was constantly quoted as 'condemning' or 'flailing' or 'forcing showdowns' on conditions that badly needed such action. There was never a dull moment.

Among the accomplishments of which Mr. Morford is particularly, and justly, proud of having pushed through during his term of office is the repeal of Delaware's 200 year old blue laws. It was a four year struggle against a horde of hypocrites, some of them outstanding churchmen, and many of them General Assembly legislators.

If Delawareans remember Mr. Morford for nothing else they will never forget him for his unrelenting battle to free them of those ancient Puritanical laws. There weren't many dull moments when he was Wilmington's city solicitor, either, before he was attorney general. That was in 1936 and 1937. It was during those years that, at Mr. Morford's instigation, the corrupt city police department was cleaned up and the notorious Black gang ousted.

But dull as his life may now be, comparably speaking, Mr. Morford is glad to be through

with both those jobs and back to his private law practice in his quiet office in the Delaware Trust Building. He doesn't have to worry anymore about being slugged in a dark corner or taken for a ride and bumped off.

To look at Mr. Morford you'd never realize such drama existed in his past -- a past packed with more thrills than a best selling detective novel. He has a placid, cheerful face, slumbrous, expressive dark eyes, and disarmingly slow, gentle motions that belie his explosive temperament. He weighs 225 pounds and is six feet two inches tall. He doesn't particularly like exercise, but plays tennis and squash to keep in shape, as one has to upon reaching the age of 48 years. His birthday was yesterday, incidentally. He doesn't play golf; he says he isn't old enough yet. His pet loves are: Mrs. Morford, Shakespeare, and terrapin Maryland, when it's made the right way. His pet peeves are: bridge fiends, cubist art, and terrapin Maryland when it isn't made right.

Mr. Morford goes through phases of enthusiasms where hobbies are concerned. Right now he is going through a fishing phase. For the past four years he has accumulated a vast and valuable assortment of fishing equipment and plans to devote his sporting urge to fishing for salmon and trout in Maine and New Brunswick, bass, northern pike, and muskies in Minnesota, and for bass in Florida. Like many others, Mr. Morford has placed an order for an amphibian plane to use in making these fishing trips, and will start out as soon as it arrives -- and as business permits. Mr. Morford, by the way, is locally famous as a flier. He has walked away from more landings than any other Delaware aviator with comparable years of flying experience behind him. He started flying in 1917 and has been doing it ever since.

His reading habits are pretty much on the deep side; for relaxation he likes Shakespear, biography, history, and even an occasional law book. He also indulges, however, in some lighter reading that includes mysteries, and he never misses an issue of *FIELD AND STREAM* or *ESQUIRE* magazines. *FIELD AND STREAM* takes precedence over *ESQUIRE*, though.

He has become interested in music because of Mrs. Morford's fondness for it, and is now doing something he would have sworn 10 years ago he'd never do: attending operas with her in New York and Philadelphia during the season. He even -- believe it or not -- likes them. Particularly Wagner.

He has also lately taken up guitar lessons, but is still in the kindergarten stage and doesn't think he'll be able to play it where anyone except his teacher can hear it for a long time to come. His musical capabilities have never, in the past, extended any further than barbershop quartet singing, in which he takes great enjoyment; he has a booming, rollicking baritone.

Mr. Morford became interested in law way back when he was in high school. He was a shy youth, and as he puts it, blushed all over at the mere thought of getting up and speaking in front of a group of people. By some freak of fate, despite this shyness, he was elected president of his civics class, and was forced to conquer his aversion to public speaking. As soon as he realized it wasn't the bugaboo he had always thought it, he took to it like a duck to water. From there it was but a step to becoming interested in law and on his graduation he entered Dickinson university and studied law for one year. About that time the first World War broke out and he was away from school as an ensign in the Naval Air Forces for two years. Upon his return to civilian life he finished his law school at night at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., while working for the Veterans' Bureau (then the Bureau of War Risk Insurance) in the daytime. He has been president of the Delaware Bar Association and is now on the board of governors of the American Bar Association.

Mr. Morford is a man of forceful opinions, forcefully spoken. One of his sincere convictions concerns the United Nations organization, of which he is strongly in favor. The eventual development of a world federation of peoples -- not states -- based upon an enlightened concept of international law, he says, are necessary unless our civilization is to be destroyed. He does not, however, favor scrapping the charter of the UN: he believes that by evolutionary processes the ultimate objectives are attainable through that charter.

\* \* \*

Mr. Morford's obituary, from Wilmington *MORNING NEWS*, page 2, city edition, Thursday, 2 July 1959:

"JAMES R. MORFORD, ATTORNEY, DIED AT 60. Former Atty. Gen. James R. Morford, a nationally known lawyer and senior member of the firm of Morford, Young and Conaway, died early last night at the Delaware Hospital to which he had been taken Tuesday afternoon. He would have been 61 on August 17.

Last November Mr. Morford suffered a heart attack and was incapacitated for several weeks. He recovered sufficiently to carry through with plans for the formation of the new law firm in which one of his partners was H. Albert Young, also a former attorney general. Announcement of the formation of the new unit, with offices in the top floor of the Bank of Delaware Annex, was made January 26.

Mr. Morford was elected attorney general in 1938, serving from January, 1939, through December 1942. It was but one of many important offices which he held in a busy career after his admission to the Delaware bar in 1921.

From 1935 to 1928 Mr. Morford was city solicitor of Wilmington. For two years starting in 1948 he was president of the American Council Association. Earlier he had been president of the Delaware Bar Association and a member of the board of governors of the American Bar Association, serving in the latter capacity from 1944 to 1947. He was chairman of the House of Delegates from 1948 through 1950.

Recently Mr. Morford, whose four years as attorney general were marked, among other things, by the famous Blue Law Cases, had been active on the side of the majority of the Bar Association in efforts to compel banks to stop practicing law.

Broad-shouldered, confident, commanding, Mr. Morford carried a persuasive manner into a courtroom where his resonant voice and his careful locutions brought immediate respect from judges, litigants and observers. He tried all kinds of cases through the years and his most recent triumph in a criminal action was that of his defense of former Magistrate Samuel J. Hatton who was tried in April, 1956, and acquitted of a charge of filing false reports with the state treasurer.

Mr. Morford was born in Wilmington on Aug. 17, 1898. His parents were the late William H. and Ella P. (Ward) Morford. He was educated in the Wilmington public schools, the Dickinson School of Law and the George Washington University Law School

During World War I Mr. Morford served as an ensign in the Naval Air Service.

#### Law Firm Member

After the war Mr. Morford was chief of the insurance claims unit, Bureau of War Risk

Insurance, in Washington, from 1919 to 1921. The next year he became associated in law practice with the late Josiah Marvel, Jr., in the firm of Marvel and Morford. Subsequently Mr. Morford was associated with William H. Bennethum III and others in practice, leading to the formation of the new firm early this year.

Mr. Morford's interests included the American Legion in which he has served as commander of Delaware Post, No. 1; the Veterans of Foreign Wars; the Masons, including the Delaware Consistory; the National Aeronautics Association. In 1941 he was named executive officer for the wing command of Delaware in the new Civil Air Defense unit.

During the last political campaign Mr. Morford, who had been a steadfast but silent Republican in recent years, spoke out for Januar D. Bove, Jr., the GOP candidate for attorney general. Mr. Bove won.

#### Defended Supreme Court

In 1956 Mr. Morford was one of 100 nationally prominent lawyers who defended the Supreme Court of the United States which was under attack for certain interpretations of the Constitution.

In his latest case to reach decision, Mr. Morford was on the winning side yesterday in an opinion handed down by Superior Court Judge Andrew D. Christie. The decision involved an interpretation of a court rule stipulating that suits may be dismissed if more than two years have elapsed since the death of a litigant without substitution of a proper party.

Mr. Morford, married twice, leaves two children by his first wife. They are James R. Morford Jr., and Mrs. Hugh M. Figgatt Jr. of Oyster Bay, Long Island. His first wife, whom he married in 1939, is the former Elizabeth E. Meigs. There are 7 grandchildren.

Mr. Morford's family said last night that there will be no viewing. There will be a memorial service, to which friends are invited, tomorrow morning at 11, at the Chandler Funeral Home."

\* \* \*

#### ANOTHER MORFORD LISTED IN "WHO'S WHO"

IONE MORFORD, whose full name is Josephine Stella Ione Morford, was born 19 December 1914 at Haviland, Kiowa County, Kansas, a daughter of Joseph Allen Morford [1885-1972] and his wife Della (Criqui) Morford, whose parents were Peter and Theresa (Roth) Criqui. Ione was listed in the 1970 edition Of A BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY OF LIBRARIANS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CAvADA, 5th edition (formerly entitled "Who's Who in Library Service"). Ione attended the Ft. Hays Kansas State College, the Kansas State Teachers College, and the University of Oklahoma. She taught in rural schools in Kiowa and Stafford Counties, Kansas; was a teacher and principal of Mullinville Elementary School 1939-1943; Librarian of the Senior High School at Pratt, Kansas, 1962-1968, among many other similar listings. She - has an elder brother, Elton Leonard Morford, born 18 March 1911 in Kiowa County, Kansas, and another brother, Sherman, of Haviland, Kansas. The lineage of this family traces back to James Morford [1766-1839] of Greene County, Pennsylvania, and his first wife, Jean Kennedy. Ione's line: *Joseph Allen<sup>8</sup> Hiram Black<sup>7</sup> James<sup>6</sup> Daniel<sup>5</sup> John<sup>4</sup> Thomas<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup> Morford.*

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



## ANOTHER MORFORD FAMILY REUNION

THE ANNUAL REUNION of descendants of John Beard Morford [1856-1940] and his wife, Florence Eva (Summers) [1860-1911], will be held, as usual, on the first Sunday of October, which falls on October 5th this year. The time is 12:30 p.m.; the place is the Community Room of the Indiana-Lawrence Bank, in North Manchester, Indiana. Previous reunions have been held in the Scout Hall, but due to other scheduled community activities that location is not available this year. Morfords of other branches of the family will, as usual, be warmly welcomed.

## NEWS OF MORFORDS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

OUR SUBSCRIBER WANDA L. MORFORD of Cincinnati, Ohio, has recently published a 512-page book entitled "Switzerland County, Indiana, Cemetery Inscriptions 1817-1985", which is advertised on page 154 of the May-June 1986 issue of *THE GENEALOGICAL HELPER*, published in Logan, Utah. The price is \$42.50, postpaid. Wanda "traipsed" through 72 cemeteries to gather the records of more than 14,000 burials. Those of us who have tramped through old burial grounds to find the last resting places of our ancestors can really appreciate the immensity of Wanda's project, and we congratulate her on a job well done. For anyone wishing to order a copy of the book, Wanda's address is: P.O. Box 389201, Cincinnati, OH 45238.

ANOTHER ADVERTISEMENT which caught our attention in the same issue of the *HELPER*, as it involves another MORFORD name, reads as follows: "Seek descendants of Peter DeWitt [1735NJ-1809NJ] & Phebe Cook E1726NJ-1824NJ]. Peter DeWitt, son of Luke DeWitt/DeWitt (1703-1761), married, Monmouth Co., NJ, 1757, Phebe Cook; daughter of Abiel Cook III and Parthenia Leonard (daughter of Henry LEONARD and Sarah MORFORD). Children: Peter (?) Robbins, Aaron (married Hannah WARNE), Mary VOORHEES, Hannah SHAW, and Ann McCHESNEY. The querist is Dorothy DeWitt Baldwin, 6603 Kensington Avenue, Richmond Heights, CA 94805. The Morford Historian's 3-part article in *THE GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE OF NEW JERSEY*, which appeared in the issues of September 1983, January and May 1984, was the first to point out the erroneous claim in Dr. Stillwell's *HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL MISCELLANY*, that the wife of Thomas<sup>1</sup> Morford was a Leonard. We plan to publish soon an article giving further data of descendants of Henry and Sarah (Morford) Leonard.

VI (MOFFORD) NEEB of Shelbyville, Indiana, subscribes to the *BRACKEN COUNTY (KY) NEWS*, and faithfully sends us transcripts of articles relating to Kentucky Mofford/Morford families. If every community had such a paper, life for researchers would be great. For instance, one of the recent issues had a list of birthdays in which the following names appeared: Edgar Mofford [b. 22 June 1954, son of "Eddie" and Joyce (Peed) Morford], Leslie Cooper [b. 21 Jan. 1916, a Morford-related descendant], and Kaye Morford. Vi can usually identify all Moffords found in such lists. The paper also lists names of purchasers of property; articles about those celebrating 25th or 50th wedding anniversaries; a column entitled "30 years ago" in which Mofford or Morford names are mentioned; and, of course, the obituaries of the community. The news policy of *BRACKEN COUNTY NEWS* is in great contrast to that of large metropolitan papers, which refuse to publish obituaries except those of very prominent persons. A lot is to be said in praise of the small town papers whose editors still believe that everyone should be entitled to recognition in their pages, through the various events of their lives, from birth to death.

## HELP WANTED!!

IF ANY READER has access to the 1850 census of Monmouth County, N.J., we'd appreciate having it checked for a Robert T. TYSON with wife Eliza Ann (Morford); they were married in January 1843.

## MORFORD BIBLE RECORDS, Volume I

THAT IS THE TITLE of a projected series of books which we plan on publishing; we plan to have photographic facsimiles of the actual entries, as well as typed transcripts, just in case the writing was none too legible, plus charts showing how each of those persons listed is related to the others. We'll also indicate how each group of persons is related to other early groups of Morfords, giving such history as we can of each such group. This way, each and every Morford descendant may own a copy of his own family Bible records, even though the original record may have been placed in a library or historical society. When known, the names of successive owners of the Bible throughout its existence will be stated.

Each person who makes his Bible records available to us for this project, will receive one copy of the volume containing those records, without charge; volumes will be bound to match the binding to be used for our history of MORFORDS OF AMERICA, thus making a set which any Morford family will be proud to own. Pages will be provided for you to continue your own family's vital statistics of births, marriages and deaths. We have never seen this done before, and believe it will truly make a unique family heirloom.

We already have a score of such records, and know of others which we will try to have xeroxed for inclusion in Volume I or succeeding volumes. Some Bible records have been placed in libraries, and we welcome any information you may be able to give us as to where these precious records are. In some cases only typed transcripts of the original Bible pages seem to have survived; many such compilations are found in libraries or have been published in genealogical magazines. If your local library has any such Morford records, please see whether it is permissible to obtain xeroxed copies for our project. Full credit will, of course, be given to the source of any records we publish,

THE EDITOR'S CORNER: Only a major catastrophe, such as the combination of a poorly constructed roof and a heavy rainstorm, endangering the contents of the large closet holding most of our genealogical records and materials, could have prevented publication of the October 1985, January and April 1986 MORFORD HISTORIAN. That's just what did happen; we're still waiting for a contractor to fix the problem. Missing issues will be printed soon and sent to subscribers so their files will be complete. Just as this page was being typed, we enjoyed a surprise visit from Rev. Ralph Morford and his wife, of Leeds Point, N.J. I on their way to the Pacific Coast. We talked until the wee, sma' hours. What about? Morfords, of course! Ralph was able to add many middle names, dates, and other information to records of his particular branch, descendants of Jesse and Elisabeth (Nieswonger) Morford, of the Greene County Pennsylvania branch of the family .... He brought with him numerous old photographs of his "tribe", not all of which could be fully identified.



We suggested that he have the pictures photographed, and we'll print the "unknown" ones in MH, asking our many Morford readers to identify them, if possible.... The same could be done for others of you who have the same problem; so let us know what pictures you do have .... We have not exactly been swamped with your written family histories, and time is getting short, so get busy and write what you remember of your family history, then send it in. Let us know what photographs you have of early (as well as present-day) family members. Those pictures and your recollections will be what will make MORFORDS OF AMERICA a book to be treasured forever!