

Loudoun County, Virginia Records for Thomas Morris & Family

(Many thanks to Jackie Marshall, who started this list)

1800 Personal Property Tax Lists: Loudoun County, Virginia

List B (2 of 3):

Edward Morriss – 1 poll, 2 horses

John Morriss, James Morriss – 2 polls, 5 horses

Robert Morriss – 1 poll, 4 horses

David Morriss, John Morriss – 2 polls, 2 horse

List C (3 of 3):

Neal Morris, Abner Morris – 2 polls, 4 horses

Obed Morris – 1 poll, 1 slave over 16, 2 horses

The 1800 census for most of Virginia has been lost. The 1800 tax lists are a poor substitute. The B list in Loudoun County spells all the names as “Morriss”.

1810 Census: Loudon County, Virginia

page 258: Wm. Morris 20001-20010

page 266: Mahlon Morris 20110-30110 (+1 slave)

page 272: Richd. Morris 40010-21110

page 290: Jno. Morris 22001-10200

page 309: Hannah Hesser 33100-30410 [Widow of Andrew Hesser]

page 277: Amos Fouch 00100-10100

page 278: Thomas Fouch 10201-01001 (+2 slaves) } these two consecutive

page 278: Mary Fouch 00000-01002 (+8 slaves) }

page 288: Jno. Fouch 30101-12110

page 302: Nancy Fouch 00000-11230 (+1 slave)

Thomas Morris was not a head of household in 1810. There is only one male in the 16-25 age category -- if he lived in Loudoun County in a Morris household it was probably in the household of Mahlon Morris (1772-1859). If that unknown male 16-25 is out Thomas Morris, he must have been a brother of Mahlon Morris rather than a son. Mahlon Morris married Catharine Gideon in Loudoun County on 28 April 1801, much too late to have such an old child, but whether she was a first wife or not is unknown.

Interestingly, Mahlon Morris lived in the same vicinity, in Purcellville, and his daughter Cecelia married Jesse Tavenner in 1830; he may have been related in some way to Jonathan Tavenner who married Thomas Morris's daughter a few years later. According to the Virginia Deaths and Burials Index at the Library of

Virginia he died at 81 in 1859. An expanded version of the Index (the accuracy of which is suspect because it was partly sourced from uncorroborated family histories), says that Mahlon Morris's parents were named John and Sarah Morris, and he was born "near Hillsborough" which is about five miles due north of Purcellville. Mahlon Morris is buried in the Ketocin Baptist Church Cemetery in Purcellville with the gravestone dates 27 Feb 1772 – 26 Aug 1859. (The Deaths and Burials Index gives his age at death as 81, putting his birth year closer to 1778, but he gave his age as 78 in the 1850 census.)

William Morris was a Revolutionary soldier who applied for an invalid (pauper's) pension for his service, but clearly he has no children old enough to be Thomas Morris.

1810 Census – All Counties bordering Loudoun with Morris households:
Frederick County, Virginia

Enoch Morris 00010 – 01210

Samuel Morris 41020 – 10110

Frederick County, Maryland

G. Morris 00000-00000 (probably a free negro)

J. Morris 10311 – 10010

Fairfax County, Virginia

Jno. Morris 00001 – 00010 Nehemh. Morris 01201 – 00211

Fauquier County, Virginia

Uriah Morris 02001 – 00210 (very faded)

Washington County, Maryland

William Morris 42010 – 10010

The columns count white males and then females in five age categories; under 10, 10-16, 16-26, 26-45, and over 45.

If the Thomas Morris who married Elizabeth Hall in 1813 in Frederick County, Virginia was living there in 1810 he may have been the second male in the household of Samuel Morris.

No one named Thomas Morris was a head of household anywhere close to northern Virginia. There were only three of them and all were half a state away in Ohio, Rockbridge, and New Kent counties. The only Thomas Morris in Maryland was in Baltimore.

1810 Personal Property Tax List: Loudon County, Virginia

List A:

Mahlon Morris – – – 5

List C: Timothy Taylor, Commissioner

Thomas Fouch & son 1 2 – 7

Amos Fouch 1 – – 2

Mary Fouch	– 3 1 4
Hannah Hesser & John Davis	1 – – 4
James Heaton & son Jonathan	2 4 2 8
Henry Oran & Isaac Fouch	2 – – 2

There are no Morris taxables at all in the third district, even as a taxable of another person. Mahlon Morris is on List A (there are three tax lists altogether) but there is no Thomas Morris anywhere. The 1820 and 1830 censuses suggest that he would have been old enough to be taxable – which means he may have been living in another county.

The numbers following each name represent the things taxed: White males aged 16 and above; Slaves aged 16 and above; Slaves aged 12 to 16; and Horses.

1811 Personal Property Tax List: Loudon County, Virginia

1812 Personal Property Tax List: Loudon County, Virginia

There was no Thomas Morris taxpayer in 1811 or 1812, or in any previous year back to 1800. I did not look at tax lists after 1812.

23 Mar 1813 Marriage: **Thomas Morris** to Elizabeth Hall, daughter of Bennett Hall, in Frederick County, Virginia. [Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940]

Could this possibly be the marriage that produced Lucinda Morris? Frederick County, Virginia at that time bordered Loudoun County to the west.

There is no sign of any other Thomas Morris in either the 1810 or 1820 census in Frederick County or in any of the counties that bordered it.

Dec 1814 **Lucinda Morris** born, according to the 1900 census of Fauquier County, Virginia. Her gravestone, which reads “1814-1901” and calls her Lucy Morris Shacklett, is in the Cool Spring Methodist Cemetery in Delaplane, Fauquier County, Virginia.

Lucy’s age in censuses was generally consistent with this birthdate, her age given as 33, 45, 55, and 64 in the 1850-1800 censuses of Fauquier County. This raises the question of whether Thomas Morris had a marriage before Catherine Fouch. Not all marriage records are preserved, but the only extant marriage record for a Thomas Morris is the one above on 23 March 1813.

27 Oct 1815 Marriage: **Thomas Morris** & Catherine Fouch, in Loudoun County. [Early American Marriages: Virginia to 1850, Jordan R. Dodd et al., online]

1815 Marriage: **Thomas Morris** & Catherine Fouch. [Marriages of Loudoun County, Virginia, 1757-1853, Mary Alice Wertz, p107]

Loudoun County has few actual marriage records, rather it has a large collection of marriage bonds. This record was sourced from the journal of Rev. John Littlejohn, a Methodist Episcopal minister who performed a number of marriages in the area before moving to Kentucky in 1818. Littlejohn apparently was headquartered in Leesburg but rode a circuit as well.

Was Catherine a second wife or did they have a 10-month old baby when they married? Or was Lucinda's birth year off by one?

22 Mar 1816 **Sophronia Morris** born, according to her gravestone in the Arnold Grove Methodist Cemetery in Hillsboro, Loudoun County.

27 Feb 1817 Deed: William Cocking & wife Anne of Washington, DC to Abiel Jenners of Loudoun. Sale of 4 lots on west side of Short Hill: 128a Osburn's Lot, 114 3/4a **Morris'** Lot, 40a wood lot, 70a lot. Wit: Wm. Thornton, James M. Darnam? Recorded 10 June 1817. [Loudoun County Deed Book 2V, p37 abstracted in Index to Loudoun County, Virginia Land Deed Books, 1817-1822, Patricia B. Duncan, p4.]

It isn't clear which Morris this refers to, but the land was several miles north-northwest of Purcellville.

1 Jan 1819 List of unclaimed letters in the Leesburg Post Office: ...**Thomas Morris... Wm. Morris**. [*Genius of Liberty* newspaper, issue of 12 January 1819, page 1.]

The next list of unclaimed letters as of 1 April 1819 did not include a letter to Thomas Morris, but Wm. Morris either had not claimed his letter or had received another unclaimed letter.

6 Mar 1819 Deed: Merrit Tarlton of Leesburg to Macka Tarlton of Leesburg. Trust for debt to Abiel Jenners of Loudoun and James Wood of Leesburg using household items. Witness: Richard H. Lee, Mason Piggot, **Thomas Morris**. Recorded 6 April 1819. [Loudoun County Deed Book 2Y, p2 abstracted in Index to Loudoun County, Virginia Land Deed Books, 1817-1822, Patricia B. Duncan, p90.]

25 Mar 1820 Deed: Noah Hatcher & wife Rachel of Loudoun to **Thomas Morris** of Loudoun, one acre from tract where Hatcher now resides adj. Stacy Taylor, Whitson Birdsall. Wit: Stacy Taylor, Joseph Taylor, Amor. S. Nickols, John White, Craven Osburn. Recorded 14 Apr 1828. Delivered to Morris 19 Sep 1829. [Loudoun County Deed Book 3Q, p151 abstracted in Index to Loudoun County, Virginia Land Deed Books 3N-3V, 1826-1831, Patricia B. Duncan, p82.]

This was apparently the one-acre lot that was sold after the death of Thomas Morris. Thomas Morris apparently set himself up as a tailor in the village that became Purcellville.

1820

Census: Loudoun County, Virginia

page124: Edward Morris 100111 – 00300 – 00 (Leesburg Township)

page142: Maylon Morris 100101 – 23010 – 03 (Middleburg Township)

page143: **Thos. Morris** 000010 – 30010 – 00 (Middleburg Township)

page155: William Morris 011101 – 11101 – 00 (Aldie Township)

page 149: Hannah Hesser 000210 – 21211 – 00 (Waterford Twsp)

*There are no heads of household named **Thomas Morris** in any of the eight counties bordering Loudoun in 1820, so this is clearly our man. The 1820 census for Loudoun was broken into five townships (Aldie, Hillsboro, Leesburg, Middleburg, Waterford and a few people in “no township”). Middleburg and Aldie were on the southern (southwestern) border of the county adjacent Fauquier County and the northwestern portion of Prince William County. However, it appears that Thomas Morris and his neighbors were actually located in Hillsboro Township rather than Middleburg.*

There are eight pages of persons enumerated in Middleburg Township. There are Fouch households in both Middleburg and Aldie.

9 May 1823 Deed: Samuel Hughes & wife Elizabeth of Loudoun to Samuel Beans of Loudoun, sale of 64 acres on south branch of Kittocton Creek adj. Jesse Silcott, _____ Poulson, Thomas Hughes, Amos Beans. Witness: Stacey Taylor, **Thomas Morris**, Isaiah B. Beans, Craven Osburn, John White. Recorded 4 Oct 1823. Delivered to Beans 16 Nov 1844. [Loudoun County Deed Book 3G, p155 abstracted in Index to Loudoun County, Virginia Land Deed Books, 1822-1826, Patricia B. Duncan, p95.]

The South Fork of Catoctin Creek (as it is called on modern maps) runs from the northern part of the Town of Purcellville, across US Route 7, and more or less due north for about two miles before emptying into Cactocin Creek.

10 May 1823 Deed: Samuel Beans & wife Pleasant of Loudoun to Mahlon Taylor of Loudoun. Trust for debt to Samuel Hughes using land on Kittocton Creek conveyed by Hughes. Wit: Stacey Taylor, **Thomas Morris**, Isaiah B. Beans, Craven Osburn, John White. [Loudoun County Deed Book 3G, p54 abstracted in Index to Loudoun County, Virginia Land Deed Books, 1822-1826, Patricia B. Duncan, p86.]

11 Feb 1828 Suit by Andrew Hesser and Thomas Poulton and Lucinda his wife (formerly Lucinda Hesser. Petition states that Andrew Hesser “departed this life some years since” intestate, leaving a tract of land of 156 acres worth less than \$300. Petitioners are two of the children of Andrew Hesser. Defendants are the other children of Andrew Hesser: Margaret (and her husband Thomas James), Elizabeth (and her husband John Davis), Mary (and her husband Samuel Quinn),

Nancy (and her husband **Thomas Morris**), Sarah Hesser “still unmarried”, John Hesser, and David Hesser. The court ordered the property advertised for sale in the *Genius of Liberty* newspaper of Leesburg, Virginia for six weeks beginning on 16 February.

Among the papers in the file is a note from the Sheriff that he had delivered notice of the suit to all the defendants “except **Nancy Morris** who refused to hear it.” [File indexed as Loudoun County Chancery Case 1832-217, Original Case No. M6884]

Andrew Hesser must have died before 1810, as the Hannah Hesser enumerated in the 1810 and 1820 censuses was clearly his widow.

13 Aug 1828 **James Heaton Morris**, son born to **Thomas Morris** and Nancy Hesser [Bible in the possession of Karl Morris of Lubbock, Texas.]

Who was he named for? James Heaton was a doctor from New Jersey and Bucks County, Pennsylvania who moved to Loudoun County after the Revolution and lived in the general area of Purcell’s Store (later called Purcellville). He died in 1824, buried in the same Baptist church cemetery as Mahlon Morris. His son James Heaton Jr., who died two years later in 1826, is also buried there and his grandson James Heaton was only 12 years old in 1828. I can’t help but wonder what relationship might have induced Thomas Morris to honor a dead man by naming his first son James Heaton.

To add to the coincidences, the Kectoctin Baptist Church Cemetery also contains a stone for John Thomas William Heaton (13 May 1810 – 18 January 1862), the son of Dr. James Heaton and Lydia Osborne. John Thomas William Morris was Thomas Morris’s second son.

14 Apr 1829 Bond: Thomas Poulton, **Thomas Morris** and Jas. McIlhany. Bond on Poulton as constable. [Loudoun County Deed Book 3R, p430 abstracted in Index to Loudoun County, Virginia Land Deed Books 3n-3v, 1826-1831, Patricia B. Duncan, p133.]

Thomas Poulton had married Lucinda Hesser in 1822. Thomas Morris was his brother-in-law.

19 Sep 1829 Deed: Mahala Lyder of Loudoun to **Nancy Morris**, wife of **Thomas Morris** of Loudoun, 31 acres, Lot #9 from division of Lewis Lyder dec’d (see Deed Book 3L, p263). Recorded 19 Sep 1829. Delivered to Morris 3 Oct 1836. [Loudoun County Deed Book 3S, p338 abstracted in Index to Loudoun County, Virginia Land Deed Books 3n-3v, 1826-1831, Patricia B. Duncan, p155.]

This was apparently a mortgage deed, judging from the delay in delivering the deed to Nancy Morris.

19 Sep 1829 Deed: **Thomas Morris & wife Nancy** of Loudoun to John Hesser of Loudoun. Undivided interest in real estate of Andrew Hesser dec'd. Wit: Saml. M. Edwards, Jno. J. Mathias. Recorded 19 Sep 1829. [Loudoun County Deed Book 3S, p345 abstracted in Index to Loudoun County, Virginia Land Deed Books 3n-3v, 1826-1831, Patricia B. Duncan, p155.]

More proof that Nancy Morris was the daughter of Andrew Hesser.

4 Dec 1829 **Nancy Morris** a purchaser at the sale of the estate of Robert Orr. Recorded 9 May 1831 [Loudoun County Will Book Abstracts, Books A-Z, Patricia B. Duncan]

1830 Census: Loudoun County, Virginia
page 75: **Thomas Morris** 1000001 – 003111 (Hillsboro Township)
page 81: Mahlon Morris 21100001 – 0012101 (Hillsboro Township)

The "1" in the age 40-50 column for Thomas Morris is hard to spot on the ancestry.com census image. His wife is evidently enumerated in the 30-40 column and the female 20-30 was probably her sister Sarah Hesser. The four younger females are apparently Castara Hesser and the three Morris daughters. The male in the "under 10" column is James Heaton Morris, born 13 August 1828, according to the Bible in the possession of Karl Morris of Lubbock, Texas.

Thomas Morris is three names away from Valentine Purcell, who operated Purcell's Store around which was the village of Purcellville.

The 1830 census for Loudoun is organized by the two parishes, Shelburne and Cameron. Thomas Morris is enumerated in Cameron Parish, but not in Hillsboro town as the Ancestry.com index implies.

23 Apr 1831 Marriage Bond: Jesse Oxley & Sarah Hesser. **Thomas Morris** attests to bride's age, bondsman. [Marriages of Loudoun County, Virginia, 1757-1853, Mary Alice Wertz, p114]

Sarah Hesser was over 21 on 19 September 1829 when she deeded her interest in Andrew Hesser's real estate to David Hesser. Thus she was probably the female aged 20-30 in Thomas Morris's 1830 census household.

26 May 1831 **John Tho[?]** **William Morris**, son born to **Thomas Morris** and Nancy Hesser [Bible in the possession of Karl Morris of Lubbock, Texas.]

He is called John Thomas William Morris in the lawsuits below.

1 Jun 1831 Patent issued to **Thomas Morris** of Brook County, Virginia. 162.79 acres, the SW corner of Section 12, Township 5N, Range 8W of the Ohio River Survey.

[Certificate #2836]

This does not appear to be “our” Thomas Morris, but this item is included here because of the coincidence of the land’s location. This land is in present Noble County, Ohio (it was then in Morgan County) in the southeastern part of Olive Township. The Ohio River Survey township-range designation is not the same as the civil district designation. The upper portion of the survey’s T5-R8 is the southern half of Olive Township. That is, most of the upper half of T5-R8 is in Noble Township and most of the southern half is in Jackson Township. Section 12 is just below the upper right-hand corner of the T-R. This land is slightly west of the little town of South Olive, about a mile or so northwest of Dexter City.

12 Aug 1833 Guardian Bond: John Hesser, guardian of **Lucinda Morris**, **Sophonria Morris**, and **Kesiah Morris**, orphans of **Thomas Morris**, in the amount of \$500. John G. Humphrey his security. [Bond included among the papers in Loudoun County Chancery Case 1845-023, originally case number M2144]

-- Sep 1833 Mortgage Deed: **Nancy Morris** of Loudoun to Charles B. Hamilton and Valentine V. Purcell. Mortgage of household items as security for **Thomas Morris** dec’d. Guardian of a legacy from Aquilla Willett dec’d to daus. Lucinda, Keziah and Sophronia. Wit: Lyman Lane, Sml. Pursell Jr. Recorded 7 Sep 1833 [Deed Book 4B, page 49, abstracted in Index to Loudoun County, Virginia Land Deed Books, 3W-4D, 1831-1835, Patricia B Duncan, p139.]

I have no idea what this means. Need to read the original deed.

15 Sep 1833 **Sarrah** (sic) **Ann Hannah Morris**, daughter born to **Thomas Morris** and Nancy Hesser [Bible in the possession of Karl Morris of Lubbock, Texas.]

Note that she was born after the death of her father. When Thomas Morris died, his widow had a 2-year old, and was pregnant – in addition to the daughters by Thomas Morris’s first marriage. (Whether James, the 5-year old firstborn son was still alive or not, we don’t know.)

10 Mar 1834 Guardian Bond: John Hesser, guardian of **Lucinda Morris**, orphan of **Thomas Morris**, in the amount of \$200. Valentine V. Purcell his security. [Bond included among the papers in Loudoun County Chancery Case 1845-023, originally case number M2144]

I can’t think of a reason why there should be a separate additional bond for Lucinda and not for the other daughters unless she had inherited something from her grandfather Bennett Hall. But there is no indication that was the case. It could also be that there were separate bonds for the other daughters that were not preserved in the case file.

- 11 Apr 1834 Appraisal & Inventory of estate of **Thomas Morris**. Farm & household items valued at \$347.87. Appraisers: Stacy Taylor, Mahlon K. Taylor, and Thomas E. Hatcher. Recorded 11 April 1834. [Loudoun County Will Book X, p39 abstracted in Loudoun County, Virginia Will Book Abstracts, Books A-Z, Dec 1757-Jun 1841, Patricia B. Duncan, p173.]
- ca1834 Estate Sale: Purchasers at sale of **Thomas Morris** personal estate included Nancy Morris, John Hesser, Valentine V. Purcell, Mahlon K. Taylor, Samuel Beans, Thomas Poughlton, and many others. Total sale \$306.95. Recorded 12 January 1835. [Loudoun County Will Book W, page 8 abstracted in Loudoun County, Virginia Will Book Abstracts, Books A-Z, Dec 1757-Jun 1841, Patricia B. Duncan.]
- 11 May 1835 Settlement: Nancy Morris, administrator of **Thomas Morris**, submits her accounting of estate totaling \$337.12. [Loudoun County Will Book W, page 138, abstracted by Duncan]
- 15 Sep 1836 Marriage Bond: Isaiah Beans to **Sophonria Morris**, ward of John Hesser, bm. [Marriages of Loudoun County, Virginia, 1757-1853, Mary Alice Wertz, p10]
- Also reported as: Isaiah Beans to **Sophonria Morris**. Security: John Hesser, guardian of girl. [Loudoun County, Virginia Marriage Bonds, 1762-1850, Aurelia M. Jewell, p71.]

Two different abstracts of the same record.

- 25 Sep 1837 Marriage: Jonathan Tavenner to **Keziah Morris** in Frederick County, Maryland. [Maryland Marriages, 1655-1850 (database on-line)]

Curious that the marriage took place in adjacent Frederick County, Maryland, which was the county immediately north of Loudoun County, Virginia. If Keziah had married in Virginia, she would have needed her guardian's permission since she was not yet 21. I suspect that Maryland permitted women to marry without the permission of a parent or guardian at the age of 18 – and she appears likely to have been exactly 18 at this time.

- 19 Sep 1836 Marriage Bond: Henry Timms to Castara Hesser. Security: John L. Parsons. **Nancy Morris** or Morrison, mother of girl, consented. Witness: John Hesser. [Loudoun County, Virginia Marriage Bonds, 1762-1850, Aurelia M. Jewell, p71.]

This calls Nancy the mother of Castara Hesser. It would be an amazing coincidence if she was the widow of a Hesser – more likely that she bore a daughter before her marriage to Morris. (An illegitimate child would carry the surname of the mother.) Later censuses suggest that Castara was born about 1820. Thomas Morris's 1830 census household apparently included both Sarah Hesser, Nancy's younger sister, and Castara in addition to his three daughters by

the first marriage. John Parsons, the bondsman, married Jane Timms less than three months later.

Henry Timms and Castara moved to Muskingum County, Ohio a year or so later – probably at the same time as Nancy Morris and her other children. They are in the 1840 – 1880 censuses of Muskingum County. Castara’s age was listed as 29 in 1850, 40 in 1860, 49 in 1870, and 60 in 1880.

ca1837 Nancy Morris moves to Muskingum County, Ohio.

Feb 1838 Petition to Loudoun County Court: “**Thomas Morris** died intestate in the County of Loudoun in the year [left blank] leaving a widow named **Nancy Morris** and the following children your oratrixes **Saphronia** married to your orator Isaiah Beans, **Keziah** married to your orator Jonathan Tavener [Keziah being under 21], **Lucinda** and the defendants **John Thomas William Morris** and **Sarah Ann H. Morris** both of whom are infants under the age of 21 years.” **Thomas Morris** died seized of a piece of real property which plaintiffs request be sold and the proceeds divided among the six heirs. [Paper included in file of Loudoun County Chancery Case 1839-031, originally case number M1497]

24 Feb 1838 Isaiah Beans makes oath that the defendants in the case – Nancy Morris, John Thomas William Morris and Sarah Ann H. Morris -- are not residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia. [Paper included in file of Loudoun County Chancery Case 1839-031]

Nancy Morris was still in Loudoun County in September 1836 but had left Virginia sixteen months later. It is likely that her daughter Castara and her husband Henry Timms accompanied them west.

17 Mar 1838 Chancery Suit Heard: At a court in Loudoun County on 17 March 1838 “Isaiah Beans and **Saphronia** his wife, Jonathan Tavener and **Keziah** his wife, the said Keziah being an infant under the age of twenty-one years, who sues by Jonathan Tavener, her next friend, and **Lucinda Morris** against **Nancy Morris, John Thomas William Morris, and Sarah Ann H. Morris**, the two last of whom are infants under the age of twenty-one years.” Defendants “are not inhabitants of this country.” [Newspaper notice in the *Genius of Liberty* of Leesburg published on 7 April 1838 and included in the file indexed as Loudoun County Chancery Case 1839-031]

The case was heard on 9 July 1838. Nancy Morris had failed to answer the summons, but John Hesser had himself appointed as the guardian ad litem for her two minor Morris children. On 15 August 1838 the court ordered that the house and lot were to be sold and the proceeds distributed in equal shares to the six heirs. Thomas W. Edwards was appointed commissioner to execute the decree. The property was sold on 25 August 1838 to Mahlon K. Taylor for \$305. After expenses the sale netted \$290.53 divided into six equal shares of \$48.42 plus

interest from that date.

All three daughters of the first marriage signed their names to the petition.

29 Mar 1838 Marriage: I hereby certify that on the 29th day of March AD 1838 I joined together in marriage John Clymer and **Nancy Morris**. (Signed) Samuel Fox [Muskingum County Marriage Register 1835-1845, page 108.]

This must have been something of a whirlwind courtship. John Clymer had been in Ohio for several years, so Nancy must have met him there. Clymer was in his 60s and probably not interested in more children.

28 July 1838 Newspaper: The newspaper notice of the auction of the **Thomas Morris** property described it as “one Acre of Land, with a comfortable Log Dwelling, a Stable, and Tailor’s Shop thereupon, adjoining the lands of Stacy Taylor’s heirs and others on the North side of Turnpike Road within half a mile of Purcell’s Store.” [Newspaper notice in the *Genius of Liberty* of Leesburg published on 28 July 1838 and included in the file indexed as Loudoun County Chancery Case 1839-031]

The Turnpike Road is now US Route 7. Purcell’s Store was a settlement later renamed Purcellville that grew up around a general store owned by Valentine Purcell. Purcell’s Store was located in central Loudoun County about 8 or so miles west of Leesburg, Virginia (and less than ten miles south of Harper’s Ferry). US Route 7 runs east-west through the town.

The opening of the Leesburg and Snicker’s Gap Turnpike (the “Turnpike Road”) in 1835 probably made the one acre lot much more valuable.

ca Aug 1838 In his (undated) report on the sale of **Thomas Morris**’s property, Thomas W. Edwards reported that “in obedience to said decree I have made inquiry as to the age, constitution and health of **Nancy Morris**, widow of **Thomas Morris** dec’d, and have learned that she is about forty five years of age, of strong constitution and good health.” [Paper included in file of Loudoun County Chancery Case 1839-031]

The 1850 census suggests that Nancy was born about 1795. This item suggests that she was about two years older than that.

5 Sep 1839 Marriage: George W. Shacklett to **Lucinda Morris**, in Frederick County, Virginia. [*Virginia, Marriages, 1740-1850* [database on-line].

One wonders why she married in Frederick County. It might be explained if she was a granddaughter of Bennett Hall. Hall had died in 1822 but his son James was still living in Frederick County.

20 Oct 1839 \$112 paid to George W. Shacklett by John Hesser [line item in Hesser's guardian account dated 12 November 1842 included among the papers in Loudoun County Chancery Case 1845-023, originally case number M2144]

Shacklett had married Lucinda Morris by this date.

20 Jun 1840 John Hesser, guardian ad litem of **John Thomas William Morris** and **Sarah Ann H. Morris**, acknowledged receipt of their share, totaling \$97.30, of the proceeds from the sale of Thomas Morris's house and lot in Loudoun County. [Paper included in file of Loudoun County Chancery Case 1839-031]

1840 Census: Morgan County, Ohio (Olive Township)
John Clymer 011200001 – 0100201

Census: Muskingum County, Ohio
Henry Timms 10001 – 10001

Census: Loudoun County, Virginia
Isaiah Beans 300001 – 10011
Jonathan Tavener 10002 – 10002

Census: Fauquier County, Virginia
George W. Shacklett 100002 – 001111

10 Aug 1840 Isaiah Beans acknowledges receipt of \$45.43½ “due to me and my wife” from the sale of **Thomas Morris**'s house and lot in Loudoun County. In a related paper he is called Isaiah B. Beans. [Papers included in file of Loudoun County Chancery Case 1839-031]

30 Mar 1842 Geo. W. Shacklett acknowledges receipt of \$45.43½ due to **Lucinda Morris** “who has since become my wife” from the sale of a house and lot of **Thomas Morris**. [Paper included in file of Loudoun County Chancery Case 1839-031]

12 Nov 1842 Guardian Account: By John Hesser, guardian of **Sophronia Morris, Keziah Morris, and Lucinda Morris**. Credits amounted to \$335.75, including a \$100 note payment by S. B. T. Caldwell on 6 September 1833 and another \$100 note payment from Richard Duffield on 22 April 1834, and \$38.45 from **Nancy Morris** on 6 October 1833, apparently the orphan's share of other assets of the Morris estate. Another \$44.30 was received from **Nancy Morris** on 4 April 1834. \$21 of additional income was received in 1838 and 1839, apparently from rental of the Morris house, and \$10 was received of Richard Duffield in 1842.

Debits included:

\$50 to Isaiah Beans on 22 December 1835

\$50 to Jonathan Tavener on 25 February 1836

\$112 to George W. Shacklett on 20 October 1842

A side saddle for Sophronia in April and \$20 in September 1836

A variety of small payments to others

[John Hesser's guardian account dated 12 November 1842 included among the papers in Loudoun County Chancery Case 1845-023, originally case number M2144]

This was recorded in Loudoun County Guardian Accounts Book C, page 148 but the original document was included in the Chancery case file. The debits also included 14 days in 1836 "attending to business at Charles Town" at \$1/day plus \$8.54 in other expenses. It is curious that the guardianship required such a lengthy visit to Charles Town. Charles Town was about 12 miles northwest of Thomas Morris's house near Purcellville. It is located across the Loudoun County line in Jefferson County, which is now in West Virginia.

- 15 Nov 1843 Wm. H. Gray, attorney for **Nancy Morris**, was paid her share of \$60.76 (including \$12.34 accrued interest). He apparently deducted his fee of \$25. [Paper included in file of Loudoun County Chancery Case 1839-031]
- 11 May 1844 Guardianship Bond: in Morgan County, Ohio dated 11 May 1844 for John Clymer as guardian of "**Thomas William** and **Sarah Ann Morris**, children of **Thomas Morris**, decd." [Ruth Bowers and Anita Short, Gateway to the West (Clearfield Publishing Company, 1989), Vol. II, p254. This is a bound version of a periodical published from 1967 to 1978. The portion of interest is an abstract of guardian bonds in Morgan County, Ohio.]
- 29 May 1844 Chancery Suit Heard: "...Jonathan Tavener and Keziah his wife, formerly **Keziah Morris**, together with her two sisters **Sophronia alias Sophia**, and **Lucinda** being entitled to a small property as the orphan children of **Thomas Morris** died in the year 1833, a certain John Hesser became the guardian of said orphans in the month of August 1833... and on the 10th day of March in the year 1834 said Keziah being by that time of legal age to choose for herself a guardian & being still sole and unmarried accordingly chose said Hesser as her guardian... said Lucinda has intermarried with a certain George W. Shacklett and said Sophronia has intermarried with a certain Isaiah Beans...

...there came into the hands of said Hesser as guardian aforesaid of said wards, several hundred dollars, proceeds of debts and suits collected, the precise amount of which is unknown... By an account settled [and recorded] in the year 1842... it appears that the sum of \$335.75 principal, came into the hands of said Hesser as guardian aforesaid, and of which sum your orator has received in right of his wife Kesiah only \$50 nor has Kesiah rec'd anything besides..."

Tavener sued Hesser, his securities on the guardian bonds, and the two sisters and their husbands. One of the securities who guaranteed John Hesser's guardian bonds, was Valentine V. Purcell who died in 1837. His administrators (James M. McIlhane and Samuel Purcell Jr.) thus were defendants. The other security,

John G. Humphrey, was reported to have left the state and thus was removed from the suit.

The case was heard on the above date and the court settled the guardianship. The court agreed with the plaintiffs and in January 1845 ordered Hesser and Purcell's administrators to pay the Taveners \$87.05, the Shackletts \$35.90, and the Beans \$39.91, all with interest from 1 November 1842. [Papers included in file of Loudoun County Chancery Case 1845-023, originally case number M2144]

ca1844 Jonathan and **Keziah Tavenner** moved from Virginia to Morgan County, Ohio about 1844 judging from the birthplaces of their children. They are in the 1850-1870 censuses of Meigstown and Keziah is a widow in the 1880 census. Jonathan (1796-1873) is buried in the

A Few Later Records

29 Feb 1852 John Clymer died in Olive Township, in the part of Morgan County that became Noble County in 1851. He is buried in the Olive Cemetery.

1880 Census: the three daughters of Thomas Morris's first marriage all gave their father's place of birth as Virginia.

16 Sep 1885 **Sophronia Morris Beans** died. She was born on 22 March 1816 according to her gravestone in the Arnold Grove Methodist Cemetery in Hillsboro, Loudoun County.

1901 **Lucinda Morris Shacklett** died. She was born in December 1814 according to the 1900 census of Fauquier County, Virginia. Her gravestone, which reads (1814-1901) and calls her Lucy Morris Shacklett, is in the Cool Spring Methodist Cemetery in Delaplane, Fauquier County, Virginia. The Shackletts moved to Fauquier County by 1843 according to the 1845 court case above.

1880 **Keziah Tavenner**, age 59, was head of household in Meigstown, Morgan County Ohio.

Keziah is enumerated as age 30 in the 1850 census, 41 in 1860, and 51 in 1870. Thus we estimate her year of birth as ca1819.