

Morford Historian

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

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WHO WAS THIS "MR. MORFORD" WHO CAME TO OREGON FROM TEXAS BY COVERED WAGON?

JUST NINETY-NINE YEARS AGO this month, an intrepid group of Texans left their homes in Wise County, Texas, to travel by wagon train to Washington Territory. Among the party was a Mr. Morford, whose given name was not mentioned in a diary of the trip published in the Bulletin of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society beginning in March 1959. We hope that one of our readers may recognize the story of this trek as one fitting into known traditions of his own family. An attempt to identify him in the 1880 census enumeration of Wise County was unsuccessful.

Mrs. Travis Manning, the diarist, began her account on April 16, 1883, when the group, with their 23 wagons, met at "Bro. Chance's" for a last farewell visit with friends and neighbors. On their second day out they passed through two small towns, Sunset and Bowie, and on the third day camped on the banks of Belknap Creek in Clay County. The fourth day found them camped outside of Henrietta, on Little Wichita. By this time 24 wagons were in the train, and she wrote "It is almost like a little town when we are in camp." On the 22d, after passing Wichita Falls, she says "We have been traveling through prairie-dog towns all day. I never saw such a sight in my life -- so many of the odd little creatures." On May 27th they camped in Greer County, Oklahoma, just a few miles from the Wichita Mountains, in Indian country, and on the next day 8 Indians came and ate dinner with the travellers. Twenty-one of the group were members of the Church of Christ, and as it was Sunday, they read a chapter in the Testament, had singing and prayer, and took the Lord's Supper, "which we think is our duty in this wild country as well as anywhere else."

Following a cattle trail in rough country, they camped on Big Washita River, a pretty stream, and the men brought in 8 turkeys. Next day the country was even wilder; they crossed the South Canadian River, a mile wide, and dry. "Mr. Davis, one of our company, killed a wolf only a little way from camp We have both vocal and instrumental music every evening after supper; Billy Stone has a violin and Sam Wood an accordion." On Sunday, May 6, they camped on North Canadian River near a small town, Camp Supply, with "some very nice buildings and several Indian huts ... they keep supplies of all kinds for soldiers, and Indians, and for the cattlemen that are scattered over this country." On May 8th they crossed into Kansas, stopping in Ford County. "It is the most windy country I ever saw," the diarist comments. "Everything is so dry, and the grass is so short...it is turning real cold."

Passing through Dodge City, the travellers found a toll bridge across the Arkansas River, but as the charge was 50¢ a wagon, they drove below the bridge and made a safe crossing. One day they saw 20 antelopes. "We can see miles and miles in every direction, not a tree, not a bush in sight ... We have been traveling over bleak, ugly plains until I feel as though if we ever get into timber again I would never want to get out of sight of it while I live," Mrs. Manning wrote. Crossing into Colorado, they camped at Cheyenne Wells, and went through the



town of Arapahoe, camping at Kit Carson, from which they could see Pike's Peak, about, a hundred miles away. Now they were following the railroad, seeing more and more trees, and wildflowers, until they reached Cherry Creek, just outside of Denver. On Saturday, June 2d, they drove through Denver and camped. "It is a scene of magnificence, more so than anything I ever beheld," Mrs. Manning writes, "They have the prettiest gas lights in this place, fixed an wire frames that reach above the most lofty buildings and are an ornament to the town. I never saw anything like them before. It was so light around the camp last night from the lights a mile off, it looked more like moonshine and it was light in our covered wagons."

It was here that some of the company decided to travel by railroad, the rest preferring to continue by wagon, in the belief they might enjoy better health. So bidding each other farewell away out here in a strange land, 11 wagons started on this morning. Bro. Fulton's family, old Mrs. Harris's, Mr. Thurlow's, Mr. Bingman's, Mrs. Davis', Mr. Fruman's, John Coon and Will Prewett are the ones that have gone on, and 13 wagons of us are going up on the cars (our iron horse) tomorrow, and travel by steam nearly 300 miles ... to the end of the R.R. in Idaho at a little place called Shoshonie. The ones going by rail are Bro. Filer's family, Mr. Morford, Arthur and Henry, and Travis and I. They promise to take our whole outfit for \$600. which is a little over \$46. to each wagon, they don't charge anything extra for the passengers."

On June 5th she continues, "Left Denver this morning at 9:45, are running at a rate of 20 miles an hour, passed a little town by the name of Greeley, a beautiful place ... it is now 9:00 p.m. and we are at the town of Cheyenne in Wyoming Territory, 106 miles from Denver." After a 45-minute stop, the train proceeded, reaching Laramie, where a stopover for feeding the stock was necessary. The journey resumed at 3:45 p.m., and they arrived at Rawlins the next morning. "We are among the mountains now all the time, winding to the right and to the left, with fearful looking canyons before us, and it does look as if we might be smashed to atoms any minute, but on we go. Today, about 10 o'clock we passed a large signboard with a big buffalo picture on it and all flowered off nicely and in great big letters was 'The Divide of the Continent'. So I presume we are now on the Pacific slope, and oh! how strange I do feel."

Reaching Granger in Sweetwater County, Wyoming, they had to change to another railroad, the Oregon Short Line. Next day a stop at Soda Springs was scheduled so that the stock might be taken off and fed. "The men all thought they would be safe in getting off to buy some provisions, for we are nearly out of something to eat, but we stopped only a few minutes, and listen! the old engine begins to puff; now we are starting on, scared for fear some of our men are left behind, but here they come. Travis is coming in a run with his arms full and just got on the steps in time. Now we look around to see if anyone is missing. Yes, Bro. Filer, Henry and Tom Morford are left behind, they will have to come on the next train. Bro. Filer has the ticket, or pass, for the whole crowd and we are left without anything to show that we have Paid for our ride. Juliette is almost frantic about Henry, but Mother says she is not going to fret, for Jake is old enough to take care of himself."

Passing Pocatello, Idaho, and crossing the Snake River at American Falls, they reached their destination, Shoshone, where they had to unload and put the wagons together before they could resume their travels; this took nearly all day. Weary, they drove a few yards from the track to camp for the night; made their camp fires and had supper, when the folks they had left at Soda Springs arrived, having found them by seeing the fires. After going on and camping at Malad River ("the most desolate place yet"). two of their party, Mr. Stallings and Joe Bennett, left the group "to get better grass" for their horses. This left them with only eight wagons -- Jake's three, Mr. Thornhill 's one, Mr. Dibble's and Mr. Morford's one, and our three." In a few days they

came into country much more to their liking, with flowers, beautiful streams of clear mountain water, many green trees, and good gardens -- Mountain Home, then through the Boise City valley, with farms of wheat, rye, barley, alfalfa, clover and timothy, and apple orchards. On June 20th they camped on the Malheur River. Crossing the Snake River again, they were in Baker County, Oregon. On Sunday they camped in a little valley "hemmed in by higher mountains than we have ever seen before ... covered with the finest green grass and the prettiest timber I ever looked at -- pine, fir and tamarack, some of the trees nearly 200 feet high." In the next few days they passed Baker City and LaGrande, camping on Saturday, June 30th, at the edge of a little town called Pendleton in Umatilla County. "This is the greatest wheat country I ever saw, here in this valley we can see hundreds of acres of the yellow grain just ready for the reaper, and our men are talking of stopping a while to help harvest. We caught up with Mr. Stalling and Joe Bennett here in Pendleton. Plenty of Indians and Chinamen here. " On Monday she wrote, "our men have nearly all hired themselves, wagons and teams to help harvest sure enough. Jake's folks, Travis and Arthur are going to work for the same man, his name is Rosenburg and he is a bachelor, lives 5 miles from Pendleton. We hitched up and drove out to his place. He lives in a big barn, has no house, has a little shanty here that has been used for a granary ... we took the beds off our wagons and have to still sleep in them and camp in the yard ... they pay \$2 50 a day for a man and team and board him and horses. They say it will take 4 or 5 weeks to get through with their harvest here and they want us all to stay that long. Henry and Juliette are going to work for a man by the name of Shuttinr in hollowing distance of us."

On Sunday July 8th Mrs. Manning says, "All here at the bachelor's yet ... Mr. Morford is still staying with us, he is going to work for the bachelor. Mr. Dibble is hired to a man about 3 miles from us. Mr. Stalling and Mr. Thornhill are about the same distance from here and are going to work through harvest. Mrs. Thornhill is going to help another woman cook for 20 hands and she gets a dollar a day. So Thornhill and his wife make \$3.50 per day and their family and teams boarded besides, do you not all think that beats Texas for wages? We found several places along the road that were offering \$60. a month for cooks. Joe Bennett's folks have left us again and gone on to Washington Liza thought she could not stand to stop, she wanted to go on and get a final stopping place. They promised to write us."

* * * * *

At this point the diary breaks off, and we do not know whether Mr. Morford ever went on to Washington Territory. There is a record in Umatilla County, Oregon, of the marriage of a Thomas P. Morford, on 28 October 1886, to Martha A. Townsend; and a death record in Washington of a Thomas Lorenzo Morford, born about 1891, who died 8 June 1956 in Spokane, Washington, leaving a widow, Alice. His parents' names were shown as Thomas and Martha (Townsend) Morford. Alice was living at 830 West 4th Ave., Apt. 9, Spokane, in 1958; but the Morford Historian's letter to her met with no response. We hope that some one may have additional information on this Morford family!

WE WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

ARMADER MORFORD, born about 1849 in New York state; living in Albany NY in 1850, with his mother, Mary E. Morford, born about 1823 in New York state.

BARTON MAFFORD, b. ca 1846, Ohio; living with parents Owen and Sarah Mafford, Dist.=2 Ripley, Brown Co., Ohio, 1950. Had brother Chauncey, born ca 1840.

BENJAMIN M0FFORD, who married in 1810, in Franklin Co., Kentucky, Frances Witherspoon.

ANNOUNCEMENT of the opening of the 1910 census records , to be released about April 15, is exciting news for all genealogists. It is hoped that the delays in getting films to the various libraries which will be purchasing them for their patrons use, as well as to the 11 Federal Records Centers (in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Ft. Worth, Kansas City, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia , San Francisco and Seattle) will not be as frustrating as they were for the 1900 census.

The checking of the 1910 census for all MORFORD/MOFFORD and related families' data is to be the final step preparatory to commencing publication of MORFORDS OF AMERICA. It is not difficult to accomplish, but it is time-consuming. For readers who have not done this type of research, it is a two-step process: First, one checks the Soundex index, state by state, noting from the index cards on what page and enumeration district the Morford records appear; then one obtains the appropriate film of the actual census of the county and state indicated, and copies the information shown there. This will include the full names, ages, birthdates, birthplaces of the head of the family, his spouse and children, also birthplaces of the parents of each person; how long the couple has been married, how many children there were of this marriage, and of those, how many are still living; occupations, education, whether a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy; whether their home is owned, mortgaged, or rented; plus two columns for noting whether any family member is blind, or deaf and dumb. Very likely some organizations may print facsimile forms on which the data may be copied just as shown in the actual census.

We'd like to hear from readers close enough to the records centers or libraries such as Ft. Wayne and the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City, that they could spend some time checking these records. To avoid duplication of effort, please check with the Morford Historian so that all our efforts may be coordinated to save time.

MORFORD HISTORIAN SUBSCRIBERS are grouped here, according to their earliest known ancestor. Following each person's name are listed his parent, grandparent and so on; small numerals indicate generation to which each belongs. When a line has not been traced back to one of the two early Morfords of N.J. [John¹ or Thomas¹], we have determined approximate generation of known ancestor. Assuming 26 years to a generation, we deduct a series of 26s from the known date of an ancestor. EXAMPLE: Zebulon Morford [1722-1794] is assumed to have been son of a man born about 1696, and grandson of a man born about 1644, give or take a few years. As the early Morford brothers were adults in the 1670s, they must have been born about 1650-1660; Zebulon therefore must have been of the 3rd generation; Daniel [1740-1833] of the 4th generation, and so on.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS SINCE JANUARY 1982 ISSUE:

DESCENDANT OF CORNELIUS⁴ MORFORD 1741-1825:

Dorcus (Davis) Vowles, Ely NV
*Milo Francis Davis⁹ Martha Jane a (Morford) Davis; John⁷ Morford;
 Frederick⁶ Isaac⁵ Cornelius Sr.⁴*

DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL⁴ MORFORD, SR. 1740-1833:

June T. Beckett, Kettering OH
*Marie Coleman⁹ (Boone) Beckett; Augustus Boone⁸; Mary Frances⁷
 (Morford) Boone; Thomas C.⁶ Morford; Daniel⁵ Daniel⁴ Morford Sr.
Sarah R. Hammel, Indianapolis IN
*Descendant of Thomas Patterson Sr. & Rebecca⁷ (Day) Patterson; Asa Day
 Sr. & Sarah⁷ (Morford) Day; Daniel⁵ Morford; Daniel⁴ Morford Sr.
Charles Irvin Morford, Davenport IA
*Lorraine Irvin¹⁰ Charles Elwood⁹ John William⁸ Reason⁷ Daniel⁶ James⁵
 Danie⁴ Morford Sr.
Malcolm R. Morford, Auburn CA
*Malcolm Marion⁹ Marion Benjamin⁸ Reason⁷ Daniel⁶ James⁵ Daniel⁴
 Morford Sr.****

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN¹ MORFORD c1650-c1730:

Arch Keith Morford, North Liberty IA
*James Byron⁷ John Titus⁶ James⁵ John⁴ Thomas³ Thomas² John¹ Morford
Dean Russell Morford, Monterey CA
*Hazen Harrison⁸ James Byron⁷ John Titus⁶ James⁵ John⁴ Thomas³ Thomas²
 John¹ Morford
Christine L. (Morford) Sutarik, Blue Island IL
*Harry Eugene⁹ Morford; Hazen Harrison⁸ James Byron⁷ John Titus⁶ James⁵
 John⁴ Thomas³ Thomas² John¹ Morford***

DESCENDANT OF JOHN⁶ MORFORD 1784-187 :

James Andrew Morford, Edina MN
George Wilson⁹ Martin Marvin⁸ Jerome⁷ John⁶ Morford

DESCENDANT OF JOHN⁶ MORFORD 179 -1839:

Lynn Ellen Morford, Kankakee IL
*Raymond Scott Jr.¹⁰ Raymond Scott⁹ Edward William⁸ Joseph⁷ John⁶
 Morford*

DESCENDANT OF THOMAS⁴ MORFORD 1737-1820:

Dennis Richard Dean, Charlotte NC
*Dennis Harold Dean⁹; Ida⁸ (Morford) Dean; Napoleon Bonaparte⁷ Morford;
 Robinson⁶ Thomas⁵ Thomas⁴ Morford*

MELVIN LEONE MORFORD, of Oklahoma City in January 1959, may have been the first child born in Oklahoma after it became a state. He was born in Tulsa 18 November 1907, the 5th child and second son of Robert and Mary Marie (Etheridge) Morford, who had come to Oklahoma Territory from Illinois prior to February 1892.

This picture of Melvin appeared in the Oklahoma City TIMES, Friday, 16 January 1959. The Morford Historian wrote the newspaper to learn whether a follow-up story ever appeared; but the files may not have been complete for that period, so the answer was not learned.

Melvin had a daughter, Peggy Ann, born about 1926, who married in 1944, in San Francisco, John Ely Coldwell; there were probably two other daughters, Louise and Shirley, of whom the Historian has no information. We'd like to know where these daughters are now living, and whether Melvin is alive; or when and where he died. His line: Robert⁸ Wesley⁷ Frederick⁶ Isaac⁵ Cornelius⁴ Morford.



FIRST STATE YOUNGSTER? That's the Question Melvin L. Morford, above of 5411/2 SE 10, has wondered about. Morford was born Nov. 18, 1907. Oklahoma was admitted as a state two days earlier. Morford is seeking to learn if he might have been the first baby after statehood.

A CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF MORFORD MARRIAGE RECORDS IN NEW JERSEY PRIOR TO 1800

Aug 18	Burlington	David Morphett	to	Elizabeth Hedger
Feb 18	Monmouth	John Morford		Elizabeth Robins
Sep 25	Monmouth	Thomas Morford		Ann Laurie
Jan 3	Monmouth	Jarrett Morford		Rebeckah Taylor
Apr 4	Monmouth	Mary Morford		Job Throckmorton
Jan 12	Middlesex	Zebulon Morford		Susannah Barton
Apr 20	Monmouth	Thomas Morford		Easter Bound
Mar 9	Monmouth	Hannah Morford		Isaac Covenhoven
Feb 6	Monmouth	Joseph Morford		Sarah Van Kirk
Sep 28	Monmouth	Rebecca Morford		Jeremiah Horner
Nov 2	Monmouth	Catherine Morford		Charles Gordon
Dec 21	Burlington	Cornelius Morford		Esther Bryan
Feb 10	Monmouth	Mary Morford		David Ketcham
Jan 21	Monmouth	Thomas Morford		Sarah Taylor
Jul 24	Burlington	Elizabeth Morford		Joseph Barber
Mar 2	Burlington	Rachel Morford		Henry Barber
Mar 17	Somerset	Stephen Morford		Mary Hambleton
Nov 5	Monmouth	Hester Morford		Geames Bound
Feb 3	Monmouth	Hannah Morford		Matthew Perine

EDITOR'S NOTE: Another marriage bond which is occasionally found listed among MORFORD records is one which appears to indicate an intended marriage between Thomas Morford and the widow, Mary Coulton. it is dated 24 January 1746. In 1973 Edward J. Raser, an Associate Editor of THE GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE OF NEW JERSEY, made a careful examination of the original bond and found it was written in a very strange manner. Apparently Thomas Borden was the groom, although his signature did not appear on the bond where it normally should have been. Mr. Raser believes that Thomas Morford Esr. (Esquire), whose signature does appear on the bond, was probably acting as bondsman along with William Madock, whose name frequently appears as bondsman on other bonds of New Jersey.

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

CORRECTION, PLEASE --- LET'S GET THE RECORD STRAIGHT!

In *THE COX FAMILY IN AMERICA*, by Rev. Henry Miller Cox, 1912, is given a record of ancestry of the Mary Cox who married John Morford [1758-1840], younger of two brothers who established what is called "the Mercer County, Pennsylvania" branch of the Morford family, settling there in the last decade of the 1700s. Unfortunately, the Rev. Cox erred in his identification of Mary Cox's husband, describing him as "John Morford, of Freehold, a saddler and harness maker and a soldier in the Revolutionary War He died in 1817, at which time his wife was still living." Unfortunately, only two parts of this description are correct -- the name John Morford, and the fact that he was a Revolutionary War soldier.

This John Morford was not of Freehold, Monmouth County, N.J., but was of Cranbury, in Middlesex County, N.J., and later of Mercer Co., Pa. He did not die in 1817, but in 1840; and his wife was not living at the time of his death, but had died more than ten years before he did. John Morford, saddler and harness-maker of Freehold, was living there in 1827, with his wife, who was *not* Mary, but Sarah. John the saddler was born in 1747 and was thus 11 years older than John of Cranbury, N.J. and Mercer Co., Pa. [See our article about John the saddler in the January 1982 MORFORD HISTORIAN, p. 67.]

To further distinguish between these two Johns who claimed Revolutionary War service, the Mercer County man is one of only three Morfords presently accepted by the D.A.R. as soldiers upon whose services descendants may join that patriotic society; while John the saddler of Freehold, N.J. was not allowed a pension by the government.

One further statement in the Cox account was that John and Mary (Cox) Morford had a son (name not stated) born in 1783. John Morford and Mary Cox were married 21 December 1780. In the list of their children (believed to have come from Bible records in the possession of Curtis R. Morford, compiler of the 24-page booklet, *HISTORY OF THE MORFORD FAMILY*, published in 1892 at Greenville, Mercer Co., Pa.) we find that they were: Richard, 22 Oct. 1781, Rebecca, 6 Oct. 1785, Thomas, 8 Oct. 1788, Elizabeth, 24 Jan. 1791, James, 17 July 1793, John 22 May 1796, William, 27 Jan. 1799, and Joseph, 1 Aug. 1801. While there was time for another son to have been born in the year 1783, we have faith in the accuracy of the list in the Morford booklet, and believe the Rev. Mr. Cox must have been referring to a different John Morford.

As for a John Morford who died in 1817, there was such a man; he was also of Freehold, but his birthyear was 1750; (not 1747 like the saddler, not 1758 like the John Morford of Middlesex Co., N.J. and Mercer Co., Pa.). His wife's name is said to have been Mary Forman; as of 12 August 1786 they were members of the Yellow Meeting House congregation. [See Stillwell's *NJ MISCELLANY*. IV:13.] If the son credited as born in 1783 to a John and Mary Morford was his, he died before his father did, as John Morford [1750-1817] mentioned no children in his will, just a "kinswoman, Melinda, daughter of James Lloyd".

From time to time as references to Morfords are noted in county histories, we will try to identify them. Mary Jane Steinhagen has sent a xerox of page 25 from *EARLY HISTORY OF WARREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE*, by Will T. Hale, which had this statement: "The father of J. F. Morford was a native of Princeton, N.J. and became a Warren County settler in 1820." "J. F." was Josiah Furman Morford, born 23 April 1799 at Princeton, N.J.; died 27 April 1869 at McMinnville, Warren Co., Tenn. His parents were Zebulon Morford Jr. [1759-1841] and Mary (Denton) Morford [1765-1843]. Josiah's youngest sister, Evelina Belmont Morford [1804-1882] married Robert Locke Weakley of Tennessee 10 April 1823; she died in March 1882 at Smyrna, Rutherford Co., Tennessee.

WAS HE THE EARLIEST MAYOR MORFORD IN AMERICA?

JARRATT MORFORD, who served four terms as Mayor of Bridgeport, Fairfield County, CT., was born 29 March 1817, in Shrewsbury, Monmouth Co., N.J., the youngest of 8 children of George Taylor Morford [1778-1827] and his wife Maria Wardell [1781-1853]. He died 29 June 1887 at Bridgeport, aged 70 years, 3 months. His wife, Anna Eliza, was a daughter of Joseph Annin of Newark, N.J.; she died 28 March 1886, at Bridgeport. Her ancestors are said to have included John Annen, pioneer of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and John Dickinson, one of the founders of Princeton University.

Jarratt's obituary, from the Bridgeport *DAILY STANDARD*, 29 June 1887: "Mr. Jarratt Morford died this morning. He was born in Shrewsbury, N.J., March 29, 1817; when he was 12 years old he entered retail grocery in New York, where he remained 6 years. He came to Bridgeport and entered the service of the late D. H. Sterling, who at that time was a grocer. In 1845 Mr. Morford engaged in business for himself as a member of the firm of Morford & Blackman & Co., wholesale grocers, Philo Hurd being a partner. The large business was subsequently carried on by Morford & Trubee whose business was well known to everyone. He was elected mayor in 1864, 1868, 1870 and 1877, representing the Democratic party. He was director in the Connecticut Bank, vice-president of the Bridgeport hospital, vice-president of the Board of Trade; junior warden of St. John's Church until Trinity Church was founded when he became senior warden, an office held since that parish was organized in 1863 He leaves one son, George."

Jarratt and his wife, their son George (who died 1910 aged 66), George's son Jarratt A. (who died 1934, aged 52) are all buried in Mountain Grove Cemetery, Bridgeport. Esther Morford Knapp, Jarratt's daughter, who died 11 May 1881 at the age of 29, and her daughter Maria M. Knapp who died 11 January 1882 at the age of 10, are also buried in the Morford plot. Two other children who died young were George, born about 1846/7, and Ann E., born about 1848/9, both of whom were enumerated in the 1850 census with their parents, "Jared" Morford, 33, and Ann E., 23, born N.Y. Jarratt's line: *Geo. Taylor*⁷, *Jarratt*⁶, *Geo. Taylor*⁵ *Thomas*⁴ *Jarrat*³ *Thomas*² *Thomas*¹ *Morford*. A brief biography of Jarratt Morford is said to appear in D. Hamilton Hurd's *History of FAIRFIELD CONN.*, 1881, on page 146.

ANOTHER "MAYOR MORFORD"

From the 1910 *HISTORY OF TAMA COUNTY, IOWA*, we have the following biographical sketch: "DR. CORNELIUS MEMMINGER MORFORD has been a successful physician and surgeon of Toledo, Iowa, during the past eighteen years, and he is the present mayor of the city, appointed in March of 1906. He was born in Albia, Iowa, in 1865, and his father, Cornelius 14. Morford, was born in Henry County of this state [sic; but there are ample proofs that his birthplace was in Ohio] and was for many years a miller there, but is now living retired in Glenwood, Missouri. His wife, who was before marriage Miss Mary Bower, died in 1868 [sic; MH records give date as 13 May 1867], when the doctor was but three years old. Her father was from Germany, and was one of the early pioneer residents of Henry county, Iowa, where he farmed. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Morford were two sons and three daughters, and in addition to the doctor they are: Asbury Wilmington, a farmer in Kansas; Mrs. Sarah Ann Group, whose home is in Ames, Iowa; Mrs. Flora Belle Spry, of Mt. Pleasant, and Mrs. Nevada Rebecca Irwin, of Lake City. Dr. Morford attended the schools of Mt. Pleasant, his home for a number of years, and he received his professional training in the medical department of Iowa City College, where he completed the course and graduated in 1890; since then" Dr. he has practiced in Toledo, Iowa. He married Miss Alice Dexter of Toledo; they have one son, Courtney William. "Dr. Morford's line: Cornelius William⁷ William⁶ Cornelius⁵ Cornelius⁴ Morford..

EARLY OBITUARIES OF MORFORDS

We appreciate having clippings, or xeroxed copies, of very early Morford obituaries as they give many good clues to the relatives and locations of the families. In the July 1981 issue we reproduced one of the earliest such obituaries, dated 1812; and we plan to publish at least one old obituary in each issue. Here is a very informative one, not quite so old, which was taken from the Portsmouth, Ohio, *BLADE*, datelined "Scioto-ville, Feb. 2, 1891", transcribed by Library Division, Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio:

"CATHARINE EAKINS, daughter of Thomas and Temperance Morford, was born in Washington County [sic; should be "Washington, Bracken County"] Ky., June 10th, 1808, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. H. Holliday, where she has made her home for some years past. Her death occurred on the 27th day of January 1891, at the age of 82 years, 7 months and 17 days. Her mother died when she was two years old, and her father when she was seven years old, leaving her an orphan in the world. She was married to James M. Eakins in Adams County, March 25th, 1830. Mr. Eakins was well known in this and adjoining counties, having contracted on the canal above your city and was associated in early days in the furnace business with such men as the Ellisons, Culbertsons, Peters, Peebles, Campbells and Lucas. Mr. Eakins died almost 12 years before his worthy wife. Mrs. Eakins was the mother of eight children - 7 boys and 1 girl. Four of the boys and the daughter were at the funeral. Three of the boys died some years since -- Dr. F. R., in Illinois; Dr. E. A., in New York, and Mellville at home. She was the grandmother of 40 children and great-grandmother of 20. She was a faithful member of the M.E. Church for 61 years, and all through sickness, which was paralysis, no one could talk to her without being impressed with the feeling that religion was a glorious treasure in the last hours of life. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Marriott, her pastor in the M.E. Church here, and the burial took place at Powellsville Cemetery. There were 35 of her near relatives at the funeral and quite a large attendance of friends. She was an exception of a wife, a good mother, a whole-hearted Christian and a good neighbor -- one of the few that no harm could be said of, but everything that was good." Her Morford line: *Thomas⁵ Thomas G.⁴ Morford.*]

Readers who have early obituaries or accounts of 50th or 60th wedding anniversary celebrations, are invited to send us copies for publication. Newspapers yellow and Crumble with age; the MH is printed on "Timeless Bond" so should last considerably longer.

SOME OBITUARIES WE'D LIKE TO HAVE:

Major STEPHEN MORFORD [1756-1833], who died 22 April 1833 in Princeton, N.J. The paper in which his obituary appeared was once in the N.J. State Library at Trenton; but about 1978 when we requested to see it, it was reported as missing. Does anyone have a copy?

JAMES MORFORD [1766-1839], founder of the "Greene Co., Pa." branch of Morfords, who died 22 February 1839; buried in Old Tabor Cemetery, Gilmore Twp., Greene Co., Pa. Is there a paper of that area giving information of the death of his first wife, Jane, or Jean, Kennedy, on 3 January 1837 or 1838?

Major JOHN D. MOFFORD, or MORFORD, of Bracken Co., Ky., who died 22 February 1839; he is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Germantown, Ky.

JAMES MORFORD, born 24 December 1790, Ky., who died 7 June 1865, Powersville, Bracken Co., Ky.; buried in Willow Cemetery; and his wife, NANCY (BLACK) MORFORD, who died 6 June 1873; also buried in Willow Cemetery.

SUSANNAH (VanDRUFF) MORFORD, widow of William Morford, died 17 December 1874, Greene Co., Pa., aged 76-9-22; buried in Waychoff Cemetery, Jefferson Twp., Greene Co., Pa.

FREDERICK MORFORD [1788-1851], died between July 8-Aug. 4, Waynesville, DeWitt, Ill.

NEWS OF MORFORDS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

MICHAEL ROBERT MORFORD, 13 year old student at Welch Junior High School in Ames, Iowa, son of Robert Stanley and Sharon Sue (Vance) Morford, was among 180 seventh grade students who worked for three months to complete Family Heritage project, requiring each to write a story about why the family lives in Ames, where they lived before, and why they came to Ames; to locate information and write a brief history of Ames; to describe what life was like when their parents were growing up; to find out why their ancestors came to America and from where they came; to write a family folktale about an ancestor or ancestors; and make a family tree of as many ancestors as possible.

Mike's mother reports on the project: "For Mike, the family tree was the most interesting. One side was easy, since his maternal grandmother Vance has been working on genealogical history of her family for several years. She was delighted to spend several hours with Mike at Thanksgiving providing him with names, dates and stories. Mike's concern was finding information on the Morford side, since our knowledge of family covered only four generations ... with the information in the October MORFORD HISTORIAN, Mike was able to add several more names to his family tree, bringing total direct ancestor count to 100 on his chart. Needless to say he was quite pleased with the result. Our thanks go to the MORFORD HISTORIAN for helping with the project. Mike's line: *Robert Stanley¹¹ George Martin¹⁰ George Wilson⁹ Martin Marvin⁸ Jerome⁷ John⁶ Morford Prob. John & Hannah (?) Morford of Freehold, New Jersey.*

ARCH KEITH and VIVIAN (SMITH) MORFORD have been managers of the Iowa City-Johnson County Senior Center since its opening more than three years ago. This single-story brick retirement home has 35 units, 9 of which are 2-bedroom apartments, and is located about 10 miles from Iowa City, at the north end of Johnson County. Arch's parents, James Byron and Caroline "Callie" (Danford) Morford, were residents of Davis Co., Iowa. Arch and Vivian have four daughters: Aletha Jeanne As. Kenneth Yeries), Janice Marilyn (Mrs. John William Maier), Jane Ann (Mrs. Richard Damian Gent) and Joy Ellen (Mrs. Raymond Joseph Kaefring). Arch's line is: *James Byron⁷ John Titus⁶ James⁵ John⁴ Thomas³ Thomas² John¹ Morford.* We are indebted to Mrs. Ethel L. Garrison, also of Iowa City, for a copy of the SENIOR CENTER POST dated March 1982, which featured an article about the center and the Morfords.



New Twigs on the MORFORD Family Tree

TRAVIS EDWARD MORFORD, born 27 November 1981 at Austin, Texas, to Peter Stephen & Ada Dannielle (Fourton) Morford. Peter's line: *Robert William⁹ Frank Stewart⁸ James Torrence⁷ Joseph⁶ James⁵ Daniel⁴ Morford.*

WILLIAM JOSEPH MORFORD, born 22 January 1982, Bloomington, McLean Co., Ill., to David Lawrence & Michele Ann (Armbrust) Morford. David's line is the same as Peter's, as both are sons of Robert William and Margaret Ann (Cunningham) Morford, Abilene, Texas.

JONATHAN JAY BALMFORTH, born 8 February 1982 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to David Norman & Margaret "Peggy" Louise (Adams) Balmforth of Shelley, Who. He joins three brothers and a sister: Joseph David 1974, Michael Norman 1976, Karina Marie 1977, and Christopher James 1980. Their mother's line: *Harold Lamont Adams¹⁰ Harley Jay Adams⁹ Margaret⁸ (Morford) Adams; John⁷ Morford Frederick⁶ Isaac⁵ Cornelius⁴ Morford.*

MPIE (BRANDENBURG) MORFORD, widow of the late Jesse⁸ Morford [1889-1948], died on 21 March 1981 at Kennedy Heights, Cincinnati, Ohio. There were no children. She was survived by two sisters, Mrs. Mamie Runyan and Fannie Lanter, of Winchester, Ky., and by a brother, J. A. Brandenburg, of Lancaster, Ky. Her husband Jesse was born 29 January 1889 at Powersville, Bracken Co., Ky., and was son of David Valentine⁷ and Ella (Maines) Morford. David's line: *James Ward⁶ James⁵* 1790-1865, whose line may be related to the "Greene Co., Pa." branch of the Morford family.

A FAMILY HISTORY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE JUST "DRY BONES"!

"HOW IS THE FAMILY HISTORY COMING?" This question has been asked by many of our correspondents. As noted on page 74, we want to check the Morfords' 1910 census records as one of our last steps before finalizing the text of volume 1, MORFORDS OF AMERICA. We also need YOUR help, right away, in writing your own personal biographical sketches, as well as those for your parents and grandparents. You know these histories -- we don't! All we have been able to do is to put together the bare bones or skeleton of the family tree, the relationships from the earliest Morford on down to you. True, in some cases we have obituaries (which in a way are brief biographies) of some of the earlier ancestors -- but now we need your own personal recollections of family anecdotes, humorous or sad or inspiring, so that MORFORDS OF AMERICA won't be just a recital of names of Morfords "hatched, matched and dispatched", but a fascinating book which will bring our long-gone ancestors to life and give us insight as to how they lived and what they were.

Start with yourself: Full name, birthdate, birthplace; parents' names; grandparents, too. Mention brothers and sisters, giving their dates and places of birth, names of their spouses and children; tell where they have lived and are living. Who are your uncles and aunts, and where do (or did) they live? Any nicknames in the family? Anyone named for a famous person or an earlier relative? Give some history of each one.

If married, give your spouse's name, birthdate, birthplace, parents' names. When and where were you married? (If more than once, give data of each marriage and spouse; tell whether the marriage ended by death or divorce, and when). Next, your children -- full names, birthdates, places. (Use names of months in all dates; it's hard to tell if 12-1 is 12 Jan. or 1 Dec.!) If your children are married, give all details of date, place, spouse's name, date, birthplace; where living now; names of their children, if any, and so on down to the latest twig on the family tree.

So far, this is basically a "bare bones" record; and we also need biographical details, schooling, occupation, hobbies, travels, special honors, physical appearance, character traits. Write of the special things which have happened; not all of you will have gone across wild country in a covered wagon; but there must be many events which your descendants would love to read about. [What wouldn't most of us give if only our parents and grandparents had written out their life stories! So let's be good parents and grandparents ourselves and give to our descendants the priceless gift of knowing and understanding us better, from our personal histories.]

We can't promise to use all of your history; but we certainly can't include any if you don't write it for us. One favor -- please write (in your Sunday-best handwriting, if you don't type) on one side of the paper only. And we'd like to have pictures of you and of those you write about, preferably copies we can keep. We can copy them and return the originals if you request it -- just let us know.

If each person contributes his own story and biographies of his parents, grandparents, and other close relatives, we can put together a really special history, one that we and our descendants will cherish forever. But -MORFORDS OF AMERICA will be only as good as you descendants help make it! Will you help -- please? I'll be watching my mailbox from now on -- so get busy, NOW, on those biographies!