

BIOGRAPHIES OF JAMES T. MORGAN AND ELIZABETH DURDIN

BY [JULIET MORGAN](#)

James T. Morgan was born on the 24th of May in 1832 in Georgia, most likely in Troup County.

Family lore reports that James came to Texas as a very young man. One account, which was given by a granddaughter, Hazel Vivian Morgan (daughter of Thomas Benton Morgan), believed James came to Texas around 1849-1850, at which time he would have been about 17-18 years old.

The earliest evidence I could find of James T. Morgan in Tyler County Texas came from the *Tyler County, Texas Court Minutes, Book B, February 1861 – August 1881*, which was transcribed by Jim Laird and Ann Crews Laird in 1998. According to this document, James T. Morgan received payment from the County for teaching school there from the years 1858 through 1860.

James T. Morgan married Elizabeth “Bettie” Durdin, daughter of Hilliard Durdin and Sarah Richardson, on June 25, 1859 in Tyler County, Texas. Elizabeth Durdin was born on 30th of June 1839 in Simpson County, Mississippi. James would have been 27 years old at the time of their marriage and Elizabeth would have been almost 20 years old.

James T. Morgan enlisted in the Confederate Army’s Company A, Madison’s Regimented Cavalry under Captain C.M. Mason on March 29th, 1862 in Houston, Texas and was appointed to the position of 3rd *Sergeant* for Company 4 of the 3rd Regimented Arizona Brigade. His age given at the time of enlistment was 28 years. He appears on several muster rolls through 1864. In 1864, he was injured in battle, which required the amputation of his middle finger on his left hand. On July 11, 1864, the hospital’s Chief Clerk, George W. Nash, under Surgeon W.P. Riddell, issued James T. Morgan a 30-day furlough to return to his home, which is listed as Woodville, Tyler County, Texas.

He appears on the 1870 U.S. Census for Tyler County, Texas on Page 26, Household No. 164, as Jas. T. Morgan, age 35, from Georgia, married to Elizabeth, age 29, from Mississippi, with four children: Maud, age 11, born in Texas; James, age 7, born in Texas; David, age 4, born in Texas; and Thomas, age 2, born in Texas.

He appears on the 1880 U.S. Census for Tyler County, Texas on page 30, Household No. 253, as J.T. Morgan, age 46, born in Georgia, married to Elizabeth, age 40, born in Mississippi, with five children (all born in Texas): Maud, age 20; James F., age 16; David C., age 14; Thomas B., age 11; and William E., age 3.

James T. Morgan also appears on the 1877 and 1890 Tax Records for Tyler County, Texas as well as the grantor and grantee of several deeds of land in Tyler County, Texas in the 1870s-1890s.

James T. Morgan died on 29th of August, 1899 in Woodville, Tyler County, Texas and is buried in Pilgrim Rest Cemetery there.

Elizabeth Durdin Morgan died on 28th of September 1898 in Woodville, Tyler County, Texas and is buried in Pilgrim Rest Cemetery there.

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Children of **James T. Morgan** and **Elizabeth Durdin**:

1. **Maud Morgan** was born on the 5th of April 1860 in Tyler County, Texas. She married **James Townsend Nowlin** in Tyler County, Texas on *December 14, 1889*. James T. Nowlin was born on *November 28, 1858* in Texas and was the son of Benjamin Franklin Nowlin and Manerva George. Together Maud and James had four children: **Thomas Benton Nowlin, Elizabeth Minerva Morgan, Clyde William Morgan, and Della Morgan**. Maud Morgan died on *October 10, 1940* in Tyler County. James T. Nowlin died on *13th of October 1935* in Tyler County. They are both buried in Pilgrim Rest Cemetery.
2. **James F. Morgan** was born on *October 27, 1863* in Tyler County. He married **Sarah Elizabeth Mann** on *1st of July 1889* in Tyler County. Sarah Elizabeth Mann was the daughter of James A. Mann and Sarah Barclay and was born on *July 23, 1873* in Tyler County. Together they had three children: **James Don Morgan, Pearl Morgan, and Ruby Morgan**. James F. Morgan died on *14th of February 1911* in Dancetta, Tyler County, Texas and is buried in Pilgrim Rest Cemetery. His wife Sarah died on the *9th of May 1939* and is also buried in Pilgrim Rest Cemetery.
3. **David Crockett Morgan** was born *February 6, 1866* in Tyler County, Texas. He married **Bettie Morgan Barclay** on *July 30, 1889* in Tyler County. Bettie Barclay was the daughter of Walter Barclay and Mary Jane Mahaffey and was born on *November 13, 1872* in Tyler County. Together David and Bettie had two daughters: **Nora Morgan and Bertha Morgan**. David Crockett Morgan died on *March 25, 1932* in Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas. His wife, Bettie, died on *January 14, 1956*. They are buried in Chamberlain Cemetery in Kingsville.
4. **Thomas Benton Morgan** was born on May 11, 1869 in Tyler County, Texas. He married **Allie Mahaffey** on November 2, 1891 in Tyler County. Allie Mahaffey was the daughter of John J. Mahaffey and Matilda A. Guynes and was born February 2, 1873 in Tyler County. Together Thomas and Allie had four children: **Eunice May Morgan, John Morgan, Elizabeth Bettie Morgan, and Hazel Vivian Morgan**. Dr. Thomas Benton Morgan died on *December 13, 1928* in Bronson, Sabine County, Texas. His wife, Allie, died on *23rd of February 1936*. They are both buried in the Bronson Cemetery.

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5. **William E. Morgan** was born on *September 23, 1874* in Tyler County, Texas. He married **Urath Lillian Harris** in Houston, Harris County, Texas sometime before 1906. Lillian Harris was *June 6, 1889* in Denton County, Texas. Together William and Lillian had three sons: **Jack Cutler Morgan**, **Clifford Errington Morgan**, and **James Henry Morgan**. William died on March 11, 1950 in Houston, Harris County, Texas. His wife, Lillian died on June 8, 1952 in Houston. They are both buried in the Forest Park Cemetery in Harris County.
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Children of **Maud Morgan** and **James Townsend Nowlin**:

1. **Thomas Benton Nowlin** was born on *August 7, 1890* in Colmesneil, Tyler County, Texas. He married **Myra Parrish** in Livingston, Polk County, Texas on *July 5, 1913*. Myra Parrish was the daughter of Jacob Thomas Parrish and Docia Ann Simms, born on January 15, 1888. Together they had two children: **Thomas Benton Nowlin Jr.** (1914) and **Doris Nowlin** (1923). Thomas Benton Nowlin, Sr. died on *January 23, 1972* in Polk County, Texas. Myra Parrish Morgan died on *January 3, 1975* in Houston, Harris County. She is buried with Thomas Benton Nowlin in the Center Grove Cemetery in Hortense, Polk County, Texas.
 2. **Elizabeth Minerva Morgan** was born on *February 23, 1892* in Tyler County, Texas. She married William Wright sometime after 1930. She died on *September 15, 1961* in Houston, Harris County, Texas and is buried in the Brookside Memorial Park cemetery there along with William Wright, who died in 1841. There are no known children from this marriage.
 3. **Clyde William Nowlin** was born on *January 6, 1894* in Tyler County, Texas. According to his death certificate, he was single. He died on *February 8, 1943* in Woodville, Tyler County, Texas. He is buried in Pilgrim Rest Cemetery.
 4. **Della Nowlin** was born circa April of 1899. According to the U.S. Census record in 1920, she was still living with her parents in Tyler County at the age of 21; however, no other records could be found for her.
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Children of **David Crockett Morgan** and **Elizabeth “Bettie” Barclay**:

1. **Nora Morgan** was born on *February 13, 1893* in Tyler County, Texas. She never married or had children. She was a school teacher. She died on *July 20, 1977* in Kingsville, Kleberg County, Texas. She is buried in Chamberlain Cemetery there.

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2. **Bertha Morgan** was born on *July 30, 1899* in Tyler County, Texas. She married **Charles “Charlie” William Rosse** in Kleberg County, Texas sometime between 1920 and 1923. Charlie Rosse was the son of Oscar Richard Rosse and Maria Christina Fischer, born on *February 22, 1896* in Rosebud, Falls County, Texas. Together they had two children: a daughter they named **Betty Jo Rosse**, who died as a week-old infant, and **Oscar David Rosse**.

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Children of **Dr. Thomas Benton Morgan** and **Allie Mahaffey**:

1. **Eunice Mae Morgan** was born *September 20, 1893* in Tyler County, Texas. She married **Edward Elisha Harris** in *September 1910*. Edward was born on *December 18, 1890* in Logansport, De Soto County, Louisiana to parents Sidney Samuel Harris and Katie Lula Bickley. Together they had three children: **Edward Morgan Harris**, **Hazel H. Harris**, and **Samuel Benton Harris**. Eunice Mae Morgan died on *August 9 1972* in Jacksonville, Cherokee County, Texas. Edward died on *January 17, 1943* in Tyler, Smith County, Texas. He is buried in Rose City Cemetery in Tyler, Smith County, Texas with Eunice Mae Morgan Harris.
2. **John Morgan** was born on *January 1, 1895* in Tyler County. He married *Irene Davidson* on June 10, 1923 in Hemphill, Texas. Irene was the daughter of William Davidson and Mary Melton, born on *August 8, 1897*. John died on *November 15, 1959* and Irene died on *July 15, 1976*. They are both buried in the Bronson Cemetery in Sabine County, Texas with their son, Thomas. Together John and Lizzie had two children: **Thomas Henry Morgan** (son) who died as an infant and **John Allie Morgan** (daughter).
3. **Elizabeth Bettie Morgan** was born in *July 1897* in Tyler County, Texas. She married **Charles E. Moore** on *September 26, 1915*. Charles was born in 1869 and he died in 1963. Bettie died in 1971. They are both buried in the Kirbyville Cemetery in Jasper County, Texas. Together they had five children: **Pauline M. Moore**, **John T. Moore**, **Nevelance Moore**, **Charles Moore**, and **Mildred Moore**.
4. **Hazel Vivian Morgan** was born on *June 7, 1903* in Oakwood, Leon County, Texas. She married **Alfred Frank Colwell** on *January 9, 1927*. Alfred was born on *November 16, 1903* in Henderson, Rusk County, Texas and he died on *November 10, 1977*. Together they had one daughter: **Martha Collwell**.

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Children of **William E. Morgan** and **Urath Lillian Harris**:

1. **Jack Cutler Morgan** was born *July 6, 1906* in Houston, Harris County, Texas. He married **Martha Elizabeth Torbett** on *June 3, 1925*. Martha was born on September 2, 1898 in Clifton, Bosque County, Texas and was the daughter of William Cleburn Torbett and Ura Savannah Cass. Together Jack and Martha had a son: **Jack Clayton Morgan**. Jack died on *September 8, 1959* in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. Martha died on *September 15, 1985* in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.
2. **Clifford Errington Morgan** was born on *March 1, 1908* in Houston, Harris County, Texas. He died on *April 19, 1992* in Ardmore County, Oklahoma. It is unknown if he ever married or had children.
3. **James Henry Morgan** was born on January 17, 1914 in Houston Harris County, Texas. He married Edith Elliot Outterside sometime in 1937. Edith was born on *February 26, 1914* and is the daughter of Harry Floyd Outterside and Helen Gertrude Duncan. Together James and Edith had two children: **Michael Morgan** and **Mary Morgan**. James died on *May 9, 1995* in Seattle, King County, Washington. Edith died on *May 4, 2012* in Port Angeles, Washington.

