

# Morford Historian

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

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## WERE THE EARLIEST MORFORDS DESCENDANTS OF SIMON DE MONTFORT?

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This question was brought up in our correspondence with H. M. West Winter, whose Morford ancestral line traces back into early English records. His research in England during 40 years covered virtually every class of source material, including wills, parish registers, Chancery proceedings, inquisitions, post mortems, marriage license allegations, tax and muster returns; but disclosed surprisingly few references to the Morford surname. The following is summarized from Mr. Winter's letters to the Morford Historian. Readers' comments are invited.*

IT IS VERY UNLIKELY that any Morford is descended from Simon de Montfort, except in the sense that anyone, whether his surname be Smith, Jones, or Morford, might be descended. There is no evidence of such a descent in any genealogical material I have examined. The notion would appear to be based upon a similarity in spelling between the modern spellings of MORFORD and de MONTFORT. In many records dated before 1700 the preferred spelling was MURFORD, with second preference going to MOORFORD. Little similarity exists between these variants and MONTFORT, and I believe the probability of a descent from Montfort would not occur to anyone thinking in terms of the early spelling, MURFORD

Books on the etymology of names trace surnames back to their roots or origins, but this neither signifies nor implies that families bearing those surnames descend from individuals who bore the surnames from which those surnames are derived. Thus, even though MORFORD might be accepted as an etymological derivative of de Montfort (which it probably is not), it does not follow that persons who call themselves Morford in 1984 are of the same family, or descendants of persons who called themselves de Montfort in 1200.

As a matter of fact, MONTFORT was not a family name, but a place name: the name of the place from which Simon de Montfort's family (whose family name was Amaury) came. As we know, surnames were not in common use until the 14th and 15th centuries in England. Before that time, individuals identified themselves by characteristics such as their occupations or their places of residence -- John the Smith, Peter At Hill, William at the Moor Ford, Henry of the Stronghold (Montfort). If they used a surname, often it was the given name of their fathers, with or without a suffix such as "son" (and this is particularly true in the case of French families of the period). Therefore, if, during the intervening years between Simon de Montfort's lifetime [1208?-1265] and the first recorded appearance of MORFORD, a descendant of his chose a name, one would expect it to have been Simons, or Simonson, or Simpson, or just plain Simon.

### An Alternative Theory

Having taken the strongly negative position above as to the origin of the MORFORD name, I feel I should offer a more likely alternative theory. The following is just that -a theory -- yet not without circumstantial evidence which provides plausibility.

Let us start with known facts. One Thomas Murford of Bath, Somerset, England, married, at least by 1596, the niece of an Alderman of Bristol (which was, at the time, England's

second largest city and second most important commercial center, serving the western counties and Wales and Ireland.) A "Mr. Thomas Murford" (possibly the same man) buried at Bath St. James in 1635 was described in the Parish Register as "Alderman"; and in 1635 one "Mrs." (= Mistress = gentlewoman) Elizabeth Mooreford married in Bath Abbey a "Mr. Matthew Rendell", who, when buried in the Abbey in 1641, was described also as "one of the Aldermen".

It is safe to assume that, in that period, an individual did not marry the niece of an Alderman of Bristol, nor become an Alderman in its sister city of Bath (seat of the Bishop), unless he was (1) rich, and (2) related to the handful of rich merchant families which, for generation after generation, controlled the municipal governments of those cities. But in sixteenth century England, the self-made man (as we think of him today in the United States) was rare; and when he existed, as in the case of the founders of families such as the Thynnes, Capels, Hydes, Audleys and others, the Law Courts of the period groaned from the weight of the lawsuits in which they were either plaintiffs or respondents -- meaning, that a self-made rich man left a wide and conspicuous trail in contemporary records.

But, no such trail exists in the case of the Morfords. One could expect, therefore, that they became prosperous and respected members of the Bristol and Bath ruling coterie by evolution over many generations; and in this case, one would find an abundance of their wills in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, or in the local diocesan, commissary, consistory, deanery, prebendal or peculiar courts of probate; but almost none was found.

This suggests that the early Morfords were "commuters"; that is to say, they lived and owned real property outside of the Archdiocese of Canterbury. What place more likely than Wales, just across the Bristol Channel? For, if they lived in, and owned real property in Wales, the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and the provincial English probate courts would not have had jurisdiction over their estates. Bristol was the principal seaport and market center for all of South Wales, and an inevitable English headquarters for prosperous Welsh merchants.

Is there any direct evidence in support of this theory? I believe so. And from it, I have constructed the following conjectural scenario.

During the War of the Roses<sup>1</sup>, the party of the King (who was also Prince of Wales), imported many Welsh soldiers~to help him. One of these, of course, was the Welsh border lord Owen Tudor [\_\_\_\_-1461], grandfather of King Henry VII, who gained an ascendant position next to the throne. As Tudor became powerful, many Welsh merchants joined him in England, eager to benefit from his patronage and connections.

One of these Welsh merchants was JEVAN MORFORDE. ("Jevan", of course, is a Welsh name.) Through the court connection of Owen Tudor, Jevan made a customer of the Duke of York, and when the latter died in 1415, he was a debtor of Jevan Morforde. It was not until 15 years after the Duke's death that Jevan was able to press his claims against the heirs of the Duke, due to the enormous power gained by his patron, Owen Tudor by Owen's marriage to the dowager Queen Catherine (mother and guardian of the infant King Henry VI). In 1433 Jevan as "one of divers creditors of the late Duke of York" was awarded Recognizance of the debt.

Owen Tudor died in 1461, in the same year in which his step-son, the Lancastrian King Henry VI, was deposed, and the Yorkist party took power, crowning Edward IV. At that

<sup>1</sup>*War of the Roses, 1455-1485, waged by the Houses of Lancaster and York, rival claimants to English throne, until royal marriage united the two lines.*

time, it is likely that Jevan Morforde, who had won his lawsuit against the new king's father thirty years before, found it expedient to withdraw to Wales. At least, there was no further mention of Jevan Morforde in the English records.

Except that Jevan Morforde was certainly a Welshman -- otherwise, he would *never* have used the Welsh name of Jevan in England -- nothing is known of his provenance. It may be assumed that, in order to accommodate himself to English legal usage, consistent with his role as a successful merchant, Jevan adopted a surname -- something which was not then prevalent in Wales. He chose that of MORFORDE. Why? Possibly because he came from the Welsh village of Marford/Merford. In his Welsh business activities he would doubtless still use his Welsh name, as to which we have no evidence whatsoever, but which might have been something like Jevan ap Gruffyd ap Llewellyn ap &c &c &c, as was the contemporary Welsh usage.

Although nothing more is presently known of JEVAN MORFORDE, it may be conjectured that he was a forefather (perhaps not in direct line) of the rich merchant or merchants of Bath and Bristol who married an Alderman's niece, became an Alderman himself, and whose widow (?) or daughter (?) married an Alderman.

After Jevan, the family probably remained in Wales, but kept up commercial connections with Bristol/Bath, one branch of the family acquiring property at Batheaston, another at Abson in nearby Gloucestershire, from which they spread to places like Bitton, Englishcombe and Horton. When required by English law or usage to have a surname (when children were baptized into the Church of England, for example), they took the surname Murford/Morford. Otherwise, and particularly when active in Wales, they used their Welsh name. (Incidentally, this was very common practice with Welsh families who did business in England.) Presumably their wills were probated in Wales, under their Welsh name, whatever it may have been, and this would account for there being so little trace of the Morford family in English probate courts and elsewhere.

In time, it is conjectured, the Morford commercial interests became widespread, and we find them in the carrying trade (i.e., as Merchant Adventurers, to use the contemporary term), not only in Bristol, but in East Anglia and London, doing business in the various European ports, including Bordeaux, Nantes, Rochelle and Amsterdam, in France, Holland, Copenhagen, and Germany and Belgium.

There was an affinity between importing wine and the business of tavern-keeper. The poet Nicholas Murford of King's Lynn, was both an importer of wine and a tavern-keeper. This is mentioned as it may be more than coincidence that one WILLIAM MOREFORD, the earliest Morford of whom mention is found in the records of Bath, was doubtless a tavern-keeper in 1587. In 1590 Ellinor Moorford, probably daughter of William, married at Bath St. James one POWELL DAVIS, whose name is Welsh.

The theory of descent from Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, appears completely lacking, both in solid evidence or even clues to substantiate the theory; while it is clear that by 1600/1625 many individuals of the Murford/Morford surname, doubtless of a single family group, were men of considerable means. We have one, or perhaps two, Aldermen; a ship owner who had sufficient money to build a light-house (William); a man who could invest several thousand pounds in a salt venture (Nicholas), and a man who became Governor of Southampton (Peter). It is not likely they were all "self-made" men. Undoubtedly they came from a prosperous family -- not English, but Welsh -- and that may be the reason there is so little trace of them in the English records.

Mr. Winter concludes, this, "conjectural scenario" with the expressed hope that we have found this fantasy interesting and provocative. Ye Editor finds it very believable!

A MORFORD BY ANY OTHER SPELLING IS STILL A MORFORD - MOST OF THE TIME!

"MORFORD SPELLING VARIANTS" is the title of one of our notebooks in which we list the exact sources of the variations known to have been used for real honest-to-goodness Morfords. We'll share these with readers from time to time. As a starter, here are some references sent to us by our long-time correspondent, Louise M. Dunn:

MAWFORD. Ohio 1810 Tax Duplicates list Cornelius Mawford as owner of 100 acres, in R. 5, Sec. 4, Twp. 15, Wayne Twp., Warren Co., Ohio. This is the Cornelius Morford [1741-1825] whose first wife was Hester Brian. He was of N.J. and Delaware before settling in Ohio. He is the 4-great grandfather of Harold L. Adams, husband of the MH editor.

MOFFETT-MORFORT-MORFOOT: All these variants in a single entry pertain to just one couple, and are found in "Collections of Pioneer Hamilton County (Ohio) Marriage Records, Vol. 1, 1789-1817", ed. by Marjorie J. Burress, 1978. "George Moffett and Catherine Lowrey, md. 15 May 1796 by Aaron Cadwell, J.P., North Bend. CNWT 26 Mar 1796, George Morfort divorced from Catherine (Cist. Miscellany, Vol. 2, p. 71). Ruth Lowry married George Morfort 10 May 1796. Hamilton Co. Ohio Probate records, Bk. 1, p. 49. 2 May 1798 Catherine Morfoot, admr., dec'd son Samuel Lowery's estate - bond with son-in-law Samuel Foster."

MOFFORD-MORREFORD: From 1798 Direct Tax Penna., MC372, Roll #23, Nat'l Archives Microfilm, Fayette Co., Pa., Vol. 697-700. In Vol. 697, under "M": Bullskin Twp., 2nd Dist. #44 & 45, Mofford, William; owner-occupant 1 house, 2 outhouses 35X100 and 20x100 of hewn logs, 1 and 2 floors, 3 and 2 windows, 40 and 14 lights.<sup>1</sup> Ibid, Vol. 698, #70, William Mofford owner, situated in Connellsville, 6 acres. Original lot owner East Liberty, Franklin Twp. , #52, John tlofford, #13 Union two # 130. Ibid, Widow Morreford occupant, owner Robt. Wheatley, 1 cabin adjacent to Uriah Hartin and James Handflin acre(?) 1 acre [These Morfords have not been identified.]

MORFER: From LDS film "855,160, Piscataway Book of Estrays, at Rutgers Library. Doctor Morfer's plantation at Bound Brook mentioned, 30 Dec. 1746. [Who was he?]

MORFET: From "Ohio Marriages from Old N.W. Gen. Quarterly", p. 226: 6 Jan. 1822, John Morfet and Isabella Bell, by John True, Washington Co., Ohio. [Not yet identified.]

MORFIT-MORFORD: From Warren Co. Ohio Deed Book., 18, p. 53: April 1, 1833, Isaac Morford and Rebecca his wife sell land to Noah Haines - land of late John Craft, sen. of this county died seized - Isaac being the son of Elizabeth Morfit, late Elizabeth Craft now deceased, daughter of John Craft - subject to dower right of Sarah W. Craft, widow of John, dec. [Isaac's father was Cornelius Morford Jr. (1770-1851)].

MORFFORT: From "Church Book of the Upper Freehold Baptist Church, Monmouth Co. , N.J. , a copy of the Introduction of the Original Church records Begun in 1766 ..." Members received, Aug'st 12th, 1786 - John Morffort, his wife Mary Forman. [He was a probable son of William and Elizabeth (Beakes) Morford; see page 19, "Morfords of Monmouth", in January 1984 issue of *THE GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE OF NEW JERSEY*.]

MORFOOT-MORFOTT. From "Ohio Records, Pioneer Families", ' Published by Ohio Genealogical Society, 1977, .in a list of marriage licenses issued by Arthur St. Clair, Governor: 1796, Feb. 12 - Miles Morfott and Mary Alter: 1796, May 10, George Morfoot and Ruth Lowry. [Miles Morford and his wife "Polly" (a nickname for "Mary") were of Clermont County, Ohio; he died 23 January 1842 - where? Please help us find his burial place!]

<sup>1</sup> "Lights" was the contemporary term for "window panes".

### PROGRESS REPORT ON NEW GRAVE MARKER FOR REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER JOHN MORFORD

Although several months have gone by since application was sent in to the General Services Administration for a bronze grave marker for John Morford [1758-1840], no marker had been received by the cemetery at Sharon, Pa., as of the middle of April; hopefully it might still arrive by Memorial Day. Despite publication of a long list of John's descendants in our January issue, contributions toward costs of placing the marker fell short of the \$40. required, only \$25. having been received as of late April; so, in order that there would be no delay, the editor of MH made up the difference of \$15. Those who have contributed to this project thus far are: Mrs. Beatrice Morford Bell , Alma Blahna, the Lewis family (Dorothy, James Stanley, Vicci Ann and John Boyd), John Morford of Kinsman, Ohio, Thurlow L. and Dorothy Morford, Myron and Marjorie Morford, and Evelyn Anderson. There was also a contribution from a non-family member, Noel C. Stevenson, well-known attorney and a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. Other descendants' contributions will be welcomed.

### ANOTHER GRAVE MARKER PROJECT PLANNED

JOHN MORFORD, who was born 8 May 1821 in Wooster, Wayne Co. , Ohio, was a son of Frederick and Elizabeth (-?-) Morford, who later settled in DeWitt County, Illinois. On the 9th of November, 1861, John enlisted, at Bloomington, McLean Co. Ill. , in Company K, 36th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, receiving an honorable discharge on 3 August 1862 because of severe injuries received the previous month at Danville, Miss. , while trying to lasso a mule. Unable to work his farm at Louisville, Pottawatomie County, Kansas, John went to Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois, where his brother-in-law, Elijah Horn, who was employed at a plow factory, was living. In John's pension file (Claim 251,350) is an affidavit of his attending physician, Dr. William S. Holladay, stating the date of John's death as 21 October 1875; also the affidavit of Elijah Horn which indicated that the soldier's death took place at his home in Monmouth.

Burial is said to have been in the City Cemetery of Monmouth; but apparently the early records of the cemetery have not survived, and the present cemetery officials are not able to identify the exact location of the grave. John's daughter, Margaret (Morford) Adams [1858-1941] -- grandmother of the Morford Historian's husband, Harold L. Adams,---declared that not only was her father buried in Monmouth Cemetery, but also that his name, along with those of many other Illinois soldiers of the Civil War., was on a monument. We have not been able to locate this monument, but presume it may have been a memorial to all Illinois Civil War veterans, and possibly may have been in Springfield, Illinois. We are now trying to obtain permission for placement of a memorial marker in the cemetery, and will report results in our next issue. As with the Revolutionary War veteran, we are publishing a list of his children and grandchildren, and hope that descendants to whom this issue is sent will participate in sharing costs of placing the marker. There is no charge for the marker itself, as it is a long-established government policy to provide such markers to honor veterans of various wars in which American soldiers have participated.

### WHO CAN IDENTIFY THESE MORFORDS?

Sadie Morford, "of age", married 23 Sept 1891, Trumbull Co. , Ohio, Charles L. Donner; Charles G. Morford, married 3 July 1884, Trumbull Co. , Ohio, Ardella M. Croft, of Liberty; "J" (female), born 13 Dec. 1903; daughter of Charles & Alfreda Morford of Hickory, Pa.; George Washington Morford, born April 1852 in Kentucky (what town and county?); died about 1910; married about 1884/5 (where?) Anna or Hannah Townsend, born October 1858.

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

## DESCENDANTS OF CIVIL WAR SOLDIER, JOHN W. MORFORD, 1821-1875

His children:

MARTHA JANE MORFORD	1847-1931, married Joseph G. Davis 1841-1917
FREDERICK MORFORD	1849-1915, married Emily Annis (Vroman) Coots 1849-1917
ABIGAIL MORFORD	1853-1933, married Charles William Randall 1840-1926
MARGARET MORFORD	1858-1941, married Gilbert Royal Adams 1853-1927
JOHN WESLEY MORFORD	1861-1946, md 1, Mary Jones c1865-87; 2, Jane Catherine Irish

His grandchildren:

MARY ELLA DAVIS	1867-19__ , md 1, _____ Owens; 2, _____ Brown; 3, _____ Glenn
MILO FRANCIS DAVIS	1869-1940, md 1, Daisy Bell Almire 2, Pearl Jones
OLIVER HOMER DAVIS	1872-1949
MAHALA MAY DAVIS	1876-1939, married Ewing Stevenson 1872-1941
MATILDA FLORENCE DAVIS	1878-1918
MARTHA JOSIE DAVIS	1881-1921, married _____ Johnson
JESSE E. DAVIS	1883-1904
PEARL M. DAVIS	1885-19__ , married _____ Ames
PERRY DAVIS	1885-19__-, married Sarah _____
MARY JANE A MORFORD	1870-1955, married Adam A. Schlasman c1861-19
EMORY ANDERSON MORFORD	1877-1937, married Rozella Hannah Siebert 187-6--1954
JESSE BLAINE MORFORD	1884-1967, married Addie Pearl Clark 1888-1975

LOTTIE RANDALL	1870-1934, married Robert Vickers, c1842-1932
ALDA MILLIE RANDALL	1872-1937, married Harvey M. Smethers
JAMES RANDALL	1875-19__ , married Bessie James 18 -1966
GRANVILLE CLIFFORD RANDALL	1877-19~4_9, married Effie LuElla Anderson 1881-cl964
VIOLA RANDALL	1879-1959, married Fred Arthur Huggins 1868-1951
ARTHUR WILLIAM RANDALL	1880-1967, married Pearl Lorene Buck, 1891-
LESTER L. RANDALL	1886-1965, married Amelia Newton 1882-1952

HARLEY JAY ADAMS	1879-1926, married Ella Maud Streib 1884-1977
LENA ADAMS	1884-1942, married Nathan Sumpter 1877-1960
JOSEPHINE ADAMS	1887-1916, married George Nash Ely 1882-1962
GEORGE GROVER ADAMS	1889-1963, married rlaud Emma Hillmon 1894-1980
CHARLES IRA ADAMS	1891-1953, married Ella Louise Hillmon 1896-1945
NELLIE MYRTLE ADAMS	1894-1960, married 1, Charles Leroy Wilcox 1890-1962
ROBERT LLEWELLING ADAMS	1895-1964, married Rosa Maude Grice 1895-1975
BERNICE ADELINE ADAMS	1897- , married Charles W. Hoffman Grabenhorst 1892-1974
CLARENCE DELMER ADAMS	1900-1978, married 1, Marie Anna Collins 1901-1961

ARTHUR WILLIAM MORFORD	1881-1964, married Mary Rose (Stangel) Allain 1882-19__
WILLIAM ARTHUR MORFORD	1883-19__ , married Rosa Genieve Stangel 1893
JOHN R_____ MORFORD	1885-1967, married Erie Iola Cooley 1885-1963
FREDERICK RICHARD MORFORD	1889-1974, married 1, Dora Lavina Davis 1894-1954
WESLEY WALTER MORF6RD	1895-1971, married Laurena Louise Beaudry 1897-1970
OSCAR ALEXANDER MORFORD	1897-1979, married Iona Margaret Ralph 1895-1981
AGNES MAY MORFORD	1899- , md 1, Oda Allen Moore; 2, Calvin E. McCauley
CHARLES EMERY MORFORD	1902-1980, married Kate E. Oldfield 1906-1981
ROY ERNEST MORFORD	1906- , married Delia Mary Langevin 1910
ROBERT HAROLD MORFORD	1907-1965, md 1, Gladys E. Pawson; 3, Sylvia R. (-) Price
DONALD JAMES MORFORD	1910- , married Mable Eileen Woods
CATHERINE JANE MORFORD	1914- , married Floyd A. Bush
HARRY RAY MORFORD	1917-1972, md 1, Grace A. Tucker; 2, Eunice E. _____

DESCENDANTS of the above-named couples are invited to participate in this grave-marker project to honor their Civil War ancestor. Only a dollar from descendants of each of the 41 couples shown above will take care of the cost. Any surplus above the cost will go toward additional research so that MORFORDS OF AMERICA will be as accurate as possible.

## EARLY NEWSPAPERS CHECKED FOR MENTION OF VARIOUS MORFORDS

In reading through a microfilm copy of early issues of the Maysville (Ky) MONITOR in a fruitless attempt to find an obituary of Rachel, the first wife of Major John D. Morford, as well as of the Major himself, several other items of interest were noted.

Frequent lists of undelivered letters remaining in various post offices were published. Among those so listed as of 31 December 1838 appeared the name of THEODORE MOFFORD. In a similar list of letters in the post office at Carlisle, Nicholas County, Ky., dated 31 March 1840, the name of ISAAC MORFORD was included. Another item of interest was a small advertisement, published 20 June 1839 and in several subsequent issues, by "T. Morford and D. Atkinson", a partnership formed to sell ploughs. These ploughs were manufactured under the patent obtained in April 1834 by John Morford [1778-1869], of Maysville, Ky., and later of Lincoln Green, Johnson Co., Ill. The July 1983 MORFORD HISTORIAN had a brief article about this patent.

Lack of obituaries for several persons known to have died in that area within the time period of the papers examined seems to have been due to the fact that such notices had to be paid for and were therefore not included as a matter of news, even though persons of national fame who had recently died were mentioned in the news columns. In vogue at that time was the mailing (or delivery by messenger) of black-bordered announcements by the families themselves, inviting friends to attend the services for the deceased. We have seen many such announcements, and have copies of some, which will be reproduced in facsimile in the appropriate volumes of MORFORDS OF AMERICA. If you have any such mementos for Morfords, we'd appreciate your sending us good xerox copies of them.

## ESSIE LINDSEY, A MORFORD DESCENDANT, HONORED ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY



*ESSIE LINDSEY and AUDREY MORFORD*

A cousin of Essie Lindsey of Alhambra, California, surprised her with a luncheon in Pasadena, on the 26th of January, in honor of Essie's 90th birthday. She is a descendant of Thomas Morford [1773-1815] who came from Maryland to Kentucky by July 1798, with his first wife, Temperance Robinson, who died in 1810. Thomas moved soon to Adams Co., Ohio, where he married second Frances "Fanny" Rachford.

Essie has been a long-time correspondent of the Morford Historian, since some time in the 1950s. Skimming through her letters, it is noteworthy that she was able to recall many names and places from earlier times, and in each instance the Historian

was able to find verification in census and other records which fit perfectly with the names Essie had been able to recall of relatives she hadn't seen or heard from for a good many years, so that an excellent account of the family was made possible. One of her Morford cousins was the late Deputy-Sheriff Garrett A. Morford of Cambria, Calif., who came to visit us while we were living in Seattle. We are still hoping to make contact with Garrett's son, John Garrett Morford, born 1921 in Pittsburgh, or with John's children Michael, Janice and Garrett Jr. (or is he called "3rd"?)- Some years ago John G., who was in the Navy, was living in or near Norfolk, Va. Where is he now?

WE WOULD APPRECIATE your filling out the list on the inside of the MH mailing cover and returning it to us so we may send a sample copy of MORFORD HISTORIAN to each of your non-subscribing relatives. Publication of Vol. I of MORFORDS OF AMERICA is getting closer all the while and we want to be sure every Morford knows about this big project!

## THOMAS MORFORD [1805-1868], ANCESTOR OF A SEATTLE BRANCH OF THE MORFORDS

*An 1889 history of Muscatine County, Iowa, put out by Acme Publishing Company, Chicago, carried a brief account of this family. Except for the misspelling of the surnames of Thomas and his wife, this history is more accurate than most, though quite brief. We have amplified the data to make the record more complete for our Seattle subscribers.*

"THOMAS MONFORD [*sic; should be Morford*], deceased, one of the pioneers of Muscatine County of 1838, was born in Greene County, Pa. in 1805. [*Full birthdate Sept. 16, 1805; he was the 7th child of James and Jane (Kennedy) Morford, founders of what is known as "the Greene Co., Pa. branch" of the Morford family.*]. He was there reared to manhood, and on the 16th day of September, 1828 [*his 23rd birthday*] was united in marriage with Sarah Stoope [*sic; she was daughter of William and Annah (Ogelvie) Stoops*] born 18 June 1810 in Greene Co., Pa. About two [*sic; "seven" is correct*] years later The young couple removed to Rising Sun [*Dearborn Co.*], Indiana, where they resided but a short time [*three years, according to a descendant, Rosalie (Mrs. Lloyd F.) Roten, of Seattle*]. Making the journey by steamer, they landed at Muscatine, then a little hamlet known as Bloomington, on the 7th day of April 1838. In a little log cabin situated on the site of the Ogelvie House they made their home for about a fortnight, during which time a small dwelling was erected on the land which Mr. Monford [*Morford*] had purchased about one mile north of the village. The house being completed, the family then removed to their new home, where they endured all the trials and hardships incident to pioneer life

The children who passed their early lives in that little cabin were eight in number, five of whom are yet living: Cynthia J<sup>1</sup>, born June 29, 1829, was the wife of George Kirkpatrick, and died Aug. 16, 1848; Eliza J., born Nov. 25, 1830, wedded Dr. Fulliam, and her death occurred Nov. 16, 1852; Clarissa, born Aug. 13, 1832, is the wife of Henry Smith, of San [*sic; should be "Santa"*] Rosa, Cal.; Remembrance, born March 16, 1834, is a resident of Washington Territory; William, born March 22, 1837 [*in Dearborn Co., Ind.*] is living in Pottawatomie County, Iowa; Sarah, born July 10, 1840, died Aug. 26, 1843; Mary, born March 29, 1844, is the wife of William H. Reader [*sic; should be "Rider"*] of Muscatine, Iowa; and Thomas J., born Jan. 26, 1852, is living in this county.

On the 12th day of October, 1868, Mr. Monford [*Morford*] departed this life. Frequently for a short time previous to his death he alluded to the subject, always expressing implicit confidence in the Savior, and in the promises of eternal life and happiness. In early youth he had given his heart to God, and for thirty-six years was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, being most of the time Class-Leader of the organization to which he belonged. Earnest and devoted, he was one of the willing workers in his Master's vineyard, and did all in his power to promote the cause of Christ on earth. An enterprising, industrious man, year by year he added to his property, and when death called was able to leave his widow and children in comfortable circumstances.

In all his church labors Mrs. Monford [*Morford*] was his willing assistant, being indeed a helpmate to him. She was one of seven persons who organized the first Methodist Society in Muscatine County. In 1870 she became the wife of Rev. J[ames] B. Hawley and is now living in the old home in which she spent her pioneer days in this county. [*She died 7 December 1897 in Muscatine, Iowa.*]

<sup>1</sup>*Cynthia's middle initial was not "J", her name is given in other records as Cynthia Ann Morford.*

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READERS, please send us all news items you find about MORFORDS, indicating on each such clipping the date of publication, name of paper, and city in which it is published.



## NEWS OF MORFORDS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

DARWIN M. MORFORD, born about 1921 in Valley City, Barnes Cc. , No. Dak. , died 10 Julie 1983 in Tacoma, Pierce Co., Washington. He had been a Tacoma resident since 1961; was a Navy veteran of World War II , and had al so served n the Army. He had been employed as a computer programmer analyst for the State of Washington. Survivors included his wife, the former Ingeborg Muller, and a brother, Roy W. Morford, of California. This is the first Morford in a long time whom we have not been able to identify, so we hope some of our readers will know the names of his parents and inform us so that all of our records may be complete.

MARION F. ARCHER, widow of the late Robert L. Archer who died in 1940, died 24 January 1984 in Warren, Trumbull Co., Ohio, at the age of 94. She was born in Hartford, Trumbull Co., Ohio, 4 March 1889, to Harvey and Emma (Morford) Fowler. Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Roberta Underwood of Warren, with whom she had made her home, and Mrs. Harriet Jane Boye, Howland, Ohio; two sisters, Mrs. Christine Aaron and Miss Julia Fowler, both of Warren; nine grandchildren and 6 great--grandchildren. A son Paul died in 1981, and four brothers also preceded her in death. A 1907 graduate of Hartford High School, she had been the oldest living member of Hartford High Alumni. In 1917 she was graduated from Kent State Normal School, now Kent State University, where shp received her teaching degree. She taught schools for 25 years in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, including schools in Brookfield, Vernon, Orangeville, Youngstown and Coitsville. During the 1930s she taught classes for foreign-born residents in the area who were seeking U. S. citizenship. From 1943 to 1954 she was employed at Packard Electric Division of GMC and later served as a house keeper-companion to several Trumbull County residents. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church of Warren.

MABEL ALMA MORFORD STALNAKER, of Garrison, Pa., widow of the late Walker Fel Stalnaker, to whom she was married in 1928, died 20 March 1984 in a hospital in Clarksburg, W. Va. at the age of 76 years, 10 months and 10 days, having been born 10 May 1906 at Core, Monongalia Co., W. Va. She was a daughter of Oliver Perry Morford, and granddaughter of James Monroe Morford [1843-1928], in whose old home she had been living. He was a grandson of the founder of the Greene Co., Pa. Morfords, James Morford [1766-1839], and his first wife Jane Kennedy. Mabel was, quite probably, the last of the Morfords of Greene County to spend most of her life in that county. She was survived by five children: Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Jennewine), Elsie K., Patricia Susan, Roger Morford Stalnaker and Larry Walker Stalnaker.

RETTA HAGERMAN MORFORD, widow of the late William Ray Morford [1884-1980] died 10 March 1984 at the home of her daughter Wanda Elder in Nichols, Muscatine Co., Iowa, at the age of 91 years, 8 months. She was born 10 July 1892 in Mondamin, Harrison Co., Iowa, to Lyman S. and Martha Ellen (Starkey) (Morford) Hagerman. Married in 1908, she and Ray celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary in December 1979, and Ray's death in October 1980 was just a few weeks before the 72nd anniversary of their marriage. Surviving are two sons, Ward V. Morford of Apache Junction, Ariz., and Louis R. Morford of East Moline Ill.; four daughters: Mable (Mrs. Harry) Moore of Ogden, Utah, Wanda (Mrs. Robert Elder of Nichols, Iowa, Grayce (Mrs. Paul Snyder), of Apache Junction, Ariz., Opal (Mrs. Marion Garrison) of Mesa, Ariz; and 35 grandchildren, 69 great-grandchildren, and 29 great-great-grandchildren. Interment was in the Ogden, Utah cemetery.

A NEW TWIG ON THE FAMILY TREE: NICHOLAS FAY BALMFORTH, 5th son and 6th child of the MORFORD HISTORIAN's daughter and son-in-law, Peggy and David Balmforth, made his late appearance 30 April 1984 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Blame Nicky if the MH is late at 10 pounds 9 ounces he's big enough to shoulder the blame! Welcome to the world, Nicky!

## WHO CAN HELP FIND THE BRACKEN COUNTY TAVERN LICENSES?

Tradition has it that Rachel, the first wife of Maj. John D. Mofford of Bracken County, Ky. , "reaped a fortune" running a tavern during and after the War of 1812. Several requests to the county clerk's office have brought the response that these records are not available. However, during the depression years following World War I , many persons were employed by the WPA in making inventories of courthouse records , and one WPA report indicated that there were several "file boxes" in the Bracken County courthouse containing the tavern licenses and other papers pertaining to the tavern operations and ownership. We know that county clerks' day-to-day work does consume most of their time, and that those file boxes are perhaps stored in some dusty, musty and rather inaccessible area; but we cannot believe that such records would have been destroyed. We hope that some brave soul in the area will dress in his "grubbies" and volunteer (with the clerk's permission, of course) to search the storage areas in the Bracken County courthouse, so that we may document this strong tradition as to Rachel Mofford (or Morford) and her tavern. Who'll volunteer?

ONE OF OUR NEW SUBSCRIBERS, thanks to a gift subscription from Joe Allen Morford, her first cousin once removed, is Tracey Carol Rhodes of Elko, Nevada. She is a descendant of the "Greene County, Pa." Morfords, her line being: Carol Jane (Smith) Rhodes<sup>11</sup> Ethel Clare (Morford) Smith<sup>10</sup> Patrick Hagen Morford<sup>9</sup> John Amyot Morford<sup>8</sup> Isaac Newton Morford<sup>7</sup> James Morford<sup>6</sup> 1766-1839. From that point back to the first Morford or Morfit in the New World the line is believed to be: Daniel<sup>5</sup> Morford 1740-1833, the Revolutionary War soldier who was born in New Jersey; John<sup>4</sup> Morford 1713-1812 of NJ and Pa.; Thomas<sup>3</sup> Morford c1678-1717 of NJ; John<sup>2</sup> Morford c1650-1730 who was probably born in England and who may have come to this continent with the John Morfit (or Morford) who was imported to Maryland from England in 1663.

These earlier generations are all discussed in the MH editor's article which ran in 3 installments in the September 1983, January and April 1984 issues of *GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE OF NEW JERSEY*. For prices of copies, address: Corresponding Secretary, Genealogical Society of N.J., P. O. Box 1291, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER: Here's a report on the Morford "research kitty", as promised in our January issue. Contributors include Mrs. A. C. Baugh, Joan Bungum, Louise Dunn, Ethel Garrison, Esther Gregory and sister; Dorothy Lewis, Gladys Mayenschein, Viola Neeb, Miriam Peterson, and the following Morfords: Andy, Golda, Joe Allen, Mrs. Robt. W., Susan Roberta, Ted Jr. , and Dr. Warren A. & Vivian Morford -- a total of 18 persons who have given \$296. so far. We try to use it to the best advantage, mostly for documentation such as birth and death records, wills, deeds, pension applications. It's unfortunate that many states now charge so much for copies of the vital records that one wonders if the fees are aimed at discouraging genealogists (it CAN'T Cost \$10. to copy a certificate!). However, other states have computerized their vital records and will check them for a nominal fee, and we'll be having some of these done, especially death records as once we know the date we can write to the newspapers for obituaries .... The latest edition of the LDS International Genealogical Index will soon be available



for searching, and is said to have 8 million more names than the last edition, so we'll soon be checking all the states and England for Morfords and related surnames. . . . Keep working on those individual family histories -- even a brief sentence or two will make MORFORDS OF AMERICA more informative and interesting! ..... Please use the mailing cover to send us names of relatives who might like to subscribe to the Historian. (Be sure to leave your mailing label on the other side!)

**Enid**