

Notes on the History and Migration of Myrtle Ann Morgan's Ancestors: (v.3)

Starting with the 1850 census, which was the first time the forms included the names of family members, Myrtle Ann Morgan's great grandfather, Charlie Morgan, is listed in Montgomery County as a farmer at the age of 62. Charlie's wife, Delilah Stewart Morgan, age 60, is also listed with 8 children: Eli, Harriet, Nancy, Anderson, Alex, Ally, Joseph, and George. Next door to Charlie, we found Joseph Morgan and his family are listed. This is probably Charlie's younger brother.

In 1860, we found Charlie and Delilah still in Montgomery County (more specifically Fork Township) with only 2 children still in the home (Harriet and Ally); however, the ages of Charlie and Delilah are listed incorrectly as 60 and 57. There is a Joseph and Moranna Morgan next door, but this is probably Charlie's youngest son, because they are listed as 23 years old. Next to them, we found Alexander Morgan and wife, Elizabeth, are listed with 2 year old Willis, which is Myrtle Ann's father. A Spencer Morgan and family (probably Alexander's older brother) lived on the other side of Charlie and Delilah.

In 1870, our Morgan ancestors are farming in the Eldorado Township, which means that they moved or the district lines changed. (More research needed). Listed by his middle name, Clay and Elizabeth Morgan are listed with 3 sons, Willis, Duncan, and George. A sixth person, Hannah Morgan (age 15), is listed in the house as a 'domestic'. This is probably a niece, but with six brothers, it will be hard to resolve.

The family is still farming in Eldorado Township in 1880, Clay and wife Eliza, with 4 sons, Willis, Joseph, George, and Henry. Joseph Morgan is still the neighbor. The 1890 census records were destroyed in Washington, DC, so our next chance to follow up on the family is in 1900, when we find Alexander & Elizabeth living in the Ophir Township of Montgomery County. Alexander's name is listed as Sandy C. Morgan. Alexander's youngest son, Henry C. Morgan, and his family were living in the same home with Alexander and Elizabeth Morgan. In 1990, Willis has moved to Rowan County, Salisbury Township, and is married to Mary A. Morgan and they have 11 children. In 1910, Willis and Mary have 13 children and Willis' mother Elizabeth is living in the home. Willis is listed as a farmer and most of the children (male and female) are listed as farm laborers. By 1920, Willis is a widower, living on North Boundary Street with 3 of his daughters, Mary Elizabeth, Nellie W. and Jesse Vera. By 1930 Willis Griffin moved to High Point, NC, to live with two of his daughters, Wateree and Bette, and a granddaughter Jean (Wateree's daughter).

Among all the families that we are researching, only the individuals whose ancestors came from Montgomery and Randolph Counties are without German ancestors. In fact, it seems that 100% of their ancestors were from the British Isles. Being from Rowan County, I have always heard about the Great Wagon Road that lead settlers from Pennsylvania to the Piedmont. Apparently there was a different migration trail into Randolph and Montgomery Counties that these English speaking settlers used. Morgan is generally thought to be a Welch surname. There were several very early emigrants to Virginia with this surname: Edmund Morgan arrived in 1623 and George Morgan arrived in 1663.

Additional information is organized under the following surnames:

Coggin, Cranford, Dennis, Hearne, Hopkins, Howard, Smart, Stewart, and Wilson

Coggin- Myrtle Ann Morgan's great-great-great grandmother was Prudence Coggins. We have not determined any connection to Sarah Elizabeth Coggins that was an ancestor of Walter Blaine Thompson but both families have a lot of Montgomery County connections. Sarah Elizabeth Coggins' family was from Virginia. The Coggin surname is generally considered of Welch origin.

Cranford- Both Myrtle Ann Morgan and Walter Blaine Thompson are descendants of this family. Our records show that Leonard Cranford and Mary Hopkins were the first members of this family in North Carolina. They migrated from Calvert County, Maryland to Montgomery County, MD where they were married in 1800. Leonard Cranford's family was in Maryland before 1705. These Cranfords probably came from England.

Dennis- Andrew Dennis (Sr.) was born in Ireland and migrated to Montgomery County, NC, where he lived to be 94 years old.

The following is an excerpt of an article written by David McLean Dennis and published in the Montgomery County Heritage Book (Copyrighted in 1981 by the Genealogical Society of Montgomery County).

The Dennis Family

The First Recorded Dennis Family in America was in 1655. Members of the family booked passage on a sailing ship from a port in southern England and settling in Pennsylvania. Their descendants headed to the Midwest and south. The majority of the family was engaged in farming, trading and crafts associated with this style of living. However, they helped feed and clothe their families by hunting, trapping, and fishing.

There were member of the family in what is now Montgomery County as early as the beginning of the 18th century. The man recognized as the father of the family in Montgomery County, NC was Andrew Dennis who was born in the mid 1730's. He lived most of his life around the Uwharrie and lower Yadkin Rivers. He served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War and in his late 70's went back in service to fight in the War Of 1812. The story has been passed down from generation to generation that his call to service in the War Of 1812 came about when an American Officer and his men saw him skating on the frozen Uwharrie River with a group of young men and boys. His lean frame and suppleness inspired the officer to ask him to join in the nations fight against the British. Andrew joined the Army once more and served until the end of the war. He then returned to his home near the mouth of the Uwharrie River and lived several more years until his death at the age of 94. He is buried in the Old Prospect Church Cemetery located about three miles from Uwharrie near Troy, NC.

Hearne-Myrtle Ann Morgan's grandmother was Susannah Hearne. Our records show that the Hearne family had been in Montgomery for several generations. This Hearne family was of British origin, and had lived in eastern shore Maryland from the 1600's before moving south before 1790.

Hopkins- Mary Hopkins was another one of Myrtle's Montgomery County ancestors that was born in Maryland. Hopkins is considered an English surname.

Smart- The Smart surname is of English origin. The earliest records with this name are found in Suffolk, prior to the Norman Conquest and the arrival of Duke William at Hastings in 1066 AD. One of the first persons with this surname to settle in America was John Smart, who immigrated to Massachusetts in 1635.

Stewart- The Stewart surname with its spelling variations: Steward, Stuart, Stiwerd, and Steuart are very common in England and Scotland. The English Stewarts came from Devonshire, and the Scottish Stewarts came from Oswestry, Stropshire where they were granted lands by William the Conqueror.

Wilson- The Wilson surname is very common in England, Scotland, and Ireland. The earliest Wilson found to have immigrated to America was a John Wilson, who settled in Virginia in 1623.