

Morford Historian

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

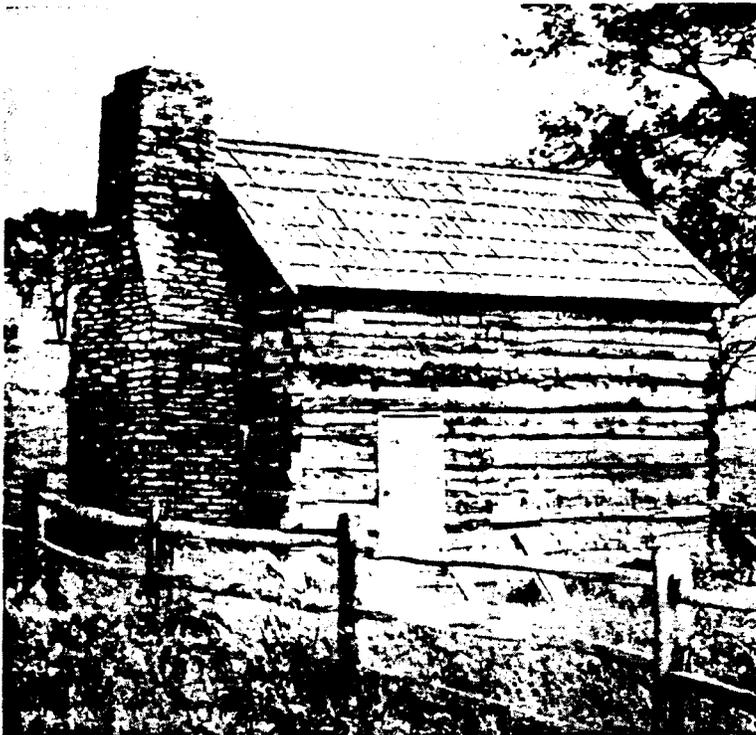
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THE FLATBOAT TRADITION



MEFFORD'S STATION, MASON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

MORE THAN ONE pioneer Kentucky or Ohio family has a tradition of an ancestor's having come from an eastern state by flatboat, floating down the Ohio River. One such family was that of a George Mefford whose birthdate and parentage are in disagreement among researchers.

He was in Kentucky by 1783 and in 1786 he and others signed a petition to the Virginia assembly for division of Mason County from Bourbon County. Going back east for his family, he brought them downriver in 1787 in a broadhorn made of wide cherry boards. He dismantled the boat, utilizing the sturdy lumber to build his new home, two miles south of Limestone, now known as Maysville. His place was called "Mefford's Station". The July 1966 issue of *KENTUCKY ANCESTORS*, a quarterly issued by the Genealogical Committee of the Kentucky Historical Society, states that this historical landmark is the only original fort of

the Revolutionary War left standing in Kentucky, and that it was the last of the old flatboat houses.

There has been a great deal of confusion as to the surname "Mefford" and the surname "Mofford", the latter having originated from an English surname variously spelled as "Morfit" and other similar-sounding versions of the name, which we know today mostly as "MORFORD". Although records pertaining to Mefford and Mofford families have been found in the alternate but incorrect spellings, there are definitely two distinct and separate families involved. The ancestor of the Moffords, or Morfords, was of the New World 120 years before George Mefford arrived in Kentucky; however, both Mofford and Morford descendants of the 1663 immigrant John "Morfit" arrived in the Mason and Bracken County area almost simultaneously with the Meffords.

A tradition exists, but has not yet been verified, that one of the Morfords, his given name unknown, came down the Ohio in a flatboat and built his home on the other side of the river, in or near Ripley or Levanna, in Brown County, Ohio. This may have been Little Morford, who died in 1832, and whose children were named in chancery court pro-

ceedings as Thomas Morford, Matilda (Morford) Akins, Melinda (Morford) Jordan, and Abraham Morford. The latter had married, in 1826, in Bracken County, Patience Boring, and had died in 1833, just prior to the time the chancery suit was filed leaving two minor children, Francis and William Morford.

Isaiah Morford, who died by 11 August 1815, in Bracken County, Kentucky, is another pioneer in whose family the flatboat tradition has survived. That this is a common tradition is not at all surprising; in fact it might be reasonable to expect that many more Kentucky and Ohio settlers came by water than by land. These box-like arks drifted downstream,



steered by long poles called "sweeps". In spite of the ever-present danger of having to fight Indians, or of having to free the flatboat from concealed snags, the pioneers had their enjoyable moments on the voyage downriver below Pittsburgh. The men could, and did, fish from the boats, while inside the women might be busy preparing the meals, doing the family mending, or knitting. At the end of the day fiddles came into use to accompany the singing or dancing. Some boats brought supplies and were, in effect, floating country stores, dealing in cloth, tinware, dishes and other essentials required by the voyagers, as well as by those who had come downriver earlier and had commenced to clear the land, build homes, and raise crops and families in Kentucky.

SOME NEW MORFORDS TO BE IDENTIFIED

Listed among 276 U.S. refugees who received grants of land in Annapolis Co. , Nova Scotia (a part of the Digby New Grant), 29 January 1801, were JOHN MORFORD (200 acres), and MARGARET MORFORD and JANE STENEGAR (212 acres). We'd like to know the birth and death dates of these three persons, and their relationship to each other; and the places of their residence before they went to Nova Scotia.

In the HISTORY OF BUCKS CO., PA., by J. H. Battle, 1887, is found a biographical sketch of James Williams, born 1809, living in 1887; he married in 1835 Phebe Treichler, born 1815, died 1884. Their eldest child was EMELINE WILLIAMS, who married HUGH E. MARFORD. Does anyone have records of Hugh's ancestry and names of his children, if any?

A biographical sketch in a history of Nodaway and Atchison Counties, Missouri, dated 1901, mentions "LELA, the wife of A. L. MORFORD". She was a daughter of M. B. W. Harman , who lived on a stock farm near Pickering , Nodaway Co. , Mo. , and his wife Rosa (Boling) (Baker) Harman. We'd like to hear from anyone who can give the full name of Lela's husband, his birth and death dates, parentage, and any further data of A. L. & Lela Morford.

On file at the Kentucky Historical Society is a newspaper clipping from *THE SENTINEL-NEWS*, Shelbyville, Ky., dated 26 October 1981, which reads as follows: "Moff celebrated her 100th birthday on Thursday at Colonial Halls Nursing Home where she has lived 3 years. 'Moff, , as she has been known by friends for a number of years, is LUCY BELL MORFORD who was born Oct. 22, 1981 in Boyle County. She moved to Shelby Co. when she married WALTER G. MORFORD who died about 20 years ago. She lived on Beechwood Avenue where her closest neighbor was Mrs. Ralph Flood, who has continued to keep care of Mrs. Morford at the nursing home. Mrs. Flood said it was her daughter, Martha Guthrie, who gave Mrs. Morford the nickname of 'Moff' . . . Mrs. Morford is in good health although her eyesight and hearing are failing . . . The Morfords were members of Centenary United Methodist Church. She is the oldest living member, according to Mrs. Flood." We would like to know her maiden surname, and the names of any of her husband's MORFORD relatives.

OLD FAMILY LETTERS IN YOUR ATTIC? THEY MAY FURNISH HELPFUL CLUES IN RESEARCH

The following letter from William R. Morford to Andrew and Margaret (Morford) Cox, his brother-in-law and sister, was loaned many years ago to the Morford Historian by Miss Essie Lindsey of Los Angeles, a Cox descendant. Not only do such letters provide us with proofs of relationships, but they give us an insight into the lives of family members and activities of the period in which they were written.

"Sciota County, Ohio, 28th May 1848

Dear Brother and sister: I do not wright according to promis but I now take my pen in hand to let you know by the blessing of God I am still among the Living together with the rest of my family and enjoying good health at this time but it has not been always the case. Since I seen you last about the first of March I was taken with the congestive fevor and my dear sister I can assure you I was near Deths doore but I am still the surviving monament of God amasing mercy. You know I told you when I was down my helth had been for som time for about eighteen months past I have not enjoyed my helth very well. I hope that the coming of these few lines may find you all well and wishing to hear from you causes me to wright that you may answer as soon as you receive this and let me know how you are all. I was in hopes to see you up here before this time and Darius with you but I was disapointed in my expectations but I do not wonder at this for it is what we are liable to. I do not know whether I will be down this fall or not. Brother Kennard said the other day he perposed of going to Cincinnati after harvest and of course he would go out to your house.

Our Thomas was married on the 24th December last to Abagal Hewes [sic; records show her name as "Abigail Hughes"] of Gallia Co. Russel is driving team this summer, we have an ace team and are hauling iron from our house to the Ohio River five miles, the other boys Crayton and Neteer is working on the farm and I myself am still working in the shop. By this you see we are busy employed. I forgot to say what Thomas was about., he is at work at the Mount Vernon Furnace at one dollar and twenty-five cents per day and is going to hous keeping there. Your brother . . . family was . . . the other day. Neteer Eakins has moved from Kentucky and now is living near the Bloom Furnace and has a job there of hawling cole with three teams, they was will on Friday, it is six miles from whear we live. Rebecca at this time is gon to see her Father and exspects to be gon four or five days. Her mother died in January . . . with the inflammation of the bowels and she died happy in the Lord.

Andrew, I want you and Margaret to come up to see us all once if you can make it convenient and as for Rebecca [here he is referring to one of the Cox daughters] I expect she is married before this time.

Rebecca [William's wife] and one of the boys is going to Adams County some time this summer and I will try to get them to go to Robinson and as far as your house, they will go in a buggy and do not know they will go all the way or not, my hand is to nervous this morning I can scarcely wright attall.

It has been a very bad spring here for the drought and then the wet, I just finished planting my corn Friday last and fruit is. the frost but there is plenty yet left. I am about to sell my place and if I do I shall purchase in this county again, I have no notions farther west perhaps to some towns and follow my trade and it suits me best and have my boys in paticular Crayton. I will add no more but give my respect to all inquiring friends. I am your affectionate brother until death,

William Morford

*N.B. Direct your letters to Iron Furnaces
Scioto Co., Ohio*

I expect you will complain of my bad writing but look over often you can enable to make something of it. I will try to do better in my next and say more.

Tell Darius if he has no job this summer at carding and wants one there is a . . . about started in this neighborhood and if he would come soon I expect he would get employment but do not have a good job.

W.M.

*Andrew
and Margaret Cox"*

The William Morford who wrote the foregoing letter was the second son of Thomas Morford [1773-1815] and Temperance (Robinson) Morford [1777-1810], natives of Maryland, who moved to Kentucky, where their five children, Kennard, William R., Margaret [the Mrs. Andrew Cox mentioned above], Robinson and Catharine were born. After Temperance's death, Thomas moved to Adams County, Ohio, where he again married, to Fanny Rachford. A courthouse fire destroyed the early Adams County records, so no probate is available to indicate how Thomas' estate was distributed. William R. Morford's wife, Rebecca, whose maiden surname has not been learned, survived him, living until 1877. Their children, in order of birth, were Thomas J. 1825, Russell B. 1830, William Creighton 1831-1913, Meteer 1832-52, Mary I. A. 1837, Angeline A. 1840-79, and John Randolph 1845-94.

William Morford's sister, to whom the 1848 letter was written, was Margaret [1802-74] whose surname was spelled "Maphet" at her marriage in 1824 to Andrew Jackson Cox. The Cox children, born between 1825 and 1840, were Darius, Thomas Wesley, Rebecca Ann, Andrew Jackson III, Temperance F., Sarah Catherine, and Elizabeth Frances.

This brief account of these two families is given more to identify the persons mentioned in the letter than to provide a full genealogical account [that will have to wait until MORFORDS OF AMERICA is in print!]. We will mention, though, that when William's estate was settled in 1855 following a suit for partition brought by William Creighton Morford, Russell B. was said to have been of Oregon, no specific town being named. As we have no further records of Russell, readers who might have information of him are requested to let us know what became of him, whether he married, and where he lived after 1855.

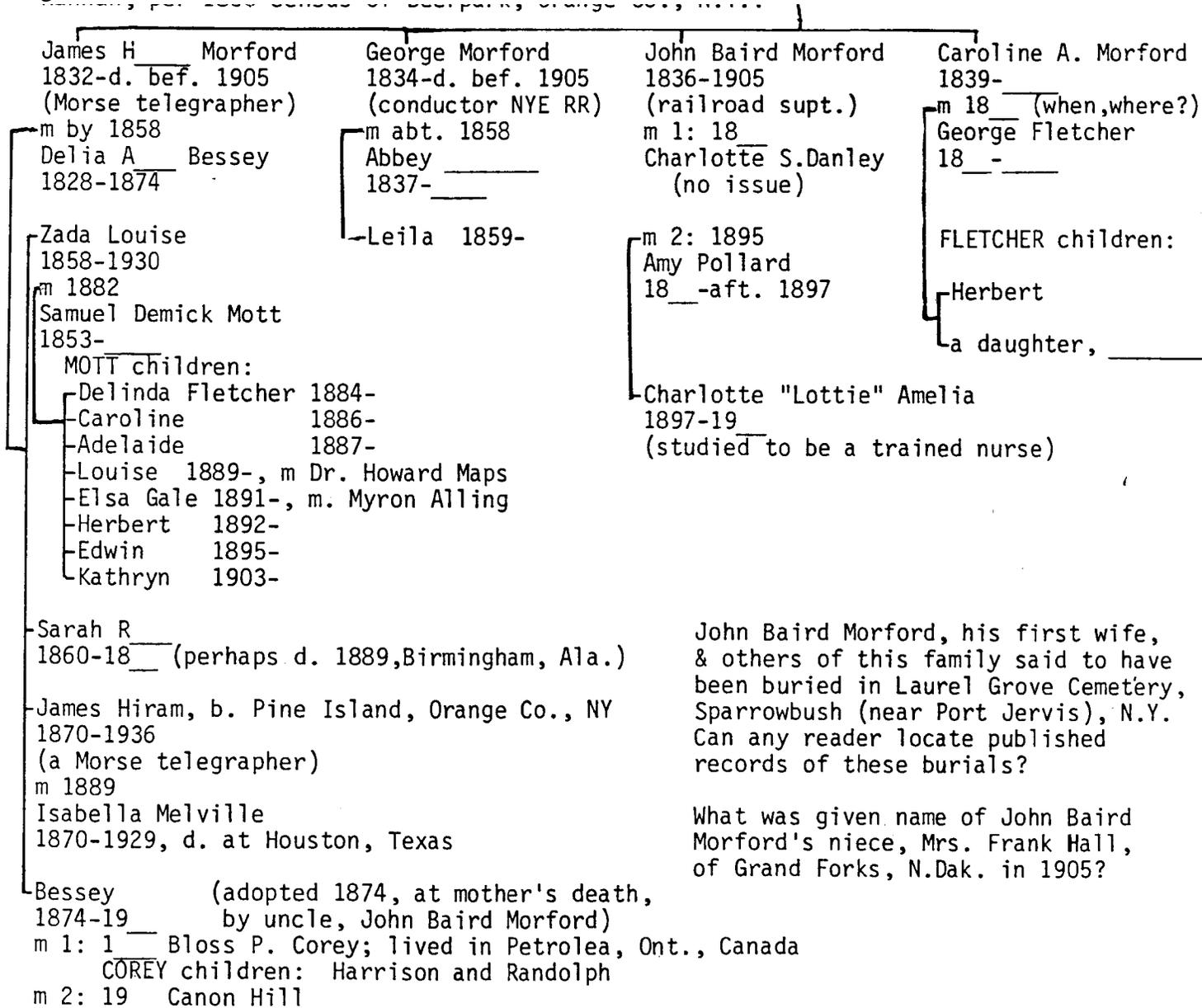
MORFORDS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

MANY MORFORDS served in the Revolutionary War, but descendants of only two or three, at most, have joined the D.A.R. or S.A.R. based on services of these Morfords to their country. Since quite a few readers have expressed their interest in "Proving up" on the service of their Morford ancestors, we are going to make a valiant effort to (1) list all the Morfords, their rank, and the states and units and dates within which they had served; and (2) provide documentary evidence for each generation of the descendants of these soldiers, if it can be found. One problem is the correct identification of the many soldiers who had the same given name. For instance, was there one John Morford who served in three or five or seven different units at different times; or were there three, five or seven different John Morfords? We came to the conclusion some time ago that the very first John must have been quite a guy, for all those children, grandchildren and generations of greats and great-greats to have borne his name. No doubt he had all the attributes of a Boy Scout -- he was trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent -- and may also have been tall, dark, handsome and rich, for good measure -- who knows, at this late date?

WHO HAS ANY CLUES TO HELP DETERMINE WHERE THIS MORFORD FITS INTO THE FAMILY?

HENRY K MORFORD, a cabinetmaker
 1805-_____ (b. NY; when and where did he die?)
 married about 1832 (where?)
 HANNAH FitzRANDOLPH (dau. of Lewis & Sarah (Wood) Fitzrandolph)
 1812- (b. NY; place & date of her death & burial?)

Henry K., or ancestor, said to have been partner in firm of Morford & Vail, coal merchants. Henry K. also said to have been a partner in a chair-factory in upper N.Y. state which made and sold "Boston rockers". -One of these rockers was owned by a granddaughter, Zada Louise (Morford) Mott, in Passaic, NJ, about 1930. In 1860 two other cabinetmakers living with the Henry K. Morford family were Henry Dutcher, born about 1815, and Isaac Whitney, born about 1827. Known children of Henry K. and his wife Hannah, per 1850 census of Deerpark, Orange Co., N.Y.:



John Baird Morford, his first wife, & others of this family said to have been buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery, Sparrowbush (near Port Jervis), N.Y. Can any reader locate published records of these burials?

What was given name of John Baird Morford's niece, Mrs. Frank Hall, of Grand Forks, N.Dak. in 1905?

ENSIGN MORFORD OUT OF STEP

The following item was sent to the Historian by Ethel Garrison of Iowa City, Iowa: "A New Jersey newspaper stated that Ensign Morford was court martialled for disobeying orders -- he joined a parade of a different company than his own. The incident was reported in N.J. Archives, 2d series, Vol. V. Quoting from the *NEW JERSEY GAZETTE* dated 28 March 1781: "At a court martial held by the appt. of Brig.-Gen. Heard on the 19th of Jan. last at the home of James Drake in the city of Brunswick. Ensign Morford of the 3rd Battalion of Middletown Militia was tried for parading in arms with the men belonging to Capt. Perine's company and marching from their post in mutiny, and found guilty, and adjudged to be considered and rendered incapable of service in the militia as an officer during the war." So far we have not been able to ascertain the given name of Ensign Morford.

A LETTER FROM A CONFEDERATE SOLDIER

Among mementos saved by the parents of the late Lawrence Lee Morford [1913-1977]. of Galena, Kansas, was one written by Lawrence's grandfather, John James Morford [1839-1899], to the soldier's mother, Amelia (Morrison) Morford. It reads as follows:

Dear Mother:

I am almost in the hands of the enemy. Our troops have evacuated this place last night. I am at Breckenridge Division hospital cooking for the sick and wounded men. We have got about 100 Yankees here. They are very badly wounded. The most of them have got their legs . . . (or) arms off. I have found some very fine men amongst them. They told me if I needed anything to let them know it.

We are losing ground very fast but I don't feel discouraged yet a while. I think Providence will provide for us all, at least I have grate hope of it.

I wrote a note to cousin John Pickett yesterday and sent him some baker's bread. It was very nice and lite. He wrote to me and told me he was well. He did not know that I was going to be taken prisoner.

I would like to see you all once more. I would like to see dear little Alice and Berta." [Editor's note: These were his two younger sisters, Roberta M., born 4 May 1852 in Maysville, Ky., and Alice D., born 20 November 1855, also in Maysville.] *I often think of them as they are dear to me. Dear Mother, I often think of the kind words that you gave me. Part of what you told me is come true.*

One Yankee has made his appearance in to our camp. He is hunting for some of his wounded men.

I will puts some hair of poor Frank Athinson in this letter. Keep it to remember him. He was a noble young man. He died a Christian. He was ready to die.

Ma, if I had time I could write you a long letter and tell you all the news. I have seen a little of this world since I have been out.

You can tell Aunt Lizza Pickett that John is well. I will have to quit writing. Good by, dear mother, father and sisters. I will tell you where to write to. I remain your obedient son.

J.J. Morford, Company I, 7th Ky. Regiment Vols

This letter, written at Jackson, Miss., was sent to Mrs. Theodore Morford, 17 July 1863, at Augusta, Bracken Co., Ky. Copied in 1952 by the soldier's son, Alexander Lee Morford [1878-1953], it appears that the regiment number was not transcribed correctly, as Kentucky Military Records give the regiment as "4th". [See page 86, July 1982 MORFORD HISTORIAN.]

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.

BIBLE RECORDS OF MORFORD FAMILIES

BIBLE RECORDS are among the most valued documentary evidences of relationships and important events such as marriages, births and deaths, especially so if the entries have been made contemporaneously with the events recorded. Frequently they exist in places and time periods which antedate the official recording of such events in any public archives. If official records have been lost through courthouse fires, or floods, the family Bible becomes doubly valuable for preservation of the family's vital statistics.

One major problem with Bible records, however, is that the treasured book may be owned by only one person or family group at a time; it is handed down to a son or daughter, usually the eldest of the family, but the younger children are thereby deprived of access to these precious records.

For this reason, many genealogical societies, especially those which publish magazines, have for a long time been making an effort to obtain complete and accurate transcripts of Bible records, usually of the area in which the society is located. Thus, we find records of families of New Jersey origin in the *GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE OF NEW JERSEY*; records of families of New York origin in the *NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD*; and records of families of New England states in the *NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER*, and so on.

With their example in mind, we believe that MORFORD HISTORIAN can be helpful to readers by gathering photocopies of Morford Bible records and publishing them in a book, or in a series of books, printing the records both in textual form, with necessary explanations as to locations, relationships, and so on, as well as in facsimile so that readers may compare them for accuracy and correct interpretation of the handwriting. Such books might contain anywhere from a dozen Bible records to a much greater quantity, and would be indexed so that the desired name, if included, may be found easily. The cost of such a book, or set of books, would be kept minimal, so that families might buy enough to have a copy for each of their children or grandchildren.

The importance of early Bible records is demonstrated in an affidavit made 22 March 1871 by Garret Morford [1788-1873], a resident of Moscow, Hillsdale County, Michigan, who had applied for pension based on his service in the War of 1812. The Bible records were essential for his proof of age and identity.

If you like this idea, and have access to your family's Bible records so that you might have xerox copies made of them (including the Bible's title page and any other page showing the name of the original owner), please let us know, so that we may determine whether enough Morford descendants are interested for this to become a successful -enterprise. Tell us what records you have; or let us know of other family members who have access to the Bible records.

Such records do not have to be in a Bible; frequently a member of the older generation (a parent or grandparent) has, on request from a relative, written down a similar account of his or her children and their birthdates. Records like these, if one knows about when they were written, are on a par with Bible entries as to their authenticity.

So, please write and describe what records you have which might be made available to MORFORD HISTORIAN for compiling into book form. With your cooperation no future Morford descendant need be deprived of having access to his or her ancestral information.

May we suggest that you take this issue of MORFORD HISTORIAN with you when your family

(continued on p. 140)

JUDGE SHELDON OSMUND MORFORD, PIONEER OF CALIFORNIA AND WASHINGTON

The following brief account of Judge S. O. Morford comes from an undated clipping sent to us by Mable (Morford) Moore in 1981. The original apparently included a picture of the Judge's office, and a list of his mining interests; but these were not a part of the clipping which Mrs. Moore found. To this account we have added some biographical details based on our own research in public records and other sources.

"Judge S. O. Morford, who is the resident manager and legal adviser of the Harper and Ladue interests, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1849, and spent his early life on the farm. He graduated from the State Normal School, Edinboro, Pa., and a few years after, took a course in law at Hastings Law College, in San Francisco, where he was admitted to the bar.

The young lawyer then taught school in Lake County, and there served as Superintendent of Public Schools in the years 1878-9. He next practiced law in San Francisco for four years, and from there went to Yakima County, Washington, and engaged in the practice of the law for almost a dozen years.

In the spring of 1895, Judge Morford started for the interior of Alaska; his adventures, trials and hardships on that eventful trip would fill many pages of the "News" with an interesting story, but as it is against the wishes of the judge that even this short story is printed, we will be brief. He was one of the unfortunates who went on the Takau trail, which starts near Juneau and ends in a wilderness, and the Morford party were several months in reaching their destination.

Mr. Morford went on a prospecting trip up the Klondike River last Fall, where he was caught in a terrific storm which nearly resulted in his death. For thirty-six hours, without blankets or food, he struggled through a blinding snowstorm, with the thermometer below zero, finally reaching a miner's cabin completely exhausted.

Mr. Morford's mining interests, which are large, appear upon this page. Judge Morford is a very robust, vigorous man, both mentally and physically. The cold weather has no terrors for him, and he wears neither furs nor overcoat, and, in fact, is generally in his shirt sleeves both winter and summer.

In the picture of the Harper and Ladue office, Judge Morford may be seen, coatless as usual. He is the right hand figure in the group."

Judge Morford was son of Isaac and Celestia Lysetta (Williams) Morford. He married 1st, 6 October 1870, Emeline Jane Fell, by whom there were two sons. The elder, Ernest Osmund, born October 1870, died at the age of 14 months; the younger, unnamed, was stillborn. Sheldon's second wife was Pearl A. (Mauldyn) Ross, mother of Ralph M. [1887-1941], Frances Elizabeth [1891-1930, md. 1st Stewart Brown, and 2d Mr. Simmons], and Benn M. [1894-1934; md. Etta B. Houston]. Judge Morford's third wife was Katharine Burke [1871-1958]. Judge Morford, who died in Seattle, Washington in December, 1919, is buried in Tacoma Cemetery, Tacoma, Washington. His father Isaac's Morford line is: Richard⁶ John⁵ Thomas⁴ Thomas³ John² John¹ Morford.

Judge Sheldon's third wife, Katharine, who was born in County Galway, Ireland, survived him by many years, and died at the age of 87, on 20 December 1958, at a nursing home in Seattle, Washington; burial was in the Tacoma Cemetery.

A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOUR FAVORITE MORFORD - A SUBSCRIPTION TO MORFORD HISTORIAN!

NEWS OF MORFORDS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

MRS. E. ELIZABETH SUTTON, 83, a resident at St. Paul Homes, Greenville, Pa., died unexpectedly at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 30, 1982, in Greenville Hospital. She formerly lived at 62 Maple Drive, Pymatuning Township, Mercer Co., Pa. Mrs. Sutton was born 21 January 1899 in Pymatuning Twp., a daughter of George and Laura Belle (Nutt)* Mowry. [**Editor's note: For those of our readers who have copies of the original 1892 booklet HISTORY OF THE MORFORD FAMILY, page 14 lists the marriage on 1 January 1891, of George Mowery to Laura Mott -- not "Nutt".*] She married Max J. McGrath 18 October 1922; subsequently she married Bearl Sutton, 25 August 1948. Survivors are three daughters: June (Mrs. Earl E. Fenton), Marion M. (Mrs. Peter Waleff), and Lu (Mrs. Earle Bogacki), all of Greenville, West Salem Twp., Pa.; and five sons, J. Wade McGrath Sr. of Farmdale, O., Herbert G. McGrath of Burghill, D.; Max J. McGrath Jr. of Aberdeen, Wa.; Richard J. McGrath of Warren, O., and Charles L. McGrath of Columbus, O. Other survivors are a sister, Aleeta (Mrs. Harry Service) of Andover, O.; and 25 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two daughters: Audene Miller in 1973, and Dorothy Ondriezek in 1976; 3 brothers, 3 sisters, 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild. After services at the Donaldson-Mohney Funeral Home in Sharpsville, Pa.; burial was at Transfer Cemetery. Morford lineage of Mrs. Sutton's grandmother, Almyra⁸ (Morford) Mowry: *James C.⁷ Richard⁶ John⁵ Thomas⁴ Thomas³ John² John¹ Morford.* [Our thanks to Evelyn Anderson of Jamestown, Pa., for sending us this obituary notice.]

RUTH (MORFORD) CUMMINGS of Redfield, Iowa, died 20 September 1983 in Winterset, Madison Co., Iowa, after a long illness. The youngest daughter of John Jasper and Della (Allen) Morford, she was born 11 May 1897 in Madison County and spent all of her life in that area. She was preceded in death by her infant son Karl, her husband Willard Field Cummings, her parents, and by six siblings: Lillian Esther (Mrs. Frank Allen Leeper), Ora Alice (Mrs. Guy Walter Lenocker), Nettie Mae (Mrs. Clarence Carman Moore), Lena Fern (Mrs. Boyd Simonton Myers), Blanche Sueville (Mrs. James Albert Pitman Jr.), and Fred Herbert Morford. One brother, Hazen Allen Morford of Winterset, and many nieces and nephews survive. Burial was 23 September 1983 in Penn Center Cemetery. Her Morford line: *John Jasper⁸ John Titus⁷ James⁶ John⁵ Thomas⁴ Thomas³ John² John¹ Morford.* [Her obituary sent to the Historian by her niece, Dorothy M. Lewis, of Houston, Texas.]

WILBERN RUF, JR., age 43, son of Wilbern and Alma (Mofford) Ruf of the Walcott Community, a resident of Augusta, Ky., died Saturday, 30 July 1983 at Trenton, N.J. of a coronary attack. He had been employed as a carpenter foreman for the Roy B. Paul Construction Co., Trenton. A Navy veteran of the Vietnam war, Wilbern was born 13 May 1940. Beside his parents, he is survived by his wife, Lydia (Best) Ruf, a son Robert Allen Ruf at home, a sister Judith Ann (Mrs. William Stewart of Ludlow, Ky.), and his grandmother, Mrs. Laura Belle Mofford of Augusta, Ky. Following services in Augusta on August 3rd, burial was in the Sharon Cemetery. His Mofford/Morford line: *Dora Harrison Mofford⁸ George William Mofford/Morford⁷ Daniel⁶ Daniel⁵ John⁴ Thomas³ John² John¹ Morford.*

MR. AND MRS. MORFORD HEDGECOCK, of Berlin, Ky., hosted the annual Hedgecock family reunion on Sunday, 26 July 1983, with some ninety persons in attendance. Most of them were from Kentucky towns -- Brooksville, Dover, Foster, Maysville, Union, Germantown, Falmouth, Lexington, Louisville, Lawrenceburg, Paris, Moorhead, Olympia, Cynthiana, Erlanger, Ft. Thomas; out of state guests came from Georgetown, Ohio, Mt. Clemens, Mich., Arlington, Texas, McLean, Va., and North Carolina. Morford's mother was Cora Ann (Morford) Hedgecock [1877-1924], whose Morford line is: *Alexander Brown⁹ John Black⁸ James Jr.⁷ James⁶ Daniel⁵ John⁴ Thomas³ John² John¹ Morford.*

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

BIBLE RECORDS OF MORFORD FAMILIES (continued from p. 137)

congregates for Thanksgiving or Christmas -- read this article to them, and do your best to search out the whereabouts of all early Morford Bibles, or Bibles of families which may have a single Morford entry due to a Morford intermarriage with that family? Please help us make this project a success. You'll be glad you did, and so will many later generations of your descendants.

SOME MORFORD GRAVES LOCATED

Thanks to the diligent searching of our subscriber Alma S. Blahna of Carson City, Nev. two grave locations have been found: William and Elizabeth (Morford) Hull are buried in Whig Cemetery, Grant Co., Wis. Elizabeth died in 1860, William in 1872. Alma is a descendant of the Hulls' daughter Mary Elizabeth, who married Michael Schoville. Alma also located the burial place of Kennard Morford's son Thomas W. Morford: Rideout Cemetery, Porter Township, Scioto Co., Ohio; Thomas' death date was 31 July 1855. She is still hunting for the burial place of her ancestor John Morford [1758-1840] of Mercer Co., Pa., a Revolutionary War soldier; Alma thinks he may have been buried in Ohio. If anyone has this information, please let the Historian know so that we may make the location known to all descendants.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER: Five weeks of travelling and research, checking court houses and historical society libraries and other sources for Morford data, gave us the usual results -- answers to some of our questions, plus a lot of new problems to be solved, which is par for the course. We spent a few hours visiting with Vi and Lewis Neeb of Shelbyville, Indiana, on our way to Louisville, Ky., where we attended the annual meeting of the American Society of Genealogists. Incidentally, this has to be the most beautiful time of the year in Kentucky -- heavily forested hills displaying leaves in all shades of red from the deepest maroon to a pale pink, and every shade of yellow imaginable, from a greenish hue to the almost orange tones -- a spectacular fall tapestry. In almost all the libraries we visited, the card-files skipped from "Morey" to "Morgan" -- not a Morford entry! At the Filson Club Library we remedied this deficiency by presenting the librarian with a complete set of issues of MORFORD HISTORIAN to date. With all the Morfords known to have lived in Kentucky it was hard to believe that none had rated any



historical mention. That situation will be improved in a year or two, we hope! We're concerned that despite our pleas for personal biographical accounts of each Morford reader, his parents and grandparents, only a handful of sketches have been received. If you're looking forward to something more interesting than a "bare bones" genealogy full of nothing but names, dates, places and events, better get busy! Even just a sentence or two about each of your ancestors, your uncles and aunts, your children, will help to relieve the monotony of the "hatched, matched, dispatched" versions of family histories. What did they look like? What color eyes and hair did they have? were they tall and thin or short and fat? were they cheerful or morose? energetic or lazy? The list could go on . . . but you know what we need to depict the family members in a way which will bring them to life for each of us. You'll be seeing some of your relatives at Thanksgiving and Christmas, we'll bet -- so while you're sitting 'round the family hearth after dinner, swapping family anecdotes, delegate one member of the group to take notes and send them in to the Historian, PLEASE (And remember to find out who has the old family Bible, so you can arrange to xerox the family records for our new project.) Happy Holidays to y'all . . .

Enid