

Morford Historian

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

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"LITTLE ELIZABETH", ONE OF THE "LITTLE PEOPLE"

MANY YEARS AGO a member of the Morford family, the late Jennie Belle (Seaman) Hill, a daughter of Alonzo T. and Sarilda Belle (Morford) Seaman, and granddaughter of Isaac Newton and Nancy (Summerville) Morford of Maysville, Kentucky, wrote that she had a picture of her cousin, who was a midget, the daughter of Jennie's uncle Samuel Eugene Isaac Morford who died in 1904 in Newport, Campbell County, Kentucky. Our

subscriber, Helen Rudy (Wallingford) Pryor, did some extensive research on this branch of the Morford family, in the course of looking for records of her own family, Wallingford, and we subsequently received a photocopy of the obituary notice for "Little Elizabeth", which included a sketch apparently made from a studio portrait. If any reader happens to have one of the original photographs, we'd like to borrow it so that we may make a copy for reproduction in "MORFORDS OF AMERICA".



Mary Elizabeth Morford
1867 - 1897

The obituary, headlined "HER LIFE CUT SHORT", and subtitled "Little Elizabeth Morford Passes Away"; "Was Twenty-Nine Years Old and Weighed but Fifty Pounds", follows:

"Mary Elizabeth Morford, the midget, who has been exhibited at the various museums throughout the country for a number of years, died at her home, 331 Elm Street, Newport, Wednesday [13 March 1897], after a prolonged illness. The cause of her death was hemorrhage of the lungs. Miss Morford was born in Maysville, Kentucky, twenty-nine years ago, and from her birth she was a curiosity. At the time of her death she weighed but fifty pounds and was only three feet tall. Her parents, with whom she made her home, are still living, and are of the ordinary size. The

funeral will occur from the family residence, Friday." Another obituary, from *THE KENTUCKY POST*, adds a few more details and corrects her height: "SHE IS DEAD. Kentucky's Smallest Woman Passes Away in Newport. Measured 3 feet 4 inches. Was 29 Years Old and Weighed Fifty Pounds. Mary Eliza Morford, daughter of Mr. Samuel Morford, died at her parents' residence, 331 Elm Street, Newport, Wednesday night. Miss Morford was credited with being the smallest woman in the world. She was 29 years of age, three feet four inches in height and tipped the scales at 50 pounds. She had been on exhibition in every large city in the United States. The remains are in charge of Undertaker William H. White."

Little Elizabeth was the first of seven children in the family of Samuel and Ann Eliza (Murphy) Morford, and was born in 1867. Her siblings were: Katie (c. 1869), Johnny (c. 1871), Eugene Samuel Isaac (c. 1873), Mattie (c. 1876), Anna (c. 1878; married 7 May 1897 at Covington, Ky., George Cohen), and James (c. 1880). Samuel's Morford line was: *Isaac Newton Morford⁶ James⁵ John⁴ Zebulon³ John² John¹ Morford.*

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

MORFORDS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

MANY MORFORD NAMES are found in the military rosters of our country showing service in the Revolutionary War, but few Morford descendants have proven their ancestral lineage step by step so as to be eligible for membership in the three patriotic societies known as the D.A.R., the S.A.R., and the C.A.R. -- Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, and Children of the American Revolution.

For many years the only soldier ancestors whose services have been proven were Henry Morfit [1757-1794], mentioned in our January 1983 issue, John Morford [1758-1840], of the "Mercer County, Pa." branch, and Stephen Morford [1756-1833] a son of Zebulon Morford. Recently another name has been added to this elite roster: Thomas Morford [1743-1818], whose first wife, Sarah Taylor, died childless, and whose second wife was Esther Holmes [1738-1823]. Thomas was a Quaker, thus his service was not military, but "patriotic", as he served as a member of the "Committee of Safety" in Shrewsbury, N.J.

Since the earlier days of the D.A.R., rules for proving a line of descent from a Revolutionary War soldier have become more strict. We have been told that anyone desiring to apply for membership based upon the service of Maj. Stephen Morford, for example, could not do so simply by proving where her line connected with those of early members whose ancestor he was, but must document each generation from herself back to the Major very accurately and thoroughly, in order to have the application approved. One of the goals of the Morford Historian is to locate the necessary proofs so that descendants may be able to document their eligibility for membership in any of the three organizations mentioned.

One Revolutionary War soldier we would really like to gather documentation on, is the Daniel Morford [1740-1833] who was born in Woodbridge, Middlesex County, New Jersey, and who moved to the part of Virginia which later became Bracken County, Kentucky; he later went to Brown County, Ohio, where he spent his final years. A lot of record digging will be necessary. We know he had a wife, Rachel, but haven't learned when and where the couple were married, or what her maiden name was; nor do we know when and where she died, or where either of them is buried. Among his known and presumed children are Daniel Jr. [1761-185], John D. [c176 -1840], James [1766-1839], Agnes, Miles [c177 - -1842], Elizabeth (who married 1796 Thomas Selvage), Sarah [1777-1852] who married 1798 James Rice, and probably Jesse, born c1780, who had a wife Ann. Somewhere there may exist an old Bible which would provide much of the proof needed; but where? An obituary of one or more of his children might have given the full name of Daniel's wife, but few exact dates of death are known, and newspapers of appropriate dates are difficult to locate, if they exist. Although we have an exact date and place of death for Daniel, his place of burial has not been located.. The two most likely places are (1) in Brown County, perhaps in Straight Creek Baptist Churchyard, east of Arnheim Center, Franklin Township (where Daniel's daughter Sarah (Morford) Rice was buried in 1852); or (2) perhaps in the old cemetery near Daniel's original Kentucky home, on Locust Creek in Bracken County; but we understand the latter cemetery has been destroyed. [QUESTION: Was any list made of interments in Locust Creek Cemetery before its destruction? and if so, where may such a list be found?]. The Army Adjutant-General's office of each state usually has a record of soldiers buried in that state; but neither of these offices, in Ohio or Kentucky, has any record of Daniel's burial in 1833.

Additional data of Morfords who participated in the Revolutionary War will appear in future issues of MORFORD HISTORIAN.

NOTE: If Your address label shows an expiration date earlier than Dec'83 your renewal is OVERDUE! Mail your check right now so you'll continue to receive MORFORD HISTORIAN!

ONE OF THE MORFORD HISTORIAN'S early correspondents was the late Lawrence Lee Morford, who in November 1958 was living in Galena, Kansas, when he replied to a letter asking for information of his Morford ancestry. He wrote, "I have established in recent years that my great-great-grandfather was John [1794-1883] who with brothers James and Barton spent a good lifetime in the coal smoke of the era in downtown PittsburghI have no data on the American progenitor beyond John Morford, but suspect that Zebulon Morford who married Susanna Barton may have passed the word that Barton would provide a respectable name for a third boy in some later issue, should claimants already be at hand for the Christian names of John and James."



Lawrence Lee Morford
1913 - 1977

Lawrence was, however, mistaken in identifying the John Morford born 1794 as his ancestor. There was such a man in Pittsburgh, but his connection, if any, with this branch of Morfords, has not been determined. He seems to have been sexton of Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh; but his death certificate showed his birthplace as Germany, and did not give his parentage.

Lawrence's great-great-grandfather was John Morford [1778-1869], who was, as Lawrence had surmised, a descendant of Zebulon and Susanna (Barton) Morford. As shown by the family Bible records (now in the possession of James F. Bryan of Carthage, Missouri), John Morford married, in 1810, Mary P. McGalliard [1791-1857]. Their children were: Ann, Eliza (who married W. S. Pickett), Theodore [1816-1882], and Mary, who died in infancy. Theodore Morford and his wife Amelia (Morrison) Morford were Lawrence's great-grandparents; and their son John James Morford [1839-1899] was the Confederate soldier mentioned on page 86 of the July 1982 MORFORD HISTORIAN. He married Serena Ellen Winter. The fifth child of this couple was Alexander Lee Morford, Lawrence's father. Lawrence, Alexander's only son, was born 22 March 1913 in Galena, Kansas.

We are indebted to Lawrence's third cousin, Mrs. Nellie Henderson of Galena, a great-granddaughter of Eliza (Morford) Pickett, for the loan of Lawrence's photograph, and other pictures which will be included in MORFORDS OF AMERICA, as well as for a brief biographical sketch of Lawrence. He was born in Galena, where he graduated with the high school class of 1930. In those days his chief interest was working with radios. He never wasted his spare time, but was an avid reader of every type of book which would add to his education, from the Bible to the dictionary. Lawrence believed that everyone should learn a new word each day. Without any formal college education other than some evening classes he attended, he impressed those meeting him for the first time as an extremely well-educated person.

In 1932, when he was 19, Lawrence received orders to report by June 8, at Indianapolis for military training in the U. S. Naval Reserve. Ten years later he was employed by the procurement division of the War Department, as an inspector at the Emerson Electric Company plant in St. Louis, Mo. By 1951 he was associated with the Engineering Division/Department of the Air Force, at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. After five years he was assigned to the Office of Bureau of Aeronautics, representing the U. S. Navy Department, located at the Allison Engine Division of General Motors Corporation, at Indianapolis.

While living in Indianapolis, Lawrence was visited by his father, and together they visited relatives and friends in Ohio, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania, spending some of their time at the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh to locate information on the earlier generations of the Morford family in that area. They also visited Alexander's home town of Augusta in Bracken County, Kentucky.

In 1954 Lawrence accepted employment as a Contract Specifications Engineer with the

Boeing Company, aircraft manufacturers, in Wichita, Kansas.

Lawrence was talented at writing in the commercial and legal fields; he wrote many political speeches, yet was disinterested in accepting any political office. While living in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he invented numerous items of equipment, writing all of the descriptive information about the equipment. One of his inventions was the Autollator, which he described as a "simple, mobile, gadget-free automatic collating-gathering machine", which was marketed by Southern Specialties Company of Tulsa. In December 1958 one of his letters to the Morford Historian spoke of his having recently demonstrated the Autollator to Boeing-Wichita. Unfortunately, the promotion of the product, to quote Lawrence, "folded at a very illogical and costly time", and he then went back to work at Boeing Engineering, which necessitated a 400-mile drive to his home in Galena each week-end.

After his mother's death, Lawrence started a business called "Morford's Sharp Tools", in Galena. He could fix anything which needed a sharp edge. Then he had time for his love -- CATS. Big, little, old, young, all colors. At the time of his death, which resulted from a massive heart attack, he owned nine grown cats and three families of kittens. One of his cats was named "Talking Tom", and on a snapshot in which he is holding Tom, Lawrence had written, "The intelligent one is the cat!"

Lawrence died on Monday, 4 July 1977, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Kansas City, where he had been a patient two weeks following a three month illness. Very simple funeral services were held July 6th in Galena, Kansas, and burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Galena.

MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE POST OFFICE AT MORFORD, PA.

When the Historian was unable to get a reply from the Postal Service itself about the dates when the now non-existent village of Morford had a post office, a query was sent to one of our favorite publications, the Tri-State Trader. A reader of that weekly paper, Mr. Boyd D. P. Funk, of Republic, Ohio, quoted the following bit of history from a book entitled *PENNSYLVANIA POSTAL HISTORY CATALOG*, by John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr., 1976, published by Quarterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, Mass.: "The postoffice at MORFORD was first established Jan. 20, 1891, with T. S. Gallentine as postmaster. - It was discontinued Oct. 12, 1894, and service was then from Aleppo, Pa. The postoffice at MORFORD was re-established Nov. 16, 1901, and finally discontinued April 30, 1908, with service then from Cameron, W. Va." Although the town still shows on some maps (see page 95 of the October 1982 MORFORD HISTORIAN) it is not presently listed in any of several gazetteers and atlases in the MH editor's collection.

RECORDS "LOST" BY MIS-FILING

ERRORS IN DECIPHERING old handwriting can cause records to become effectively "lost" to a researcher because of being thereafter indexed inaccurately. One case in point was brought out recently by Mrs. Patricia Donaldson of Georgetown, Ohio, who was looking for "Derrough" records. Blanche Derrough, daughter of John and Abigail (Ralston) Derrough, was the first wife of Napoleon Bonaparte "Bony" Morford [1835-1891], and was referred to in her father's nuncupative will made 25 May 1856. In the estate file [Clermont County Docket, p. 209] is a voucher showing that Blanche Mofford, formerly Blanche Derrough, received money; also another voucher whereby Blanch and N. B. Mofford received \$115.09. The record had been indexed under "Donough", instead of "Derrough". Fortunately, Mrs. Donaldson convinced the county clerk that the index should be corrected so others wouldn't have the same problem in finding it. We wonder how many other records are "lost" in this manner? We are reminded of the advice of one of our professional colleagues who suggested that when all else fails, look in the wrong places, for the wrong names, at the wrong times. In this case, it would have worked!

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

ONE OF THE MOST PERSISTENT legends relating to members of the Morford family is the oft-repeated tale that Zebulon and Susanna (Barton) Morford were "born in England" and married there. Neither statement is true, despite the fact that versions of the fable have appeared in Hageman's *HISTORY OF PRINCETON*, Woodward's *HISTORY OF BURLINGTON AND MERCER COUNTIES*, and in several Bible records we have seen or heard about. This misconception probably arose from some long-ago statement that both Zebulon and Susanna were "of English origin". As is usual with family traditions, each generation repeats the story, sometimes with additional embellishments, until it eventually bears only a slight resemblance to the initial statement and the truth.

Other, more reliable traditions indicate that Zebulon was the son of a John Morford of New Jersey who was pastor or deacon of a church in Salem for 50 years. While we have not been able to verify the latter part of this statement, it is thought to have some truth in it, but that the location mentioned may be in error, possibly referring to Bensalem, Pa. As for Susanna, her ancestral line has been carefully researched by Dr. George E. McCracken, F.A.S.G., editor of *THE AMERICAN GENEALOGIST*, and appeared some years ago in the *NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC & GENEALOGICAL REGISTER*, under the title ROGER BARTON OF WESTCHESTER CO., N.Y., the portion relating to Susanna and her parents, Noah and Mary (-) Barton, appearing in Vol. 106:152 and 284:7. Finally, the marriage of Zebulon to Susanna took place, not in England, but in Middlesex Co., N.J., where both lived at that time, by license dated 12 January 1746 [M:44]. Susanna was born in N.Y.

While we're on the subject of Zebulon Morford, it seems appropriate to answer a question received recently as to his political sympathies during the Revolutionary War - "Was he Tory or Patriot?" As Zebulon was 54 years old in 1776, he apparently did not volunteer for military service; but at least three of his sons, Noah, Stephen and Lewis, did serve in the American forces, the first two in the Revolutionary War, the third, being younger, probably in some of the later skirmishes of the 1790 period. Such being the case, it's not likely that Zebulon's viewpoint would differ from his sons'.

NEWS OF MORFORDS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

RONALD ALAN MORFORD, son of William Thomas and Cora Grace (Hughes) Morford, of Natrona Heights, Pa., and Faye Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold M. Evans of New Castle, Del., were married 25 September 1982 at the New Castle United Methodist Church. Faye is a 1966 graduate of William Penn High School, New Castle, and 1968 graduate of Brandywine Junior College, Wilmington, Del., and an employee of Columbia Gas System Service Corporation in Washington, D.C. Ronald, a 1969 graduate of Highland High School, and a 1973 graduate of Pennsylvania State University, earned his master degree at the American University of Washington, D.C. He is a computer system analyst with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington, D.C. His line is: *William Thomas⁹ William Herbert⁸ Alvah Roland⁷ James B. Barton⁵ John⁴ Zebulon³ John² John¹ Morford.*

MRS. MARY ANN (LEONARD) MORFORD of Sheridan, IN, widow of the late Lewis Franklin Morford III [1943-1979], was recently awarded one of 5 scholarships presented to Indiana Vocational Technical College students, by the Service Corps of Retired Executives. Mrs. Morford, before enrolling in computer science class, earned an Associate in Applied Science degree in accounting technology at Ivy Tech. Her husband's line: *Lewis Franklin II¹⁰ Clifton Newman⁹ Lewis Franklin⁸ William Henry⁷ Daniel (1793-1876)⁶ _____⁵ Daniel⁴ John³ John² John¹ Morford.* [Uncertainty exists as to name of the 5th -generation ancestor at this time; when proof is found the MORFORD HISTORIAN will report it.]

HAROLD KENT, 89, of Ocala, FLA., died at Heartland Care Center 29 September 1982 after a long illness. He was a descendant of Cornelius Morford [1741-1825]. Born 26 April

1893 in Madison County, Ohio, he was a son of Albert and Edith (Poling) Kent. He was twice married; his first wife Lena G. preceded him in death 10 June 1972. His second wife, Cleta (Easterday), who was previously married to Luther D. Osborne, survives. She was Harold's second cousin, both being great-grandchildren of Abraham⁷ Morford, whose line was: *Frederick Sr.⁶ Isaac⁵ Cornelius⁴ John³ Thomas² John¹ Morford*. Harold was a retired farmer in the Allen Center area, and former manager of the A.S.C. office. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Marysville, Ohio; held memberships in Harness Horseman Association, Union County Farm Bureau and the Farm Bureau Council. Among survivors are three daughters, Marjorie (Mrs. D. Carl Spain) of Marysville, Ohio; Wahnetta (Mrs. James Hastings), Columbus, Ohio; Connie (Mrs. DeGood) of Warren, Ohio; a son William Kent of Madison, GA., and two stepsons, William Osborne of Detroit and Larry Osborne of Ocala, FLA; also 10 grandchildren, 7 step-grandchildren, 6 great-great grandchildren, and a sister, Mrs. Lena Robinson, Marysville. Buried Oakdale Cem., Ocala.

BESSIE MARDELL (MITCHELL) MORFORD, 80, of 2891 Esquire Drive, Natrona Heights, Pa., died 19 August 1982 in Allegheny Valley Hospital, Natrona Heights. Born 9 December 1901 in Natrona, she was a daughter of Thomas and Anna (Clark) Mitchell, and widow of the late William Herbert Morford⁸ [1895-1972], whose line was: *Alvah Roland⁷ James B.⁶ Barton⁵ John⁴ Zebulon³ John² John¹ Morford*. A Methodist, she belonged to the Senior Citizens Group of Blessed Sacrament Church. Survivors included three daughters, Della (Mrs. Leo) Martinetti, Grace (Mrs. Raymond) Bowser, and Betty (Mrs. Robert) Rose; two sons, William T. Morford and John "Jack" C. Morford; 15 grandchildren and 8 great-great grandchildren. Burial was in Mt. Airy Cemetery, Natrona Heights.

LARRY TOM ARCHIBALD, 17-year old high school student and star basketball player of Augusta, Ky., was killed instantly 9 November 1982 when his car left the highway on Ky. #8, 2 miles west of Augusta and ran into a clump of trees on the left side of the road. His father was the late Larry Archibald who had also been killed in an auto crash on the same highway, in Mason County, Ky. Young Larry's great-grandmother was Maxie (Mofford) Archibald [1905-1978] a granddaughter of George William Morford [1804-50] and Sarah (Wilson) Morford. The line traces back through Daniel Morford Jr. to John¹ Morford of New Jersey.

MARGARET (HOUSTON) MORFORD, 70, of Route 2, Foster, Ky., died 10 February 1983 in Fort Thomas, Ky. She taught in Pendleton County schools for 48 years prior to retirement in 1980, her last assignment being at Northern Elementary School in Butler, teaching 3rd grade. She had taught 27 years at Mt. Auburn, and also at Falmouth, Fisher and Oak Hills schools. She was a member of the D.A.R. and attended Pine Grove United Methodist Church in Pendleton County. She is survived by her husband, Charles V. Morford; a son Ted R. Morford of Frankfort, and a daughter Millie Blades, of Foster, Ky.; also by a step-daughter Lois Ann Miller of Ft. Thomas, 2 step-grandchildren and one step-great-grandchild. Her husband's first wife was Edna A. Pugh, who died in 1936 aged about 41. His Morford line: *August⁸ James Isaiah⁷ George Washington⁶ John⁵ Isaiah⁴ Thomas G.³ John² John¹ Morford*.

DONALD YOUNG MORFORD, 64, died 29 January 1983 at Fort Collins, Colo. Prior to moving to Colorado ten years ago, he operated a poultry farm and hatchery at Marcellus, N.Y. Surviving are his wife, Betty (Cooper) Morford, sons William of Fort Collins, Donald J. of Wisconsin, David D. of Ithaca, Steven P. of Red Feather Lakes, Colo.; daughters Sylvia King of Camillus, N.Y., and Rebecca A. of Fort Collins. He was a brother of William Bly Morford of Central Square, N.Y.; and cousin of Norma Corrice of Central Square, N.Y., Ronald Morford of California, and Doris (Richards) McLaughlin of Florida. His Morford line: *Charles William⁸ Alford Orlando⁷ Joseph William⁶ Rev. Joseph Baker⁵ William⁴ Joseph³ Thomas² Thomas¹ Morford*.

STEVEN P. MORFORD, 24, was killed 17 February 1983 in an automobile accident, less than
(continued on page 118)

THE SURNAME BROWN is not much easier to research than the ubiquitous SMITH family. Our subscriber #1, Joe Allen Morford of Parkersburg, West Virginia, has been trying, for a good many years, to learn the parentage and ancestry of his modestly coifed and decorously garbed great-great-grandmother Elizabeth "Betty" (Brown) Morford, wife of Isaac Newton Morford [1808-1864], of Greene County, Pennsylvania. Census records show her birthplace as Pennsylvania, her birthyear about 1810, and the 1880 census indicated that both of her parents had also been born in Pennsylvania. She died 6 December 1897 in Spring hill Township, Greene Co., Pa., and is buried in the Morford Cemetery, near New Freeport, Pa. The date of her marriage is not known, but as a guess we suggest it may have been early in 1827. A female child whose name has not been learned was born prior to February 1828; the second child was Priscilla, born 23 November 1828. The other children were Susan Jane, 1831, John Amyot, 1835, Joseph and Mary Caroline born in the 1840s, exact dates not learned, and James Leroy, the youngest, born in November 1847. John's middle name of "Amyot" may be a clue to Betty's maternal line, as this is the first appearance of this distinctive middle name in the Morford family.

"Amyot" is of French origin; numerous instances of the name are found in Canadian provinces. Betty may have had a mother, an aunt, a grandmother of this surname, or a female relative who had married into an Amyot family in earlier generations. The surname does not appear in the 1780, 1790 or 1850 indices of Pennsylvania census, or in will records of Greene Co., Pa. We checked the 1850 index and found that out of a total of 4,122 Brown families, only 13 then lived in Greene Co., Pa. It would be helpful to check indices of the 1810 and 1820 Pennsylvania census for Brown families then living in Greene County, as it is likely that Isaac Newton Morford's wife was of a neighboring family. Death records for Greene County start in 1893, but we are not sure whether names of parents of the deceased were included in these early records. Further data will be welcomed by the MORFORD HISTORIAN, as well as by Joe!



*Betty (Brown) Morford
1810 - 1897*

OUR THANKS TO CONTRIBUTORS for their donations toward the English research fund; total in the "kitty" is now \$179. Contributors so far include Mrs. Nita Baugh, Joan Morford Bungum, Louise Dunn, Ethel Garrison, Miriam Peterson, Andy Morford, Gary Morford, Margaret (Mrs. Robt. W.) Morford, and Vivian (Mrs. Warren N.) Morford. If each of our subscribers would send in just a few dollars, the total would be somewhere near the \$500. required. Our only other means of obtaining additional funds for this purpose would be to raise the subscription price of MH to \$10. per year (which is what most other family newsletters charge). We'd rather hold to the \$6.00 subscription rate and ask readers, just this one time, to help out financially on the cost of the English research, so that when we publish the first volume of MORFORDS OF AMERICA, we'll have information as to who our English forbears were, and where they lived. We have decided that contributors will be given a special discount on the cost of their copies of MORFORDS OF AMERICA, in proportion to their contributions to the research fund. So please be generous!

SEVERAL CORRESPONDENTS have asked whether "MEFFORD" and "MOFFORD" spellings refer to the same family. Our considered opinion is that although occasionally a careless scribe might write an "o" so that it looks more like an "e", the MEFFORD family is not related at all to our MORFORD/MOFFORD/MORFIT, etc. families, even though members of both might reside in the same county or even in the same town. We are planning to publish records of a Kentucky family of Meffords (some of whom "spilled over" into Ohio), in a future issue. The progenitor was said to have been born in Germany, and his son, George [1764-1814] was said to have been born "on the ocean". Much research was done on the Mefford family by the late Lula Reed Boss, of Maysville, Ky., who also did quite a bit of Morford research for the Morford Historian a number of years ago, and at that time drew our attention to the fact that Meffords were NOT related to the Moffords.

NEWS OF MORFORDS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS (continued from page 116)

three weeks after the death of his father, Donald Young Morford [see previous obituary on page 116]. He had lived at Red Feather Lakes, Colo. Survivors are his mother, Betty (Cooper) Morford; his wife Paula and son Brandon Kyle Morford, and other relatives as listed in his father's obituary. Born in New York state, Steven moved to Colorado with his parents when he was 14 years of age. He was a salesman for a firm in East Denver; was a certified wild-land firefighter, and captain of Crystal Lakes Fire Department; a member of Red Feather Lions Club.

CATHERINE ANNE MORFORD, daughter of Daniel Leroy and Edna Louise (Shaw) Morford, of El Paso, Texas, recently received her doctoral degree from Northern Illinois University. She received her undergraduate degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and her master's from Indiana University. Catherine's line: *Daniel Leroy*⁸ *Valma Leroy*⁷ *Isaac Newton*⁶ *James*⁵ *Daniel*⁴ *John*³ *Thomas*² *John*¹ *Morford*.

"MORFORD WESTERN ROUNDUP" is the catchy title of an announcement about a family reunion to be held in Kent, Washington, at Jean's Mobile Home Park, 3 August 1983. Chow time is 1:00 p.m.; the recreation hall and swimming hole are reserved for the whole day. While most of those attending will be descendants of Reason Morford [1822-1885], we are sure any other Morfords from near or far who want to come and compare their family records or note their facial resemblances to Reason's kith and kin, will be welcome.

Let the MORFORD HISTORIAN know of any other Morford reunions planned for the summer or fall months, so that announcements may be published in the July issue.

MORE INFORMATION NEEDED

CAN ANY READER identify the persons mentioned in the following three older obituaries which we received recently, and put us in touch with living descendants?

HAROLD MORFORD, 5742 Radnor Road, Indianapolis, IN, died 17 August 1967; memorial services were held 19 August at the All Soul Unitarian Church. Who were his parents?

LOIS ANN (MARTIN) MORFORD, 35, died in November 1972, probably Indianapolis, IN. She was the wife of G. Thomas Morford; was survived by children Debbie, Jackie and Theresa, sisters Mrs. William McAtee, Mrs. Gerald Jahnke, Mrs. Jerry Clifford, and a brother Wm. H. Martin. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. William J. Martin of Harrodsburg, KY.

GLADYS (EISHINGER) MORFORD, 69, of Austin, IN (formerly of Indianapolis), died 10 Apr. 1979, survived by husband William, two sisters, Minnie Brown of Indianapolis, IN. and Marjorie Bowen of Charlestown IN, and a brother Lester Eishinger of Indianapolis, IN. Mrs. Morford lived in Indianapolis 15 years. She retired in 1977 from her job as cook at the Indiana School for the Blind. She was buried in Austin Cemetery.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP in gathering Morford records, there are many sources which would extend our knowledge of the family. County courthouses in areas where the Morfords lived would have records of Morford marriages, divorces, probates, land transactions. Cemetery records, too, are helpful. Sometimes D.A.R. or historical groups have copied grave inscriptions; if not, and you know the location of any Morford graves, why not obtain accurate dates and inscriptions for our files? Local newspapers may be checked for Morford names in the marriage, birth or death columns. If you send clippings, be sure to indicate publication date, name of newspaper and town in which it is published. When your new phone book arrives, check it for any Morford listings, and copy the name, address and phone number and send it to the MORFORD HISTORIAN.

ADDITIONAL DATA DESIRED OF THIS BRANCH OF THE MORFORD FAMILY

HERE'S ANOTHER FAMILY GROUP on which we need readers' help. If you recognize any of the names as persons related to your own Morford family, please let us know additional information missing here, such as dates, locations of birth and deaths, full names, names of spouses and children. We are starting with the earliest known male and his wife. If you know who his brothers and sisters were, or his parents, let us know.

WILLIAM⁷ MORFORD

born 1817 at _____ Mohawk Valley, N.Y.?)
 died 15 Feb 1878, buried in W. Bethany, Genesee Co., N.Y.
 married 4 July 1843 at Alexander, Genesee Co., N.Y.

POLLY NELSON

born 10 Apr 1827, Alexander, Genesee Co., N.Y.
 died 5 Dec 1904, Bethany, Genesee Co., N.Y.
 (dau. of Gilbert Lorenzo & Candice (King) Nelson)

8 children:

Emeline⁸ 1844-1849, d. yng

Lucy⁸ 1847-1849, d. yng

Anna⁸ 1849-1924

m 18 _____ Olswager; had 11 children:

{ Mae M., Emma P., John, Florence A.,
 { Lena C., Anna, Dudley M., Claude,
 { Lucy, Jessie C.

Allan W _____⁸ 1852-1930; had 5 children:
 m c1882 Mary A. McIssac 1863-1939

Georgiana M _____⁹ 1883-_____
 Florence⁹ _____ 1884-_____
 George W _____⁹ 1887-1976; had 2 chil:
 m 19 _____ Harriet F. Jackson
 1. Frances M., m _____ Sears
 2. Robert W., 1917-_____
 m Helen E. Howard
 Harry A _____⁹ 1890-1908
 Mae⁹ _____ - _____

Livona⁸ 1857-_____

William H _____⁸ 1863-1923; had 1 known child:
 m 1882 Jane M. Donnelly

Howard W _____⁹, m 1917 Miriam Rudolph
 1. Elizabeth Jane _____-1977
 m Robert V. Hubbard
 2. Robert H _____
 m Kathryn _____

Eva "Effie"⁸ 1868-1937
 m 1889 Elmer Wait Richardson 1869-1951
 (5 children)

Lyman Richardson 1889-1955
 Clara Richardson 1891-_____
 m 1 Fred Anderson; 2, Charles Gnessa
 Hazel Richardson 1896-1975
 m 1 Ray Simon; 2, John Sullivan
 Madelyn Richardson
 m 1, Clement Geider; 2, William Coffin
 Evelyn Richardson 1907-1971
 m 1927 Arbeau Caillavet

Emma 1868-19_____
 m 18 _____ Willis D _____ Kimball 1863-_____
 (1 child)

_____ Eva Kimball 1895-1964
 m 19 _____ Robert McWithey

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John Milford Morford, Birch Run MI

William Benjamin⁹ John M.⁸ Joseph August⁷ prob. Miles⁶ Daniel⁵ John⁴ Thomas³ John² John¹ Morford

Gary W. Morfitt, Absecon NJ

Leonard Elvin¹⁰ Ivan Clyde⁹ Daniel Jr.⁸ Daniel⁷ Morfitt 1812-1920 & Elizabeth (Boyington) Morfitt. Note that approximate generation numbers have been assigned, computed by the "26 years per generation" rule.

Ruth (Morford) Techman, Leesburg FL

John Henry⁹ Morford, Jr; John Henry Sr⁸ Matthias⁷ John⁶ 1784-_____

State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

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THE EDITOR'S CORNER: For every research problem a genealogist solves, a new problem takes its place:



"Who were his (or her) parents?" But that's the name of the game, and we are grateful for the progress we make and eager to dig a little deeper to extend the boundaries of our knowledge of the early families. Just the exercise of settling down our present knowledge of a line in print sometimes alerts us to an error in judgement, so that we have to "re-think" the problem and tackle it from another angle to get the correct answer. . . . Publication of the chart on page 108 of the January MH brought in some new data, thanks to Raymond Morford of Elm Hall, MI...We hope this month's chart will stir someone's memories and prompt the sending of more new data...as the old Scottish saying goes, :many a nickel makes a much:. Incidentally, there is no charge for publication of these charts, so if you have lost touch with cousins, uncles and aunts, tell us more about your family and we will gladly publish a similar chart for your line; since nearly all of our readers have Morford ancestry, there'll surely be someone who

has the information you need! ... We've received numerous current addresses of the "lost" Morfords listed on page 103 of the January issue. Those who responded were Craig Morford of Woodhaven MI, George E. Morford of Melbourne FL, Dean Morford of Monterey CA, Alice Morford of Topeka KS, Audrey Morford of Alhambra CA, Norman L. Morford of Indianapolis, who sent new Morford listings from a recent telephone book; and Alice Albin, who let us know of the death in 1980 of her brother George Milton Morford of Spokane ... Remember, we need your histories for MORFORDS OF AMERICA; if you need guidelines for writing your personal biographies, send a stamped self-addressed #10 envelope and we'll mail you a helpful check-list to tickle your memories as to what should be included. Hurry, time's a-wasting!

Enid