

History of Monongalia County

Monongalia County was one of three counties created by an act of the Virginia General Assembly in October 1776 from the District of West Augusta (Virginia). The others were Ohio and Yohogania counties. Monongalia County was named in honor of the Monongahela River, named by the Algonquin (Delaware) Indians. The river's name means "river of crumbling banks" or "high banks fall down." When the bill creating the county was being prepared the spelling was changed to Monongalia. It is not known if the spelling was changed on purpose or was an error. Monongalia County is known as the mother county for northern West Virginia because many other counties were created from its original territory. The precise number is difficult to determine because the original county's boundaries fell along watersheds which shifted over time. However, at least thirteen West Virginia counties were created in whole, and perhaps as many as eighteen West Virginia counties were created either in whole or in part, from Monongalia County. Moreover, parts of Greene, Fayette and Washington counties in Pennsylvania also were created from the county. The Pennsylvania counties were carved from Monongalia County when the Mason-Dixon line was accepted as defining the borders of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. That approval process began in 1779, and was officially agreed to by the three states in 1784.

The First Settlers

The first native settlers in present-day North-Central West Virginia (Barbour, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor counties) were the Mound Builders, also known as the Adena people. Remnants of the Mound Builders' civilization have been found throughout northern West Virginia, with a high concentration of artifacts located at Moundsville, West Virginia, in West Virginia's northern panhandle (in Marshall County). The Grave Creek Indian Mound, located in the center of Moundsville, is one of West Virginia's most famous historic landmarks. More than 2,000 years old, it stands 69 feet high and 295 feet in diameter.

- * Several thousand Hurons occupied present-day West Virginia during the late 1500s and early 1600s.

- * During the 1600s, the Iroquois Confederacy (then consisting of the Mohawk, Onondaga, Cayuga, Oneida, and Seneca tribes) drove the Hurons from the state and used it primarily as a hunting ground.

- * During the early 1700s, the Shawnee, Mingo, Delaware, and other Indian tribes also used present-day West Virginia as a hunting ground. West Virginia's Potomac Highlands was inhabited by the Tuscarora. They eventually migrated northward to New York and, in 1712, became the sixth nation to formally be admitted to the Iroquois Confederacy. The Cherokee Nation claimed southern West Virginia.

- * In 1744, Virginia officials purchased the Iroquois title of ownership to West Virginia in the Treaty of Lancaster.

- * The Delaware, Mingo, and Shawnee sided with the French during the French and Indian War (1755-1763). The Iroquois Confederacy officially remained neutral, but many in the Iroquois Confederacy allied with the French.

* When the French and Indian War was over, England's King George III feared that more tension between Native Americans and settlers was inevitable. In an attempt to avert further bloodshed, he issued the Proclamation of 1763, prohibiting settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains. The Proclamation was, for the most part, ignored.

* During the summer of 1763, Ottawa Chief Pontiac led raids on key British forts in the Great Lakes region. Shawnee Chief Keigh-tugh-qua, also known as Cornstalk, led similar raids on western Virginia settlements. The uprisings ended on August 6, 1763 when British forces, under the command of Colonel Henry Bouquet, defeated Delaware and Shawnee forces at Bushy Run in western Pennsylvania.

* In 1768, the Iroquois Confederacy (often called the Six Nations) and the Cherokee signed the Treaty of Hard Labour and the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, relinquishing their claims on the territory between the Ohio River and the Alleghenies to the British.

* In April 1774, the Yellow Creek Massacre took place near Wheeling. Among the dead were Mingo Chief Logan's brother and pregnant sister. Violence then escalated into Lord Dunmore's War.

* On October 10, 1774, Colonel Andrew Lewis and approximately 800 men defeated 1,200 Indian warriors led by Shawnee Chief Cornstalk at the Battle of Point Pleasant, ending Lord Dunmore's War.

* The Mingo and Shawnee allied with the British during the American Revolutionary War (1776-1783). One of the more notable battles occurred in 1777 when a war party of 350 Wyandot, Shawnee, and Mingo warriors, armed by the British, attacked Fort Henry, near present-day Wheeling. Nearly half of the Americans manning the fort were killed in the three-day assault. Following the war, the Mingo and Shawnee, once again allied with the losing side, returned to their homes in Ohio. As the number of settlers in the region grew, both the Mingo and the Shawnee move further inland, leaving western Virginia to the white settlers.

Monongalia County's European Pioneers and Settlers

Dr. Samuel Eckerlin and his two brothers (probably Gabriel and Israel) were the first Europeans known to visit present-day Monongalia County with the intent of establishing a settlement. They left eastern Pennsylvania in 1751 or 1752 and arrived near present-day Morgantown. After exploring the area, they finally settled in present-day Preston County.

During the fall of 1758, Thomas Decker established the first settlement in present-day Monongalia County. He led a group of settlers to Decker's Creek, in present-day Morgantown. The settlement was destroyed the following spring by a party of Delaware and Mingo Indians. All but one of the original settlers, including Thomas Decker, were killed or captured in the attack.

Most historians believe that David Morgan and his younger brother Zackquill Morgan were the next Europeans to attempt a permanent settlement in Monongalia County. They left Delaware and reached present-day Morgantown in 1766 or 1767. Zackquill decided to build his home near Decker's Creek. David continued down the Monongahela River and settled in present-day Marion County. Other accounts suggest that Brice Worley and his brother, Nathan, arrived in the

county the year before the Morgans arrived.

Most historians credit **Zackquill Morgan** as Monongalia County's second permanent settler, citing as evidence Colonel William Crawford's sworn deposition. Colonel Crawford indicated that Zackquill Morgan, James Chew, and Jacob Prickett moved into present-day north-central West Virginia in 1766, and that he personally visited Morgan's farm, near Decker's Creek.

Zackquill Morgan, son of **Morgan Morgan**, served in both the French and Indian War and in the American Revolutionary War, rising to the rank of Colonel. He received a legal certificate for 400 acres of land in the Morgantown area in 1781. In October 1785, at Colonel Morgan's request, the Virginia General Assembly specified that 50 acres of his land was to be laid out in lots of a half acre each, and a town, named Morgans-Town, established on the site. The lots were to be auctioned off and the proceeds given to Colonel Morgan. Initially, the land deeds required purchasers to build a house of at least 18 square feet on the lot within four years, but because of Indian hostilities the four-year time limit was extended in 1789 by the Virginia General Assembly an additional five years.

Important Events in Monongalia County during the 1700s

Monongalia County government's first organizational meeting took place at Jonathan Coburn's home on December 8, 1776. His home was located about two miles east of present-day Morgantown. Captain John Dent was named the county's sheriff. Because the new county's population was concentrated in the county's northern portion, it was decided to hold the county court meetings at Theophilus Phillips' plantation, Phillips' Choice, a few miles from New Geneva, in present-day Springhill Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

In 1782, after the extension of the Mason-Dixon line made his home a part of Pennsylvania, the county seat was moved south, first to Colonel John Evans' home and ultimately to Zackquill Morgan's home in present-day Morgantown. The county court was held in Morgan's home while a courthouse was constructed in the public square in what was then called Morgan's Town. The wooden court house was completed sometime between 1782 and 1785 at a cost of \$250. It was at about this time (1784) that George Washington visited the area.

In 1790, when the first national census was taken, Monongalia County had the sixth largest population (4,768) of the nine counties that were then in existence in present-day West Virginia. Berkeley County had the largest population (19,713) and Randolph County had the smallest population (951). Overall, in 1790, there were 55,873 people living in present-day West Virginia.

In 1793, the Pittsburgh Gazette began delivering its newspaper to Morgantown and opened a road to the town. The road's opening encouraged more people to move to the town and helped the local economy to grow, especially during the early 1800s as many pioneers heading west stopped in Morgantown for supplies.

Important Events in Monongalia County during the 1800s

In 1804, Morgantown's Monongalia Gazette and Morgantown Advertiser became the first

newspaper published west of the Alleghenies.

During the 1700s, most economic activity in north-central West Virginia was conducted through barter (trade). Occasionally, tobacco was used as currency. That changed during the early 1800s. The opening of the road to Pittsburgh during the 1790s allowed monetary transactions to take place in present-day Monongalia County using Pittsburgh banks. In 1809, using money for economic transactions became a little easier when a bank opened in Washington, Pennsylvania, and in 1812, when one opened in Uniontown. In 1814, the first bank in Monongalia County opened for business. It operated out of Captain W. N. Jarrett's home in Morgantown and continued in operation until 1840.

In 1814, the Monongalia Academy began operations in Morgantown. It was joined in 1858 by the Woodburn Female Seminary. In 1867, both institutions were donated to the state to form the Agricultural College of West Virginia, after Moundsville turned down the opportunity to host the college in 1866, opting instead to host the state penitentiary. The new college was renamed West Virginia University in 1868. It began operations with six professors and six students. By 1885, West Virginia University had three buildings for 107 students and twelve professors.

The Monongalia County Seat

Michael Kerns's grist mill was Morgantown's first commercial enterprise. It was established around 1772. Zackquill Morgan opened the town's first tavern in 1783. Thomas Laidley opened the town's first general store in 1783 and by 1790 there were two tanneries and several iron furnaces in operation. By 1800, Morgan's Town comprised about forty homes and five taverns. Among the first ordinances created by the town's trustees in 1810 was one creating a fine for galloping horses in the streets and another regulating the hours of the Market House, which was the only place in town allowed to sell meat.

Morgantown was incorporated as the Borough of Morgantown, governed by a Board of Trustees, by the Virginia General Assembly on February 3, 1838. At that time, Morgantown's population was growing only slowly, primarily because the residents, fearing the corrupting influence of outsiders, initially opposed linking the city to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In 1876, Morgantown had about 700 residents. After rejecting previous overtures, the city's residents finally gave in and approved the extension of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (which already had a line running to Fairmont) to Morgantown. The first locomotive arrived in the city on February 14, 1886.

The railroad opened the area for economic development. Four smaller rail lines were soon in operation, extending from the main railroad terminal in Morgantown out into the surrounding coal fields. The opening of the coal fields encouraged people to move to Morgantown.

In 1900, Morgantown's population reached nearly 2,000, with another 3,500 or so residing in the surrounding area. In 1901, after a local election was held, Morgantown merged with the surrounding communities of Durbannah (South Morgantown), Seneca, and Greenmount. The expansion increased Morgantown's boundaries three-fold and increased its population to 5,000. In 1905, East Morgantown was also annexed into the city (also joined in 1949 by Suncrest and Sabraton), and the Borough of Morgantown was granted a charter by the state legislature

incorporating it as a city.

Morgantown's annexations, and the economic growth provided by the arrival of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, resulted in Morgantown's population reaching 9,000 in 1910 and 13,000 in 1920.

References

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Zackquill Morgan

REFN: 2224

Zackquill Morgan was, according to a booklet entitled West Virginia in Song and Story (compiled for the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1916), from Welsh descent and migrated to West Virginia (at the time it was Virginia) from Berkeley County, Virginia, settling in the present sit of Morgantown in 1768. Zackquill was one of the founders of Morgantown, West Virginia. During the Revolutionary War, Zackquill was "County Lieutenant" of Monongalia County with the title of colonel. He commanded part of the Virginia Minute Men during that war, with about six hundred men and was with General Gates at the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777. He lost nearly half of his men in that battle. Zackquill served throughout the war with distinction and died several years after peace was declared. Marker at grave in Prickett's Fort, Fairmont, Marion, WV, states, "Col. Morgan served the Virginia forces in the French and Indian War. Rendered valuable, service in the Revolutionary War as a Virginia County Lieutenant and Colonel. He was a courageous leader of the red guard of the Revolution and of the advance guard of the Republic."

1 NOTE Zackquill was the founder of Morgantown, WV; County Lieutenant of Monongalia Co., WV; and an officer in the Revolutionary War.

"Col. Zackquill Morgan was born in 1735 and came from the eastern panhandle (Berkley County, WV) in 1766-68 with his brother, **David**, to settle in the Monongahela Valley. His stout log cabin became Fort Morgan and the nucleus around which grew Morgan's Town, now Morgantown, West Virginia. He died January 1, 1795 and is buried in the Prickett Cemetery at

the site of the old Prickett Fort in Marion County, WV.

Zackquill was made county lieutenant of Monongalia County, WV February 17, 1777 and was the military and civil leader of the community. After the Revolution he laid out the town of Morgantown which was established by act of the Virginia Legislature in 1785. He maintained an inn. His home was on University Avenue, north of Fayette Street, until torn down to make way for a filling station."

Early History of Monongalia County

Monongalia County was one of the first three counties, along with Ohio and Youghiogheny counties, formed within the state. It was created by an act of the Virginia General Assembly in October 1776 from parts of the District of West Augusta (Virginia). It was named in honor of the Monongahela River, named by the Algonquin (Delaware) Indians. The river's name means river of crumbling banks or high banks fall down. When the bill creating the county was being prepared the spelling was changed to Monongalia. It is not known if the spelling was changed on purpose or was an error.

Monongalia County is known as the mother county for northern West Virginia. Eighteen of West Virginia's 55 counties and parts of three Pennsylvania Counties (Greene, Fayette and Washington counties) were created in whole or in part from Monongalia County. This latter territory was lost to Pennsylvania following the extension of the Mason-Dixon line in 1781.

The first organizational meeting in the county took place at the home of Jonathan Coburn on December 8, 1776. The first county seat was located at the home of Theophilus Phillips, two miles from the present site of Geneva, Pennsylvania. After the Mason-Dixon line made his home a part of Pennsylvania, the county seat was moved to the home of **Zackquill Morgan** in 1782, in present day Morgantown.

Morgantown, the county seat, was originally settled by Thomas Decker, who led a group of settlers to Decker's Creek, in the present site of Morgantown, during the fall of 1758. The settlement was destroyed the following spring by a party of Delaware and Mingo Indians. All but one of the original settlers, including Thomas Decker, were killed or captured in the attack.

There is conflicting accounts concerning who arrived in the county next. Some accounts suggest that **David Morgan** arrived at the current site of Morgantown in 1768 and gave his settlement right to **Zackquill** (or Zackwell) **Morgan**. Other accounts suggest that Bruce Worley and his brother, Nathan, arrived before them, in 1766. Most historians cite the sworn deposition of Colonel William Crawford and credit **Zackquill Morgan** as the next settler in the county. Colonel Crawford indicated that **Zackquill Morgan**, James Chew, and Jacob Prickett moved into the area in 1766, and that he had visited the Morgan farm, near Decker's Creek.

Colonel Zackquill Morgan, son of **Morgan Morgan**, received a legal certificate for 400 acres of land in the Morgantown area in 1781. In October 1785, at Colonel Morgan's request, the Virginia General Assembly specified that 50 acres of his land was to be laid out in lots, and a town, named Morgantown, established on the site. Purchasers of the lots were to build upon them within four years, but because of Indian hostilities the four year time limit was later

extended an additional five years. In 1793, the Pittsburgh Gazette began delivering its paper to Morgantown and opened a road to it. The opening of the road helped the town began to grow, especially during the early 1800s as many pioneers heading west stopped in Morgantown for supplies. The city was incorporated on February 3, 1858.

In 1790, when the first national census was taken, Monongalia County had the sixth largest population (4,768) of the nine counties that were then in existence and fell within the current boundaries of West Virginia. Berkeley County had the largest population (19,713), Randolph County had the smallest population (951), and there were a total of 55,873 people living within the present state's boundaries at that time.

West Virginia University, the state's land grant university, was established in Morgantown in 1867.

<http://www.polsci.wvu.edu/wv/Monongalia/monhistory.html>

Zackquill Morgan Oil painting

<http://trees.ancestry.com/rd?f=image&guid=ae5cb9cc-7937-4568-bca3-4fc16be987e6&tid=200440&pid=-2085199138>

Entrance to Prickett Cemetery in Marion, West Virginia, USA

Father: **Morgan Morgan** b: 01 NOV 1688 in Glamorgan, Wales

Mother: **Catherine Garretson** b: 16 MAY 1692 in New Castle, Delaware, USA

Morgan Morgan

FROM: Anita Parham Adair, Brief History of the Morgan Family Before settling in Paulding-Polk County Georgia, A, <Samsgrande@aol.com>

Col. Morgan Morgan was born in Wales, Nov. 1, 1688. He came to Christiana, Delaware, with eleven other Welshmen in 1713. Soon afterwards, he married Catherine Garretson from a prominent family in Pennsylvania. Col. Morgan prior to 1730 braved the dangers of the wilderness and blazed a trail over rivers and mountains into that part of Virginia that later became West Virginia in 1726, and later was awarded a 1,000-acre tract of land. In 1740 Col. Morgan fostered the establishment of the first church in West Virginia. It was called "Morgan's Chapel" and was a branch of the Church of England, but later was called "Christ's Episcopal Church". It is located in Bunker Hill, ten miles from Martinsburg, West Virginia. Col. Morgan Morgan died November 17, 1766, at the age of 78 and is buried adjacent to Morgan's Chapel. Catherine Garretson, his wife, born May 16, 1692, and died May 16, 1773, is buried by his side. It is said George Washington was Col. Morgan's neighbor for 20 years and Lord Fairfax his neighbor for 10 years.

Several of Col. Morgan Morgan's sons and many of his grandsons served in the Revolutionary War. (The record of the children is preserved in the family Bible of Charles Sommerville Morgan, a great grandson of Col. Morgan Morgan. This Bible is now in the hands of a descendant at

Richmond, Virginia.

FROM: Lewis, History & Government of West Virginia, chapter 4, sub 9, page 40-41.

Morgan Morgan, the First White Man to Find a Home in West Virginia.

John Lederer came as an explorer; governor Spotswood and party came as adventurers; John Van Matre came as an Indian trader, but his sons, whom he advised regarding the fertile lands of the South Branch, were not to be the first to establish a home within the State. Morgan Morgan was the name of him who reared the first cabin home in West Virginia. the year was 1726-7, and the place was the vicinity of the present village of Bunker Hill, on Mill Creek, in Mill Creek magisterial district, in what is now Berkeley county. Morgan Morgan was a native of Wales, from whence he emigrated in early life to Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Church of England and noted for his exemplary piety. with the soberness of a sound mind and the earnestness of a pious heart, he went about doing good, but forgot not his own household. Late in life he became a minister of the church, and was a power for good in that wilderness land. Such was the character of the man who established the first Christian home in West Virginia.

FROM: W R Sullivan <Wrsullivan@aol.com>, .. Sullivan, Hill & related Families of Dooly Co., GA, jjs database, rootsweb.com, RootsWeb World Connect Project.

Was the first, according to some, permanent white settler within the confines of present WV. Held military and civil positions in colonial VA which entitled his female descendants to membership in the Colonial Dames Of America.

He was educated in London during Wm. III's reign; In 1707 came to Christiana, Delaware at age 19. (During Queen Anne's rule.) He lived in Delaware for 20 years. He met and married Catherine there. He is thought to have moved to VA in 1726, "blazing the first trail into Berkley Co."

As an Ordained Church of England clergyman, he set up a Church in Westminster County, in 1727.

He is known as Col. Morgan. He is credited as the holder of many "Firsts" in West Virginia. i.e.: First permanent White Settler, first Church Builder, first Licensed Tavern Keeper, first "Engineer in Supervision of the first public enterprise undertaken in the state.", (A road, some 12 miles long.)

In January of 1734, Morgan Morgan, among others, was appointed one of the "Commision of the Peace." According to ENGLISH DUPLICATES OF LOST VA RECORDS, p. 118, he received a Patent for 1000 acres, "In the Forks of the Rappahanock River & Westwood of Sherrando River" on 12 Dec 1734. In 1735, he "presented unto Court his military commission and was sworn thereto", and in 1742, he "presented another, promoting him to the rank of Major."

On 12 November 1735, he received a King's Patent for 1000 acres. In 1743, a Court was set up for Frederick County. "At that time, Col. Morgan Morgan headed the list of the first Justices of Frederick County, as a Justice of the Peace and as a justice of 'ye County Court of Chancery.'" (Berkley Co., Historical Society Journal; Issue # 6, 1977.)

"AP", a Welsh patronymic affix, meant "son of". Thus Morgan AP Morgan, means: Morgan son

of Morgan. Though not necessarily denoting his father, this "Morgan" could have been a grandfather, or even a grandfather to his father.

I have in my possession several pairs of dice and a small tray that were fashioned from a piece of an original log of Morgan AP Morgan's 2nd. log cabin home. He built this home in 1731; finishing it in 1734.

In issue 6 (1977), of The Berkley (County) Journal, there are some black and white photographs of the cabin in the late 1800's; in 1924, and in 1975. By 1975, the cabin looked terrible, even almost unrecognizable, as the cabin of even 50 years before. All of us descendants of Morgan Ap Morgan owe a debt of gratitude to the citizens of Berkley Co., West Virginia for saving this relic of our heritage.

The dice & tray were carved in 1976 from original logs, in an effort to raise funds to restore the Morgan Morgan home. I am told that I bought the last sets of dice and the last small tray that were made from these logs.

FROM :Kelley Lee Ward', Col. Morgan Morgan & Thomas Bell, Esq. Web Site, The, www.geocities.com/~morganm/, morgans.html, Internet.

Morgan Bloodlines

Col. Morgan Morgan b.1 Nov 1688 Glamorganshire, Wales d.17 Nov 1766 Berkeley Co., WV

Charles Morgan (1635-1720) m: Susan Morgan

John Morgan (1595-1651) m: Rebeccah Smith

Sir William Morgan (c. 1560-1653) m1 Lady Elizabeth Winter (royal lines) m2 Bridget Morgan

Thomas Morgan (d. 1603) m. Elizabeth Bodenham (Lived at Tredegar...the Blazon you see on the pages is the Morgan's of Tredegar)

Rowland Morgan (d 1577) 'Esquire to the body of King Henry VII' m. Elizabeth Vaughan (royal lines)

Sir John Morgan 1448, m. Janet (dau of John ap David Mathew of Landoff)

Jevan Morgan (1415-1448) m. Denise (or Elizabeth) dau of: Thomas ap Llewelyn-vychan nigh Usk, Monmouthshire

Llewelyn ap Morgan m. Jenet (janet) dau of David-vychan ap David of Rhydodyn

Morgan ap Llewelyn (d bef 1384) Lord of St. Clere & Tredegar Monmouthshire Wales m: Maud dau of Rhun Rhys ap Gronwy, Lord of Cibwr

Llewelyn ap Ivor m: Angharad (b 1330) dau of Sir Morgan ap Meredith Lord of Tredegar Ivor III

Llewelyn Lleia m: Susan dau of Howel ap Howie Sais ('a first cousin')

Ivor II m: Tanglwst dau of Howel Sais ap Arglwydd Rhys

Llewelyn m: Lleici dau of Griffith ap Beli

Ivor I m: Nest dau of Caradoc ap Idnerth ap Cadwgan ap Elystan Gloddrydd (ap being direct child in this case)

Bleddri Lord of Kilsant m: Clydwen dau of Griffith ap Cydrich ap Gwaethfoed Fawr, Lord of Cardigan

Cadivor Vawr (The Great) ap Colwyn Lord of Dyfed (d 1089) m: Helen dau of the Welsh

Chiefton Llwh Llawen

Sources

'Morgan the Family' by The American Genealogical Research Institute 1978

(This is for the Col. Morgan to Sir William Morgan)

The rest is from the Bishop's Library in Cardiff Wales. The Compiler was Col. William G. Bradley

Email: kward@whc.net

above snippets from:

<http://worldconnect.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=colleenf&id=I954>