

William Wallace Morgan Files

Biographical Information from a Relative

William Wallace MORGAN

son of Lewis Howell MORGAN and Elizabeth Haskell FREEMAN

born: 28 Jan. 1832, Vevay, Switzerland Co., Indiana

first marriage: 13 Apr. 1853, Clark Co., Indiana

Marriage No. 1: Sarah E. ALLEN, died at age 21, on 19 June 1854,
Henryville, Clark Co., Indiana;

1 child: Imogen "Emma" MORGAN, born 2 Jan. 1854, Henryville

Marriage No. 2: Martha COVERT 24 Nov. 1859, Clark Co., Indiana

1 child: Charles B. "Charlie" MORGAN, born 26 Sept. 1861, Henryville

WW Morgan is a direct line descendant of two Mayflower Compact signers, John HOWLAND and Richard WARREN through his mother Elizabeth Haskell FREEMAN. Elizabeth's parents were Charles Bruce FREEMAN and Elizabeth Haskell who migrated from southeastern Massachusetts to Indiana during a five-year journey 1813-1818.

Extract from a Book being written by a family member

Lewis Howell Morgan was born on Oct. 25, 1809, in Clermont County, Ohio. When he was eighteen years old, Lewis bought land south of Braytown, in Craig Township, Switzerland County, Indiana, at the intersection of Green Valley and Patton Hollow Roads. He paid \$45. for this land.

On Apr. 2, 1829, Lewis took Elizabeth Haskell Freeman as his bride. The wedding was performed by a Justice of the Peace in the Switzerland County town of Vevay. Both parents of the twenty-year-old groom and the seventeen-year-old bride gave their consent.

The couple's first three children: Job (a machinist/carriage maker/school teacher/lumberman), our ancestor William Wallace, and Delilah were born in Switzerland County.

About 1835, Lewis and Elizabeth moved their family across the Ohio River to Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky. They lived on the corner of 8th and Market Street in the city. Elizabeth gave birth to her four youngest children while living there: Martha, Emily (she and Martha died at one year of age), Emmor "Em" (Emily's twin), and Luke. Lewis was a blacksmith, however, he also built and ran a sawmill in Clark County, Indiana.

The Morgan's maintained homes in both Louisville, their primary residence, and in Clark County, Indiana. Throughout the 1840's and 50's, Lewis and his sons were back and forth across the Ohio River, every few days. One of them was always working at the sawmill.

On the evening of April 13, 1853, Will Morgan married a beautiful 20-year-old school teacher by the name of Sarah Allen. She was the daughter of James Allen and Mary McBride.

The young couple had a daughter, Imogen, on Jan. 2, 1854, in Henryville, Clark County. When the baby was just five months old, Sarah passed away.

The 22-year-old single father buried his young wife at Mt. Zion Cemetery in Henryville. Will's baby girl, our ancestor, was taken in by her mother's family, although she spent quite a bit of time with her Morgan grandparents, also.

Will was a blacksmith, like his father, but he also worked at the family saw/gristmill and farmed. He began keeping a journal in December, 1856. In it Will talked about the day-to-day events in his life, such as hauling logs with a team of oxen to the mill and then sawing the logs into lumber. But, his little Imogen was never far from his mind. One of the first things Will described in his journal was the letter he wrote his daughter while she was living in Louisville.

Going to church services at Mt. Zion Methodist Church was one way Will went about meeting nice young ladies. He enjoyed singing and got to do that at church, also. Will started escorting a young woman named Martha Covert to church that December.

On Jan. 1, 1857, Will went to a New Years [sic] party with other young people his age. This very handsome young man enjoyed spending time with this friends and family. He even threw himself a 25th birthday party that year inviting his guests using formal hand-written invitations.

By this time, three years after he lost his wife, Will only mentioned her on the anniversaries of their wedding and her death. He said that the time went by fast when he stayed busy. Will often mentioned his frequent visits to "Mother Allen's" to see Imogen, however.

During the summer of 1857, Will kept very busy. He spent a lot of time working on the house he was building for himself. He also liked to do woodworking projects. That summer, Will made a bookcase and a sign. On August 9, 1857, he became an honorary

member of the Louisville, Kentucky, Fire Department. One time, Will took his sister-in-law, Mag Allen, by wagon, to a camp revival meeting in Washington County, Indiana. The event was attended by 3,000 people.

In July, 1858, Will started seeing Mattie Covert officially. He was very smitten with the nineteen-year-old. On Nov. 24, 1859, Will and Martha Covert were married. They moved into the house Will built for them in Oregon Township. "Mattie" was never a stepmother to Imogen. The little girl remained in the home of her widowed Grandma Allen. On Sept. 28, 1861, Mattie bore a son, Charles B. Morgan.

William W. Morgan was commissioned a First Lieutenant in Company B/81 Regiment Indiana Volunteers on Aug. 14, 1862. He left his wife and year old son to join the Union Army on Aug. 29. While he was fighting in the Civil War, Imogen, 8, was living with her Grandma Allen and Aunts Ellen, Melly, and Mag.

Starting as soon as he was mustered in, Will wrote a continuous stream of letters to his relatives back in Clark County, Indiana. When he was near Crab Orchard, Lincoln Co., Kentucky, on Oct. 16, 1862, he wrote his sister, Em, and her husband, Lem Guernsey, telling them how much he liked being a soldier. Will seemed a little depressed in the letter he wrote on Oct. 25, from Lebanon, Marion Co., Kentucky. In it he said he had received only one letter in the two months he'd been in the army, and that was from his daughter. Furthermore, he hadn't heard a thing from his wife since he left. (Could she have been upset with his volunteering to join the army?) Will wrote his little girl, Imogen, from Nashville, Davidson Co., Tennessee, on Nov. 14, and told her all about army life. He asked about her brother, Charlie, and all of her aunts.

In his letters, Will often asked his sisters-in-law not to get married until the War was over because he had several soldier friends he wanted them to meet! His letters contained a lot of doodling and some little poems he penned. In a missive from Nashville, dated Nov. 20, Will told Lem that he had lost 25 pounds since he left home. He was down to 175. On Dec. 8, while near Nashville, Will's letter to Em mentioned one of their neighbor boys who had gone AWOL.

A couple of Will's letters discussed his father's watch that Will had mistakenly taken to war with him. Eventually, he arranged to have it taken back to Lewis with someone going to Indiana.

His last letter was to Lem on Dec. 21, also from Nashville. In it Will asked Lem to make sure Matha had everything she needed. Hopefully, he would get paid soon and then could send some money.

Ten days later, the 81st Infantry, as part of the Federal Army of the Cumberland, under Major General Rosecrans, was positioned across the Nashville Pike northwest of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, along the Stone's [sic] River. The Confederate Army of Tennessee under General Bragg was trying to capture the Nashville Pike thereby cutting the only supply line available to the Union Army. On the morning of Dec. 31, 1862, Bragg attacked the Union right flank. This was the first time the 81st Indiana was under fire. According to an official after-action report, the 81st "manfully fronted the storm" and the Union won the battle and kept their supply lines open.

Family legend says that on New Year's Eve, 1862, while his unit was camped near the Stones River outside of Murfreesboro, Lt. Morgan went to check on his men on guard duty and never returned. He was killed in the Confederate attack on the right flank of the Union Army. When his body was found, it had been stripped of everything, except his under ware [sic], shirt, and waistcoat. Will was one of two commissioned officers killed from the 81st at Murfreesboro. He was described as a brave, fearless, and accomplished officer who left a host of friends in the regiment.

On Feb. 2, 1863, Lewis wrote a letter to the army requesting the back pay Will had earned before he was killed. Will had not once received an army paycheck. His wife needed the money.

After her husband was killed, Mattie and their son lived with her parents until she remarried in 1870. She applied for a widow's pension on Apr. 28, 1863.

Will's former commanding officer, Capt. Howard, was dismissed by President Lincoln on July 6, 1863, for uttering disloyal sentiments.

Imogen's uncle, R. M. Enlow, her aunt Eliza's husband, applied for a Civil War Minors Pension, on her behalf, on Sept. 3, 1869.

In 1880, Imogen was a schoolteacher living with her aunt and uncle, Mag and James Ryan. That Dec. 15, she became the second wife of Joseph Wright Williams.

[image- photo of William Wallace Morgan with the caption: born Jan. 28, 1832, Vevay Indiana]

[image- photo of Sarah Allen Morgan with the caption: passed away on June 19, 1854, after only one year of marriage.]

[image- photo of Imogen Morgan, age 4]

[image- photo of 1st Lt. William W. Morgan]

[image – photo of the gate at the U.S. National Cemetery at Stones River National Battlefield, Tennessee]

[image – photo of the flag in the cemetery with the inscription: Lt. William Wallace Morgan is buried in grave No. 4802., Section L.]

[image – photo of Wallace’s headstone with the caption: Note the inscription error: middle initial “M: instead of “W”!]

[image- photo of Imogen Morgan]