

secret

MORRIS GENEALOGY

JOHN AND MARY MORRIS

William Morris, a resident of Warren, Arkansas, for more than sixty years, was born 20 February 1806 in Fairfield County, South Carolina.

William Morris' parents were John and Mary Morris of Fairfield County, South Carolina. John Morris was a farmer and owned a ferry which crossed the Broad River. He died in 1824, but the estate was not divided until his wife Mary's death in 1839. The following is a verbatim record of John Morris' will.

In the name of God, Amen. I John Moris Sr. of Fairfield Dist. and State of South Carolina being of sound and disposing mind and memory, but weak in body, and calling to mind the uncertainty of life, and being desirous to dispose of all such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with do make and ordain this my last will, in manner following That is to say, I desire that a sufficiency of my personal estate be sold to pay all my just debts and funeral expenses all the remaining part of my real and personal property to continue with my beloved wife Mary Moris during her natural life or widowhood for the support of her and such of my children as may remain with her, and at her death to be sold and the money arising from said sales to be decided amongst my children and the heirs of their bodys share and share alike, except the share of my daughter Lucretia now the wife of John Fenley which share I wish to be for the use and benefit of my daughter Lucretia and the heirs of her body forever, to be distributed to her and the heirs of her body at the discretion of my Administrators herein after mentioned. But if my wife should marry then I wish my property real as well as personal to be sold and the moneys arising from said sales to be divided between Mary Moris my wife and my children herein after mentioned with the exception of the above excepted Lucretia, that is to say, Lucy, Elizabeth, Robert, John, Lucretia, James, William, Mary, Elisha, Isaac, Ephraim. First my wife drawing one third part and the remaining two thirds to be equally divided amongst my children above mentioned share and share alike. And lastly I do constitute and appoint my wife executrix during her widowhood and my friends Kellis Nevitt and David Montgomery executors of this my last will and testament by me heretofore made in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this thirteenth day of Nov. in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twenty three.

Recorded in Will Book #8, Page 266

Recorded July 20, 1824
Apt #26 File 378

William Morris Warren gave his power of attorney to his father-in-law William Lewis, also of Warren, to act on his behalf in Fairfield County. In 1843, William Lewis received \$850 as dividend of the Morris estate. The final settlement for each Morris heir was \$1285.08.

The following is a list at the appraisal of the goods and chattels of John Morris, deceased, on 17 June, 1839.

1 clock
1 cupboard and contents
beans
lot of glassware and pitcher
1 half dozen Windsor chairs
1 half dozen framed chairs
1 pair fire irons
1 coffee mill
7 pewter basins
2 large bowls and 1 stone pitcher
2 brass candlesticks and old tin
1 pair smoothing irons
1 shot gun
4 tables
2 large wheels
3 pair cards and clock reel
1 pair stillards (steelyards)
2 trays and rolling pin
3 bedstead bed and furniture
1 bedstead beds and bolster
1 bedstead bed bolster and cot
one bedstead bed bolster and pillow
4 counterpins
10 shoats
3 pair balances
3 quilts
6 blankets
4 quilts
1 large chest
3 old trunks
1 pair fire irons
3 boxes
1 box and sundries
1 lot spun cotton
3 knight pots
1 pair sheep shears
1 lot wool baskets and sundries
1 barrel and feathers
10 old barrels
4 jugs and 2 jugs

1 lot old books
 2 sythes and cradles
 1 spool wheel and swifts
 1 pair roof works
 8 raw hides and 1 barrel
 1 looking glass 1 slate and brush
 1 lot of peas
 1 hogshead and 3 barrels
 4 jars
 4 large gourds
 3 barrels
 1 loom and shuttles
 2 handsaws augers drawing knife and hooks
 1 lot water vessels
 1 lot cooking utensils
 1 sifter and waiter
 6 weeding hoes
 1 grindstone
 4 club axes and 2 wedges
 1 gig and harness
 1 wagon and harness
 1 mule
 1 bay mare
 1 grey mare
 1 sorrell filly
 32 heads of hog
 1 bull
 1 broken horned cow
 1 black cow
 1 red cow white-faced
 1 small cow white-faced
 1 heifer
 1 black steer and heifer
 4 calves
 6 negro boys Charles, Reuben, Daniel, Harry, Thomas, and Jeremiah
 1 negro girl Sarah
 1 side saddle
 217.5 acres land

At the estate sale in 1839, John Dawkins was one of the largest buyers. He bought 142.5 acres of lands, and James Lyles bought 75 acres. There was a free blackman by the name of Reason Collins who bought corn. It appears they tried to keep some special family things within the family, including the slaves:

James Beard (daughter Lucy's husband) bought a large pitcher, the family Bible, a pair of smoothing irons, 1 lot crockery, 2 counterpins, a night pot, 2 horses, and 2 plow gears.

Isaac Morris bought 1 lot of windsor chairs, 1 counterpin, 2

negro boys Jerry and Daniel

John Morris Jr. bought negro boys Thomas and Charles

Ephraim Morris bought negro boy Reuben

Elisha Morris bought 1 counterpin, 5 tablecloths, 1 toilet and glass, 1 foot stool, 2 night pots, 1 barrel of salt, 28 lbs. flour, 1 lot soap, 97 bushels of corn, 2801 lbs. fodder and 1 negro boy Harry.

According to John Morris' will, his children were:

Lucy married James Beard

Elizabeth married Benjamin Nevitt

Robert (died after 1824 but before 1839)

John

Lucretia married John Fenley and moved to Troup County, Georgia

James

William married Eleanor Lewis and moved to Bradley County, Arkansas

Mary

Elisha

Isaac married Susan E. Harrison

Ephraim

The only Morris heir I could find in the Fairfield County census of 1850 was Isaac Morris. (p. 208)

Isaac Morris	37 years	Planter
Susan A.	30	
Robert W.	11	
Francis E.	8	
Mary L.	7	
Sarah	5	
James W.	3 months	

Fairfield County 1860 Census, p. 260

Isaac Morris	47 years	\$6000 real estate
Susan E.	40	\$15,315 personal estate
Robert	22	
Mary L.	17	
Sallie L.	15	
William J.	10	
John C.	8	
Susan C.	4	

According to a newspaper obituary of October 1887, John C. Morris, son of Isaac Morris, died suddenly at his home near

Dawkins. He was living with his sister Mary Morris, who was to be married the next day to the Rev. B.F. Corley.

Dawkins was a small community on the Broad River where John Morris operated a ferry. It was called Dawkins because John Dawkins bought the land and ferry from the Morris'. According to "Names in South Carolina", published at the Department of English, University of South Carolina, Winter 1983, p. 35:

"Located near the mouth of Pole Creek, Nettersville's Ferry was sold to Philip Pearson in 1808 and chartered as Pearson's Ferry until its sale to John Morris in 1814. Morris' Ferry received a 7 year charter from the General Assembly in 1814 and appears in Mills Atlas. No record of Morris petitioning the legislature to recharter the ferry exists, and since Morris died in 1823, it is probable that the old ferry site was not in use for a number of years. After the death of Morris' widow in 1839, the property on Pole Creek and the Broad River was sold to Col. John Dawkins."

I have not been able to conclusively name the father of John Morris, but it is probable that Thomas Morris, deceased 1798, was his father. The will reads as follows:

"In the Name of God Amen. I Thomas Morris, of the State of South Carolina and County of Chester, tho weak in body yet of perfect sense and memory, do declare this to be my last will and Testament. I first bequeath my Soul to Almighty God from whom I received it and my body to the grave to be buried at the discretion of my friends. I likewise give and bequeath unto my first born sons, to wit, John Garrot and William Morris and to my grandson John, son of Thomas Morris, one shilling sterling a piece. I likewise give and bequeath unto the heirs of Callron Morris and to Elizabeth, Sarah and Mary Morris one shilling sterling apiece. I give and bequeath to my son Richard Morris one third of a tract of land containing three hundred acres called the Poplar Springs divided by a line from East to West one hundred acres at the lower end. Likewise, I give unto my son James Morris one hundred acres of land of the same tract joining to James with the plantation. I give and bequeath to my son Jacob Morris the remainder of the said tract of land. I give likewise unto my son Thomas Morris the tract of land which I bought from William Roden. I give and bequeath to my son Joseph Morris one hundred acres of land at the lower end of my manor plantation. I give and bequeath to my son Lewis Morris the remainder of my manor plantation and after our death the Mill. But if any of my sons should die unmarried their part shall equally be divided amongst the sons of my last wife. I likewise give and bequeath unto my daughter; to wit, Ann, Margaret, and Margritt

one cow and calf and one feather bed and furniture a piece at the day of marriage. And to my unborn child, I give on condition if it be a son his part to be equal with his brothers. If it be a daughter equal with her sisters. I likewise give and bequeath unto my loving wife the Mill and Plantation with all the remainder of my household goods and both horses and cattle, sheep and hogs together with all my working tools during her life. I likewise leave to be executors with my loving wife Ann Morris, Hennery Ray and Robert Tindol. This given under my hand and seal in the year 1787, June 25.

Probated March 1798

Recorded in Book A page 37

Apartment No. 43

Package #685

John Morris and his wife Mary had many land transactions in Chester County, including one found in Book A page 461 which states "John Morris and Mary his wife being the legal heirs of Thomas Morris, deceased and having full right and claim to the said three hundred and fifty acres of land by heirship do for the sum of one hundred pounds sterling paid by the said Benjamin Morris have sold a tract of land..."

The Thomas Morris whose will was recorded above was born about 1720 in Spotsylvania, Virginia. He married Elizabeth Greshon and had children:

John Morris (perhaps the John Morris recorded above)

Garrot Morris

William Morris (30 Oct. 1755-15 Nov. 1830) married Sarah Terry and died in Cedar Grove, Dekalb, Georgia

Thomas Morris

Thomas Morris married a second time to a woman named Anne and had 9 other children listed in the will. All are unknown to me.

WILLIAM AND ELEANOR LEWIS MORRIS

William Morris, son of John Morris of Fairfield County, South Carolina, married Eleanor Lewis of Chester County, South Carolina, on 25 June 1835. They married in Montgomery County, Alabama. Shortly after their marriage, they traveled to Bradley County, Arkansas along with Eleanor's parents, William and Nancy Thomas Lewis, and Eleanor's brother, Anderson Thomas Lewis. They arrived in Warren on 15 April 1836.

According to family tradition, Eleanor was educated in a female seminary in Charleston, SC and taught school in her home in Warren, AR. She had red hair and a fiery temper. She was an excellent horsewoman. She broke her hip shortly before her death,