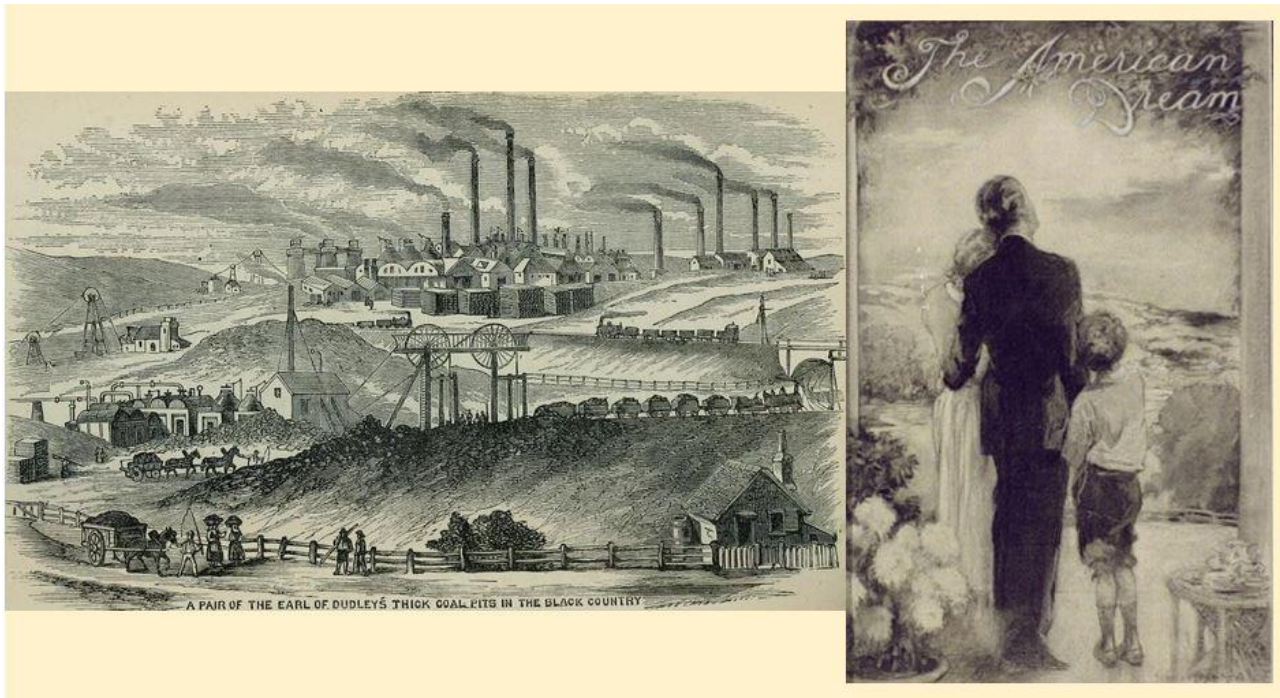


The MORRALL Family

Migration from the Black Country of England to Texas for the American Dream



Phyllis Zumwalt

26 July 2021

COVER IMAGES:

Images: Lithograph. *A Pair of the Earl of Dudley's Thick Coal Pits in the Black Country*. Book: Griffiths, Samuel. (1873) *Griffiths' Guide to the iron trade of Great Britain* Reprinted with fair use permission.

<https://archive.org/details/griffithsguideto00grif> : accessed 20 July 2021. p. 110.

Images: Painting. *The American Dream*. Fogarty, Thomas (artist). [Between 1890 and 1938]. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010715855/> : accessed 24 July 2021.

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Documentary Evidence Limitations and Research Notes

- ❖ The 1890 U.S. Census data is not available due to a fire which destroyed most records.¹
- ❖ Family tree maker settings for the United States locations were city, county, state, country.
- ❖ Benjamin MORRALL, selected, was one of two sons who emigrated to the United States with their father, Thomas MORRALL; all three were key to this study. Census records of Thomas' family were located to help validate later primary records.
- ❖ MORRALL variations were MERRALL, MORROLL, MORRELL.
- ❖ The process to pinpoint Thomas MORRALL was based on naming conventions (for children and grandchildren) and distances to locations (Tipton, Sedgley, Walsall) in Staffordshire.

¹ United States Census Bureau. *Availability of 1890 Census*.

https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/decennial_census_records/availability_of_1890_census.html : accessed 6 July 2021.

Introduction

A randomly selected record was used to select the subject for this study. It was found in the Ancestry collection, 'All U.S., Passport Applications, 1795-1925', with 1924 for the year, England as the birth location and Austin, Texas as the residence. This record provided key clues which connected to the Thomas MORRALL family from the Black Country of England on their emigration path to Texas in 1879. **Why did they emigrate to America?** With a geographic and contextual history of the Black Country area between 1834-1879 and the Central Texas area between 1880-1940, as well as a genealogical focus, this report details their struggles and successes in their migration to America.

Black Country Geography and Historical Context (1834-1879)

The juxtaposition of the Black Country in the Midlands area of England lay in the beautiful hills, famous for flowers and bilberry fruit, surrounding land covered with cinder heaps, burning pits and smoke (cover image).^{2, 3} Beneath this area (covering the current Metropolitan boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, and Wolverhampton) lay a 30-foot seam of coal (with nearby iron, limestone, and clay). Large producers in the area dug and forged minerals, creating a vision of the earth being turned inside out. This area extended through West Bromwich, Bilston, Dudley, Tipton, Wednesbury and Walsall⁴ (shown below), supplying England and the world with products like coal, sheet iron, nails, needles, buckles, anchors and more, using canals and new railway lines (late 19th century) to transport goods and supplies.⁵



Figure 1: View of Walsall, From the North, Revolutionary Players, with fair use permission¹

² Revolutionary Players. Impressions. <https://www.revolutionaryplayers.org.uk/impressions/> : accessed 20 July 2021.

³ Burritt, Elihu. (1869) *Walks in the Black Country and Its Green Border-land*. London: Sampson, Low, Son, and Marston. https://www.google.com/books/edition/Walks_in_the_Black_Country_and_Its_Green/Wm1HAAAAYAAJ : accessed 21 July 2021. Chapter XIII. pp. 305-333.

⁴ BBC. What and where is the Black Country? http://www.bbc.co.uk/blackcountry/content/articles/2005/03/15/where_is_the_black_country_feature.shtml : accessed 21 July 2021.

⁵ Black Country Society. *What or Where is Black Country?* Archived via Wayback Machine. <https://web.archive.org/web/20120117212241/http://www.blackcountryociety.co.uk/about/> : accessed 21 July 2021.

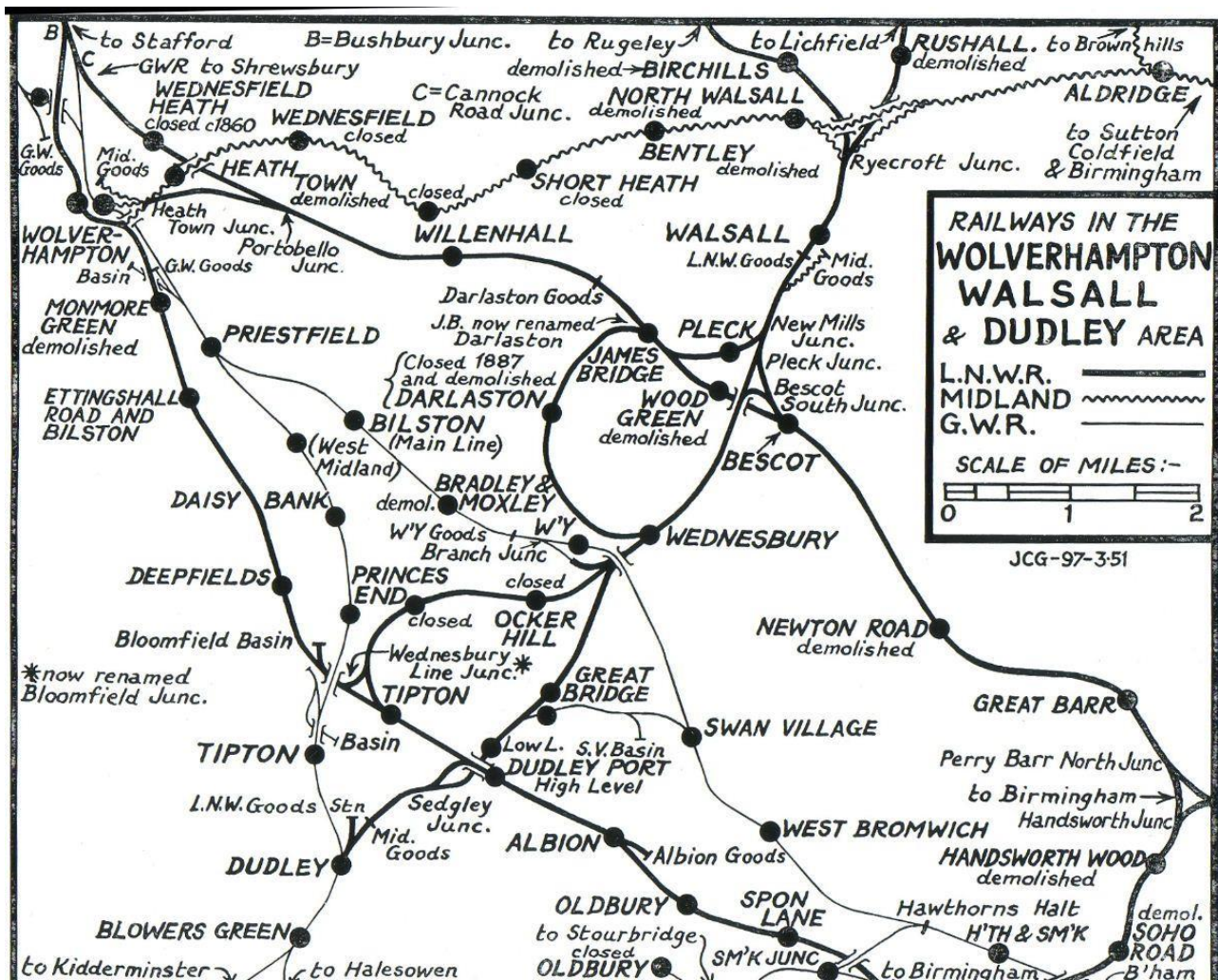


Figure 2: Railroad Map, depicting combined railroads; 1876-1927 (used for locations), per inactive website, chasewaterstuff.com⁶

The area was fraught with poor working conditions, environmental strafing, and pollution; a report in 1852 stated it was “the most unhealthy place in the country”.⁷ Yet, most of the inhabitants there felt an allegiance to the culture; “black by day, red by night” embodied the reality of their existence.⁸

⁶ Chase Water Stuff. *Some South Staffordshire Railway Byways – The Midland Railway’s line, Walsall to Wolverhampton via Short Heath.* <https://chasewaterstuff.wordpress.com/tag/north-walsall-station/> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁷ Black Country Living Museum. *The average of death was 16.7 in Dudley in 1841.* <https://www.bclm.co.uk/activities/the-average-age-of-death-was-16.7-in-dudley-in-1841/733.htm#.YPh66uhKg2w> : accessed 21 July 2021.

⁸ Burritt, *op. cit.* p. 1.

The Thomas MORRALL Family

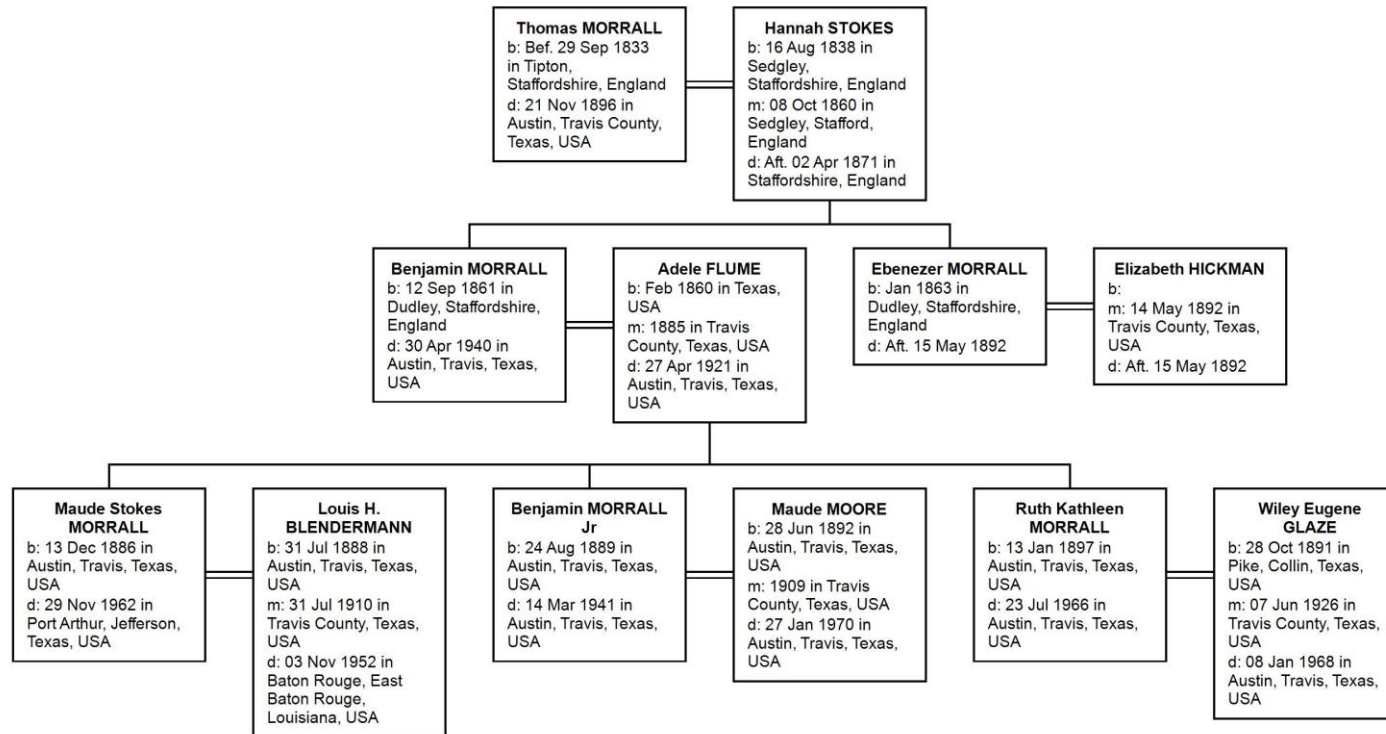


Figure 3: Thomas MORRALL family
Family Tree Maker Software⁹

⁹ Family Tree Maker. <https://www.mackiev.com/ftm/> : accessed 24 July 2021.

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Family Background

Thomas MORRALL and sons emigrated in 1879, per their ship's arrival passenger list (left Liverpool 4 January 1879, arrived in New Orleans 7 February 1879).^{11, 12} To understand their emigration to America, a look into their family and circumstances helps.

Thomas MORRALL was born in Tipton, Staffordshire (bapt. 1833)^{13,14} the eldest child and only son to Thomas (Joseph)¹⁵ and Elizabeth (NICKLIN)¹⁶ MORRALL.¹⁷

Thomas (younger) spent his time as an iron worker, like his father, both working for Albion Steel (Sheet Iron Co.).^{18, 19} His younger sisters were Sarah (probably named for her paternal grandmother),^{20, 21} and Ann^{22, 23} per 1851 Census Records (below). Note Thomas is listed as

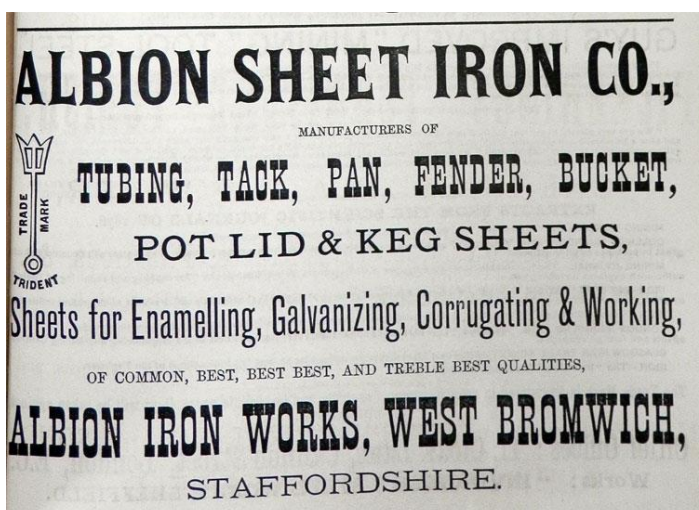


Figure 4: Albion Sheet Iron Co. Advertisement¹⁰

¹⁰ Grace's Guides to British Industrial History. *Albion Sheet Iron Co.*

<https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/images/3/31/lm1881Ry-Albion.jpg> : accessed 23 July 2021.

¹¹ U.S. Passport Application. MERRALL, Benjamin. (Birth: 12 September 1861). Application Date: 29 March 1924. RN: 385376. Volume: Roll 2456 - Certificates: 385350-385849, 29 Mar 1924-31 Mar 1924. Collection: U.S., Passport Applications, 1795-1925. <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1174/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

¹² Passenger list for S.S. Mississippi arriving New Orleans. MORRALL, Thomas. 07 Feb 1879. NAI No 2824927. Collection: Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, Louisiana, 1820-1902. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

¹³ Baptisms (PR) England. Tipton, Staffordshire. 29 September 1833. MORRALL, Thomas. FHL film nos: 435872, 435873, 435874. [Transcription] Collection: England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 22 July 2021.

¹⁴ Census records. England. Walsall, Staffordshire. 2 APRIL 1871. MORRALL, Thomas. PN 2962. Folio: 126. p. 3. Collection: 1871 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

¹⁵ Baptisms (PR) England. Wednesbury, Staffordshire. 14 January 1804. MORRALL, Thomas. (Mother: Sarah; Father: Thomas). RN: D4383/1/8. [Transcription] Collection: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records. <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> : accessed 22 July 2021.

¹⁶ Baptisms (PR) England. Dudley, Staffordshire. 3 February 1805. Nicklin, Elizth. [Transcription] Collection: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records. <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> : accessed 22 July 2021.

¹⁷ Marriages (PR) England. Saint Thomas, Dudley, Worcestershire. 26 April 1829. MORRALL, Thomas and NICKLIN, Elizabeth. Source film nos: 378762, 378763, 378764, 378765, 378766, 378767, 378768, 378769, 378770. [Transcription] Collection: England, Select Marriages, 1538-1973. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 22 July 2021.

¹⁸ Census records. England. Sedgley, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. 30 March 1851. MORRALL, Joseph. PN 2031. Folio: 243. p. 13. Collection: 1851 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

¹⁹ Grace's Guide to British Industrial History. Albion Sheet Iron Co. https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Albion_Ironworks : 23 July 2021.

²⁰ Baptisms (PR) England. Wednesbury, Staffordshire. 14 January 1804. MORRALL, Thomas. (Mother: Sarah; Father: Thomas). RN: D4383/1/8. [Transcription] Collection: Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records. <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> : accessed 22 July 2021.

²¹ Census records. England. Sedgley, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. 6 June 1841. MORROLL, Thomas. ED 32. Folio: 30. p.15. LN 25. GSU Roll 474626. Collection: 1841 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

²² Census records. England. Sedgley, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. 30 March 1851. MORRALL, Joseph. ED 41. Folio: 243. p.13. PN 2031. Collection: 1851 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

Joseph, but other Census records align with wife and all three children: probably an enumerator error.^{24, 25}

| Parish or Township of | | Ecclesiastical District of | | City or Borough of | | Town of | | Village of | |
|--|--|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Sedgley | | Sedgley | | Wolverhampton | | | | Sedgley | |
| Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House | Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1861 | Relation to Head of Family | Condition | Age of | | Rank, Profession, or Occupation | Where Born | | |
| | | | | Male | Female | | | | |
| 47 | Frederick Taylor | Owner | | 27 | | Scholar | Staffordshire | Sedgley | |
| | Thomas Do | Son | | 11 | | | Do | Do | |
| | George Henry Do | Son | | 4 | | | Do | Do | |
| | Mary Ann Do | Daughter | | 1 | | | Do | Do | |
| 48 | William Moor | Head | Mar | 48 | | Labourer on Iron Works | Staffordshire | Wolverhampton | |
| | Elizabeth Do | Wife | Mar | 40 | | | Do | Sedgley | |
| | Thomas Do | Son | Mar | 17 | | Labourer in Iron Works | Do | Do | |
| | Sarah Do | Daughter | | 14 | | | Do | Do | |
| | Ann Do | Do | | 11 | | | Do | Sedgley | |
| 49 | George Taylor | Head | Mar | 38 | | Coal Miner | Worcestershire | Stourbridge | |
| | Elizabeth Do | Wife | Mar | 38 | | | Staffordshire | Sedgley | |
| | Mary Ann Do | Daughter | | 2 | | | Do | Do | |
| | John Hargrave | Lodger | Wid | 49 | | Blacksmith | Leicestershire | Oldham | |
| 50 | George Jones | Head | Mar | 52 | | Iron Moulder | Warwick | Birmingham | |
| | Elizabeth Do | Wife | Mar | 50 | | | Staffordshire | Sedgley | |
| 51 | Henry Evans | Head | Mar | 33 | | Carpenter | Staffordshire | Sedgley | |
| | Martha Do | Wife | Mar | 33 | | | Worcestershire | Oldham | |
| 52 | Benjamin Hurley | Head | Mar | 45 | | Wagoner of Iron Plate Iron | Worcestershire | Oldham | |
| | Franco Do | Wife | Mar | 42 | | | Gloucestershire | St. Philips | |
| | Mary Ann Do | Daughter | | 17 | | | Staffordshire | Sedgley | |
| Total of Persons... | | | | 9 | 11 | | | | |

Figure 5: 1851 Census Records (England) for Thomas as a child with his parents²⁶
Ancestry.com

Thomas (27) married Hannah STOKES (22, daughter of Benjamin and Mary STOKES)²⁷ on 8 October 1860 in Sedgley.^{28, 29} Their eldest son, Benjamin, was born 12 September 1861^{30, 31} and

²³ Census records. England. Sedgley, Staffordshire. 7 APRIL 1861. MORRALL, Thomas. PN 2051. Folio: 100. p. 19. Collection: 1861 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

²⁴ Census records. England. Sedgley, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. 6 June 1841. MORROLL, Thomas. ED 32. Folio: 30. p.15. LN 25. GSU Roll 474626. Collection: 1841 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

²⁵ Census records. England. Sedgley, Staffordshire. 7 APRIL 1861. MORRALL, Thomas. PN 2051. Folio: 100. p. 19. Collection: 1861 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

²⁶ Census records. England. Sedgley, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. 30 March 1851. MORRALL, Joseph. ED 41. Folio 243. p.13. PN 2031. Collection: 1851 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

²⁷ Baptisms (PR) England. Sedgley, Stafford[shire]. 23 September 1838. STOKES, Hannah. (Birth: 16 August 1838). FHL Film No 1040789. Ref ID: item3 p. 202. [Transcription] Collection: England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 22 July 2021.

²⁸ Marriages (PR) England. Sedgley, Stafford[shire]. 8 October 1860. MORRALL, Thomas and STOKES, Hannah. (Father: Benjamin). FHL film no: 1040794. [Transcription] Collection: England, Select Marriages, 1538-1973. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

²⁹ Census records. England. Sedgley, Staffordshire. 7 APRIL 1861. MORRALL, Thomas. PN 2051. Folio: 112. p. 11. Collection: 1861 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

³⁰ U.S. Passport Application. MERRALL, Benjamin. (Birth: 12 September 1861). Application Date: 29 March 1924. RN: 385376. Volume: Roll 2456 - Certificates: 385350-385849, 29 Mar 1924-31 Mar 1924. Collection: U.S., Passport Applications, 1795-1925. <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1174/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

³¹ Births index (CR) England & Wales. RD Dudley, [Staffordshire]. 3rd Q., 1861. MORRALL, Benjamin. Vol. 6c. p. 89. Collection: England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

son, Ebenezer, born before January 1863.³² Thomas had started preaching before 1861 (in addition to working as a sheet iron shearer).³³

| The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Parish (or Township) of | City or Municipal Borough of | Municipal Ward of | Parliamentary Borough of | Town of | Hamlet or Tithing, or of | Ecclesiastical Di | | | | | |
| No. of Schedule | Road, Street, &c., and No. of House | Houses in (A) (B) | Name and Surname of each Person | Relation to Head of Family | Condition | Age of | Rank, Profession, or Occupation | Where Born | | | |
| | | | | | | Male | Female | | | | |
| 144 | Albert's Yard | 1 | Mrs. Ann Heathcote | Servant | — | 13 | — | Nurse Girl | Staffordshire Sedgley | | |
| 145 | Do | 1 | David Lloyd | Bodyman | Un | 15 | — | — | Walsall | | |
| 146 | Do | 1 | Thomas Morrall | Head | Mar | 22 | — | Sheet Iron Shearer & Coal Broker | Do Sedgley | | |
| 147 | Do | 1 | Hannah | Wife | Mar | 22 | — | — | Do Walsall | | |

Figure 6: Extract from 1861 Census (England) for Thomas and Hannah MORRALL³⁴

Ancestry.com

Whatever influenced his desire to preach, he continued this calling in America. The family moved to nearby Walsall by 1871³⁷ (below).



Figure 7: Per 1871 Census³⁵ - #11 Holly Hedge Lane, Walsall (with cross mark)

National Library of Scotland³⁶

Hannah did not emigrate to America; she might have died in the area, on the ship,

or remained in England. No death record for Hannah MORRALL after 1871 was found. A list of boarding passengers was not found, as passenger lists outbound from the U.K. was not required

³² Births index (CR) England & Wales. RD Dudley, [Staffordshire]. 1st Q., 1863. MORRALL, Ebenezer. Vol. 6c. p. 89. Collection: England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

³³ Census records. England. Sedgley, Staffordshire. 7 APRIL 1861. MORRALL, Thomas. PN 2051. Folio: 112. p. 11. Collection: 1861 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

³⁴ Census records. England. Sedgley, Staffordshire. 7 APRIL 1861. MORRALL, Thomas. PN 2051. Folio: 100. p. 19. Collection: 1861 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

³⁵ Census records. England. Walsall, Staffordshire. 2 APRIL 1871. MORRALL, Thomas. PN 2962. Folio: 126. p. 3. Collection: 1871 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

³⁶ Ordnance Survey. (1902) Staffordshire LXIII.6 (Darlaston; Short Heath; Walsall). map 64.4 cm x 96.6 cm (25.344 x 38.016 inches). <https://maps.nls.uk/view/115475575#zoom=5&lat=4528&lon=9768&layers=BT> : accessed 21 July 2021.

³⁷ Census records. England. Walsall, Staffordshire. 2 APRIL 1871. MORRALL, Thomas. PN 2962. Folio: 126. p. 3. Collection: 1871 England Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

until 1890³⁸. Other available records (examples, series T1 (Treasury Board) and PRO 56/349 (HMSO Publications and Letters)) are only available in person at The National Archives (TNA).³⁹

Why and Who Emigrated in 1879?

One might surmise that the living conditions in the Black Country or a concern about the increase in ironworks production (and related industries) in other countries like the United States⁴⁰ (with a possible decline or unemployment at home) might have led residents to seek a move elsewhere. Possibly the death of the wife and mother might have influenced them to seek new beginnings. A gift from a congregation to help a fellow preacher to witness in a new country or friends or family in America may have provided monetary assistance, secured a place to stay, and land to farm or an available job opportunity.⁴¹

Another reason to consider was the talk about Texas and its vast lands, ripe for opportunity. An artist and visionary, George Catlin, lectured throughout the Midlands in 1850, providing a glimpse into life in the American West. The “Universal Emigration and Colonization Messenger”, first published in London in May 1850, promoted Texas as a new frontier, though an expedition later that year failed miserably.⁴³ Not many people from England emigrated to Texas (Table 1), thus an American connection was a likely influence. Three million people emigrated from Britain to the United States 1870-1920, however up to 25% returned home due to failed experiences.⁴⁴

Table 1: Natives of Foreign Countries in Texas
(Extract of Top # of Emigrants by Birth Location)⁴²

| Top Places of Birth | 1850 | % Of Total | 1860 | % Of Total |
|---------------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|
| Germany | 8,277 | 46.8% | 20,553 | 47.3% |
| Mexico | 4,459 | 25.2% | 12,443 | 28.7% |
| Ireland | 1,403 | 7.9% | 3,480 | 8.0% |
| England | 1,002 | 5.7% | 1,695 | 3.9% |
| France | 647 | 3.7% | 1,883 | 4.3% |
| All others | 1,893 | 10.7% | 3,368 | 7.8% |
| Total of all | 17,681 | | 43,422 | |

³⁸ National Archives (Great Britain). Passengers. <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/passengers/> : accessed 23 July 2021.

³⁹ Herber, Mark D. (2004) *Ancestral trails: the complete guide to British genealogy and family history*. 2nd ed. Stroud: Sutton. ISBN: 978-0750935104. p. 734.

⁴⁰ Jeans, Stephen J. (1906) *The iron trade of Great Britain*. London: Methuen. <https://archive.org/details/dli.ministry.03269/> : accessed 23 July 2021. pp. 40-41.

⁴¹ Barkan, Elliott Robert, ed. (1999) *A Nation of Peoples: A Sourcebook on America's Multicultural Heritage*. Westport, Connecticut, and London: Greenwood Press. https://www.google.com/books/edition/A_Nation_of_Peoples/seJ5bceT5BkC : accessed 20 July 2021. pp. 88-89.

⁴² Lathrop, Barnes F. (1949) *Migration into East Texas*. Austin: Texas State Historical Association. <https://archive.org/details/migrationintoeas00lath/> : accessed 23 July 2021. p. 49.

⁴³ Shepperson, Wilbur Stanley. (1954) The promotion of British emigration by agents for American lands, 1840-1860. <https://archive.org/details/promotionofbriti0000shep/> : accessed 19 July 2021. pp. 66-70.

⁴⁴ Herber, Mark D. (2004) *Ancestral trails: the complete guide to British genealogy and family history*. 2nd ed. Stroud: Sutton. ISBN: 978-0750935104. p. 734.

The costs in the 1870s for an urban laborer emigrant to travel to America (per person) tallied to approximately five- or six-weeks' wages, with America being the most accessible destination, via steamship. While some emigrants received financial assistance from the destination country (Canada for example), many emigrants chose unassisted passage to America.⁴⁵ Passports from Great Britain were not required; only forms required might have been when assistance was provided.⁴⁶

Though this meeting concluded after the MORRALL family departed, the National Conference of Ironworkers (right) recommended funding for members who wished to emigrate due to overproduction and recent unemployment (evidence of unemployment and assisted migration by organizations); Texas noted as being the best place to go.⁴⁸

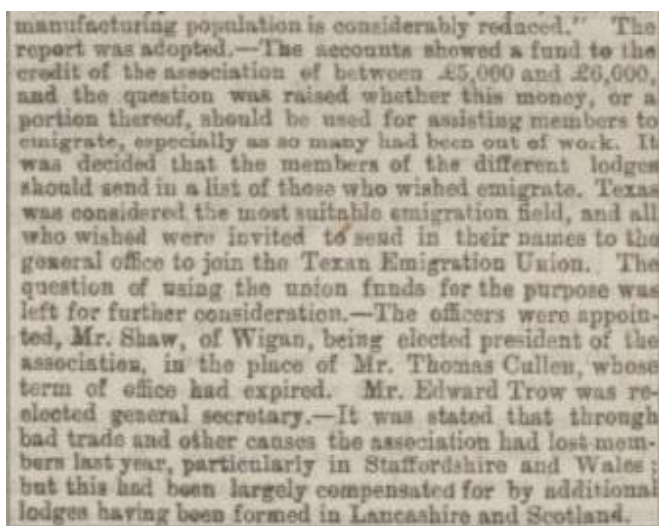


Figure 8: Assisted Emigration funds established as unemployment grows in the region⁴⁷

Birmingham's population growth rose by 16.5% between 1871 and 1881 (based on electoral register counts as of January 1884); for an area of 13 square miles, and without knowing the year most increased, it could have created an economic strain on the area in 1877-1878.⁴⁹

With all of these factors, it can be surmised that the reasons for emigration may have been numerous. Thomas and his sons, as young adults and possibly tight knit may have discussed the pros and cons and made a commitment to the journey together.

As mentioned, they embarked on their journey from Liverpool 4 January 1879 and arrived in New Orleans 7 February 1879.

⁴⁵ Baines, *op. cit.* pp. 85-86.

⁴⁶ Liverpool Museum. Emigration to USA and Canada: Information Sheet 12.

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archivesheet13> : accessed 24 July 2021.

⁴⁷ News Announcements. *National Conference of Ironworkers*. Staffordshire Sentinel. 10 June 1879. p. 4b.

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/> : accessed 20 July 2021.

⁴⁸ News Announcements. *National Conference of Ironworkers*. Staffordshire Sentinel. 10 June 1879. p. 4b.

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/> : accessed 20 July 2021.

⁴⁹ Harman, Thomas T. and Showell, Walter. (1885) *Showell's Dictionary of Birmingham: A History and Guide, Arranged Alphabetically: Parliamentary Elections*. Birmingham: Walter Showell & Sons. Online: Project Gutenberg.

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/14472/14472-h/14472-h.htm> : accessed July 2021.

Thomas MORRALL (45), his sons, Benjamin (17), and Ebenezer (16), were three of the passengers on the steamship S/S Mississippi (bottom, below). Typically, the passage after 1870 was reduced to seven to ten days, but this journey lasted over a month probably due to docking at other ports on the way.

Once they disembarked, they would have taken a stagecoach ride, ridden in a wagon, or walked (depending on their financial standing), to Caldwell County. This would have taken days, even weeks, depending on the method and the number of stops (545 miles).^{51, 52}

| NAMES. | AGE. | | SEX. | Occupation, Trade or Profession. | Country to which they severally belong. | Country to be |
|------------------------|--------|---------|------|----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| | YEARS. | Months. | | | | |
| 1. W. J. Rogers | 31 | 1 | M | Farmer | England | |
| 2. Mrs. " | 31 | | F | Wife | | |
| 3. Geo. D. " | 7 | | M | Child | | |
| 4. Caroline " | 3 | | F | " | | |
| 5. A. D. Ogden | 24 | | M | Farmer | | |
| 6. Geo. " | inf. | | " | Inf. | | |
| 7. Neil Sweeney | 18 | | " | Farmer | | |
| 8. Lizzy Faaly | 20 | | F | Servant | Scotland | |
| 9. J. Grant | 44 | | M | Farmer | | |
| 10. Geo. Cook | 35 | | " | " | England | |
| 11. Peter Malcombe | 28 | | " | Lab. | Scotland | |
| 12. Geo. Wilson | 34 | | " | Farmer | England | |
| 13. Mrs. " | 32 | | F | Wife | | |
| 14. Geo. " | 2 | | M | Child | | |
| 15. Geo. Black | 29 | | " | Lab. | Scotland | |
| 16. John Hamalton | 17 | | " | " | | |
| 17. Thos. D. Donaldson | 17 | | " | " | | |
| 18. Thos. Morrall | 45 | | " | " | | |
| 19. Beny. " | 17 | | " | " | | |
| 20. Ebenezer " | 16 | | " | " | | |

Figure 9: Passenger List - Arrivals to New Orleans from Liverpool⁵⁰

Ancestry.com

⁵⁰ Passenger list for S.S. Mississippi arriving New Orleans. MORRALL, Thomas. 07 Feb 1879. NAI No 2824927. Collection: Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, Louisiana, 1820-1902. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

⁵¹ Google Maps. Directions. <https://www.google.com/maps/> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁵² Texas Transportation Museum. San Antonio Transportation History Ox, Mule, and Horse Drawn Era 1845 – 1910. <https://txtransportationmuseum.org/history/> : accessed 23 July 2021.



Figure 10: Stagecoach in 1887, San Antonio

Texas State Historical Association with fair use permission⁵³

Central Texas (1880-1940)

In the late 19th century, Texas experienced a tremendous amount of growth in the farming industry, with dramatic increases in both cotton and corn production.

The area in which they settled, Central Texas, was known for the black dirt soil where crops typically thrive, given the right mixture of sun and rain.⁵⁴ They lived in Caldwell, Bastrop, and Travis Counties, where Austin was the capital city for the state (see chart below).

⁵³ Texas State Historical Association. Stagecoach Lines. <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/stagecoach-lines> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁵⁴ Texas State Historical Association. Late Nineteenth-Century Texas. <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/late-nineteenth-century-texas> : accessed 23 July 2021.

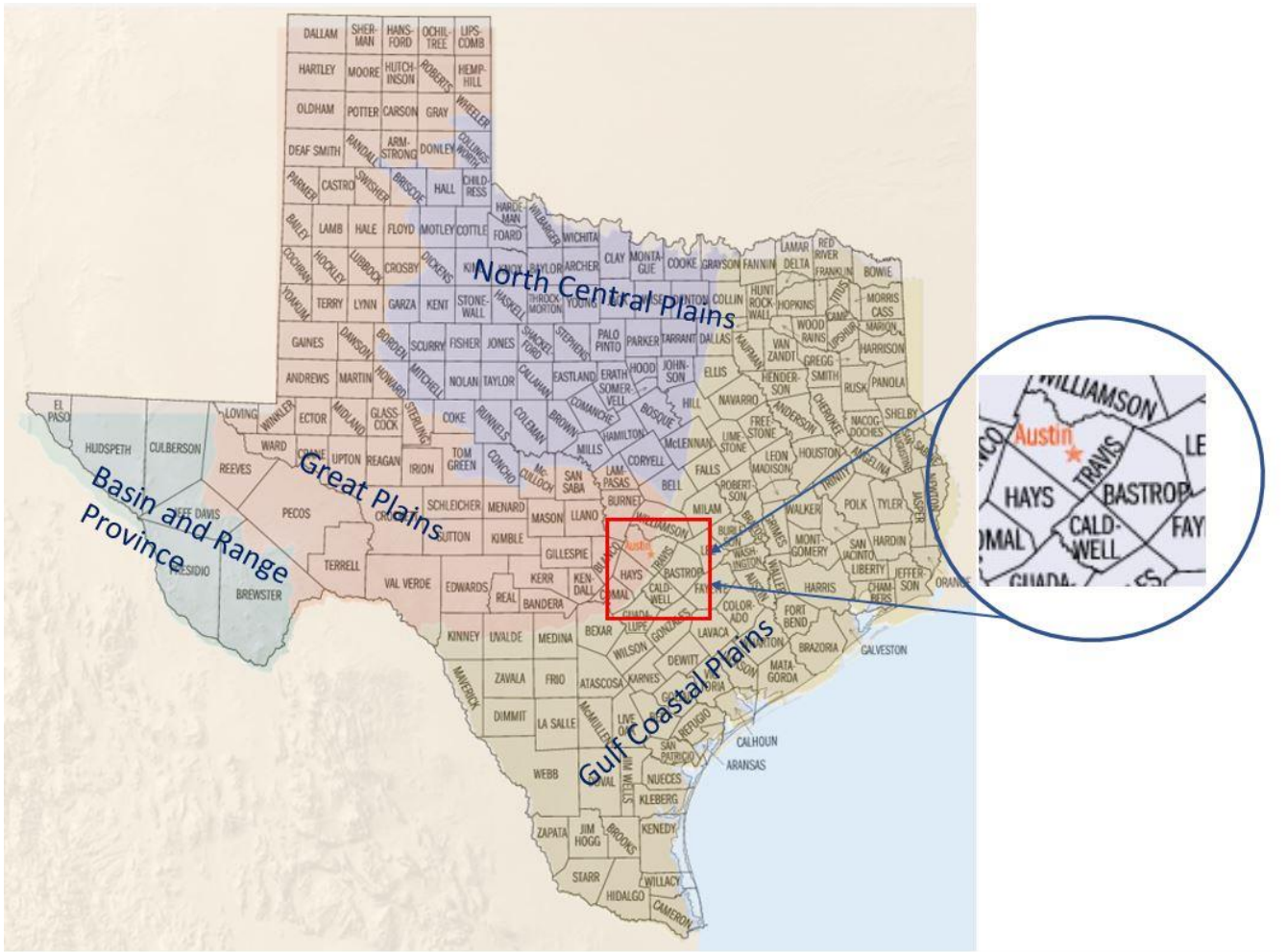


Figure 11: Central Texas - Caldwell, Bastrop and Travis Counties (includes Austin)

Texas State Historical Association (Physical Regions of Texas) , reprinted with fair use permission⁵⁵

Sheriffs' Association of Texas (Texas map overlaid), reprinted with permission⁵⁶

⁵⁵ Texas State Historical Association. *Terms of Use*. <https://www.tshaonline.org/terms-of-use> : accessed 9 March 2021.

⁵⁶ Sheriffs' Association of Texas. *Interactive County Map*. https://www.sheriffstx.org/county_map/ : accessed 11 March 2021.

Thomas and his sons started farming in Caldwell County (1880) leasing sixty acres of land from John Tyler, near Lockhart.^{58, 59} With determination and hard work, they “reaped” the rewards with more freedom but took risks with climate, crop demand and their knowledge of farming.

He and his sons also farmed in Bastrop County (1883-1885), leasing forty-seven acres (subleased by G. B. Fowler of P. F. Wade’s land).^{60, 61, 62}

Ben, as he now preferred to be called, had moved to the larger town of Austin, just northwest of Bastrop. He worked as a telephone operator at Erie Telegraph and Telephone Co., lodging at the Capital Hotel.⁶³

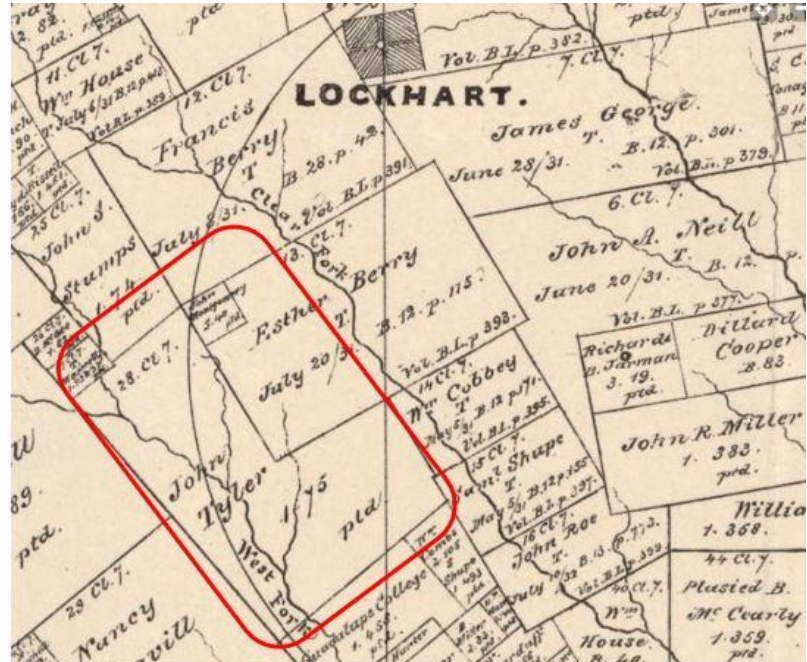


Figure 12: Extract from Map of Caldwell County, 1880, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, fair use permission⁵⁷

Thomas had found a church home at the Walnut Baptist Church in Austin where he was their pastor for seventeen months (1885-1886).⁶⁴ In 1888, he was active in the Baptist presbytery in Bastrop County, as one of four men providing guidance for their ministerial flock.⁶⁵ About that same time, Ben married a Texas girl, Della FLUME (b. February 1860),⁶⁶ in (Austin) Travis County.⁶⁷

⁵⁷ Library of Congress. Geography and Map Division: Map of Caldwell County – 1880.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2009583502/> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁵⁸ Census records. USA. Caldwell County, Texas. 1 June 1880. MORRALL, Thomas. ED 027. Roll 1293. p. 184D. Collection: 1880 United States Federal Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

⁵⁹ County Tax Rolls. USA. Caldwell County, Texas. 1880. MORRALL, Thos. Collection: Texas, County Tax Rolls 1846-1910. https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=R_101385184811 : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁶⁰ County Tax Rolls. USA. Bastrop County, Texas. 1883. MORRALL, T. Collection: Texas, County Tax Rolls 1846-1910. https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=R_101385184811 : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁶¹ County Tax Rolls. USA. Bastrop County, Texas. 1884. MORRALL, Thomas. Collection: Texas, County Tax Rolls 1846-1910. https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=R_22131856184 : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁶² County Tax Rolls. USA. Bastrop County, Texas. 1885. MORRALL, T. Collection: Texas, County Tax Rolls 1846-1910. https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=R_22131887946 : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁶³ Portal To Texas History. Morrison & Fourmy's General Directory of the City of Austin for 1889-1890, book, 1889. Galveston: Morrison & Fourmy. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph46837/m1/191/?q=Morrall> : accessed July 23, 2021. p. 163.

⁶⁴ Walnut Creek Baptist Church. Our Pastors Through the Years. <https://www.walnutcreekbc.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Pages.main&v7B62DB12A0CB82E17DF62EEB5C796C0CC342340B54A4F0A7BD7C017EE6B45D70=SGIzdG9veV9QYXN0b3Jz> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁶⁵ Graham, B. J. W., ed. (1920) *Baptist Biography*. Volume II. p. 3. https://www.forgottenbooks.com/en/download/BaptistBiography_10059678.pdf : accessed 25 July 2021.

By 1889, Thomas had moved in with Benjamin and his family (1215 Canterbury Street) in Austin. Ben worked at the Texas Telegraph and Telephone Company in the Driskill Hotel, as a manager.⁶⁹

On 7 September 1891, Thomas, and Benjamin⁷⁰ both received their Naturalization papers, becoming United States citizens (see Thomas' news, right).

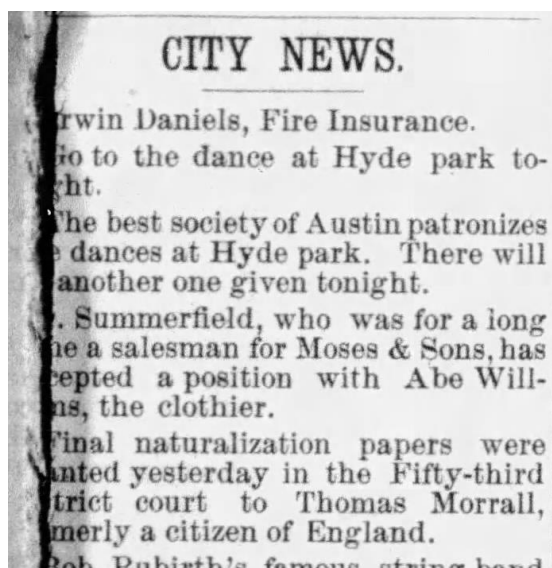


Figure 13: Thomas receives citizenship⁶⁸

Records for Ebenezer were difficult to find. He married Elizabeth HICKMAN 14 May 1892 (below), by a Justice of the Peace, instead of his father,

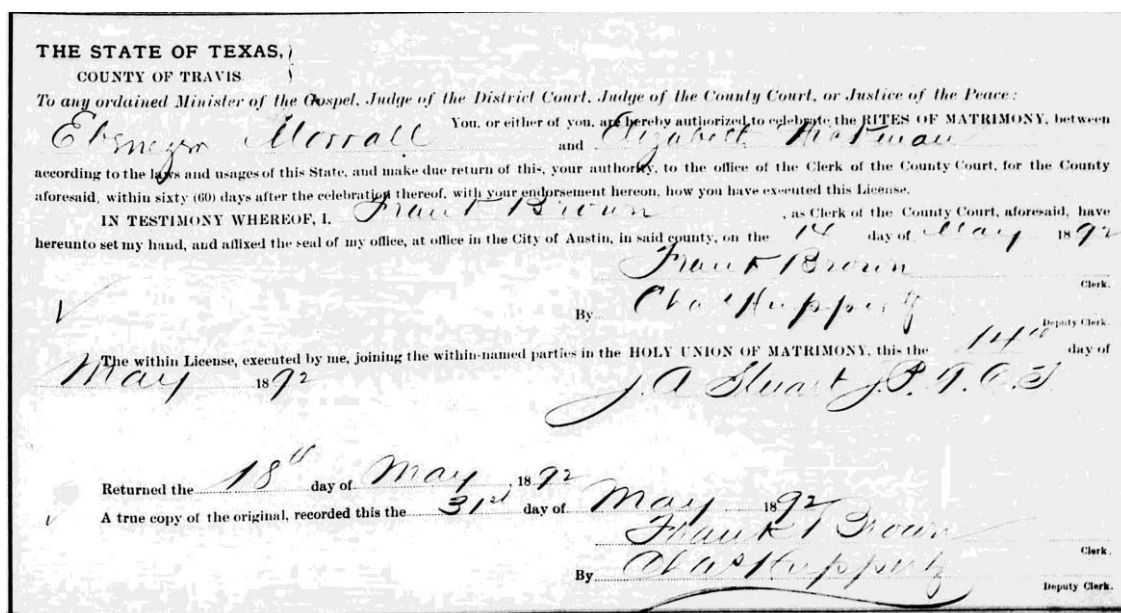


Figure 14: Marriage of Ebenezer MORRALL and Elizabeth HICKMAN⁷¹

⁶⁶ Census Records. USA. Travis County, Texas. 1 June 1900. MORRALL, Ben. ED 0102. FHL Film 1241673. p. 1. Collection: 1900 United States Federal Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁶⁷ Marriages Index. USA. Travis County, Texas. 1885. MORRALL, Benjamin and FLUME, Della. FHL Film no 978166. [Transcription] Collection: Texas, U.S., Select County Marriage Index, 1837-1965. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁶⁸ News Announcements. (1891) The Austin American-Statesman. 24 September. MORRALL, Thomas. p. 5d. [Transcription]. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/357836893/> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁶⁹ Portal To Texas History. Morrison & Fourmy's General Directory of the City of Austin for 1889-1890. Galveston: Morrison & Fourmy. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph39150/m1/209/?q=Morrall> : accessed July 23, 2021. p. 172.

⁷⁰ U.S. Passport Application. MERRALL, Benjamin. (Birth: 12 September 1861). Application Date: 29 March 1924. RN: 385376. Volume: Roll 2456 - Certificates: 385350-385849, 29 Mar 1924-31 Mar 1924. Collection: U.S., Passport Applications, 1795-1925. <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1174/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

⁷¹ Marriages (CR) USA. Travis County, Texas. 14 May 1892. MORRALL, Ebenezer and HICKMAN, Elizabeth. RN 577. The Book Series: 7, 8. Collection: Texas, U.S., Select County Marriage Records, 1837-1965. . <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 23 July 2021.

which may suggest a disagreement or elopement. No definitive records were found after this date searching Ancestry,⁷² FindMyPast,⁷³ Newspapers+ Publisher Extra,⁷⁴ Fold3⁷⁵ and The Portal to Texas History⁷⁶ for either Ebenezer or Elizabeth.

Thomas died 21 November 1896⁷⁷ after a lingering illness, at Ben's house. Thomas was buried in Oakwood Cemetery with Masonic orders, where Ben was associated with a lodge later with the secretary role.^{78, 79}

Ben and his family thrived in Austin. He added night work at the Houston and Texas Central Railway's (H&TC) freight depot as a telephone operator in 1897⁸⁰ and moved into a cashier role by 1900, leaving the telegraph office.⁸¹

⁷² Ancestry. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

⁷³ FindMyPast. <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

⁷⁴ Newspapers+ Publisher Extra. <https://www.newspapers.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

⁷⁵ Fold3. <https://www.fold3.com/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

⁷⁶ Portal To Texas History. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

⁷⁷ Death Announcements. (1896) The Austin American-Statesman. 21 November. MORRALL, Rev. Thomas. p. 3b. [Transcription]. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/366651549/> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁷⁸ Monumental Inscriptions. USA. Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, Travis Country, Texas. 21 November 1896. MORRALL, Thomas. Memorial ID: 30299639. <https://www.findagrave.com/> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁷⁹ Portal To Texas History. Morrison & Fourmy's General Directory of the City of Austin for 1900-1901. Galveston: Morrison & Fourmy. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph61100/m1/42/?q=Morrall> : accessed July 23, 2021. p. 38.

⁸⁰ Portal To Texas History. Morrison & Fourmy's General Directory of the City of Austin for 1897-1898. Galveston: Morrison & Fourmy. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph39149/m1/249/?q=Morrall> : accessed July 23, 2021. p. 227.

⁸¹ Portal To Texas History. Morrison & Fourmy's General Directory of the City of Austin for 1900-1901. Galveston: Morrison & Fourmy. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph61100/m1/42/?q=Morrall> : accessed July 23, 2021. pp. 44, 161.

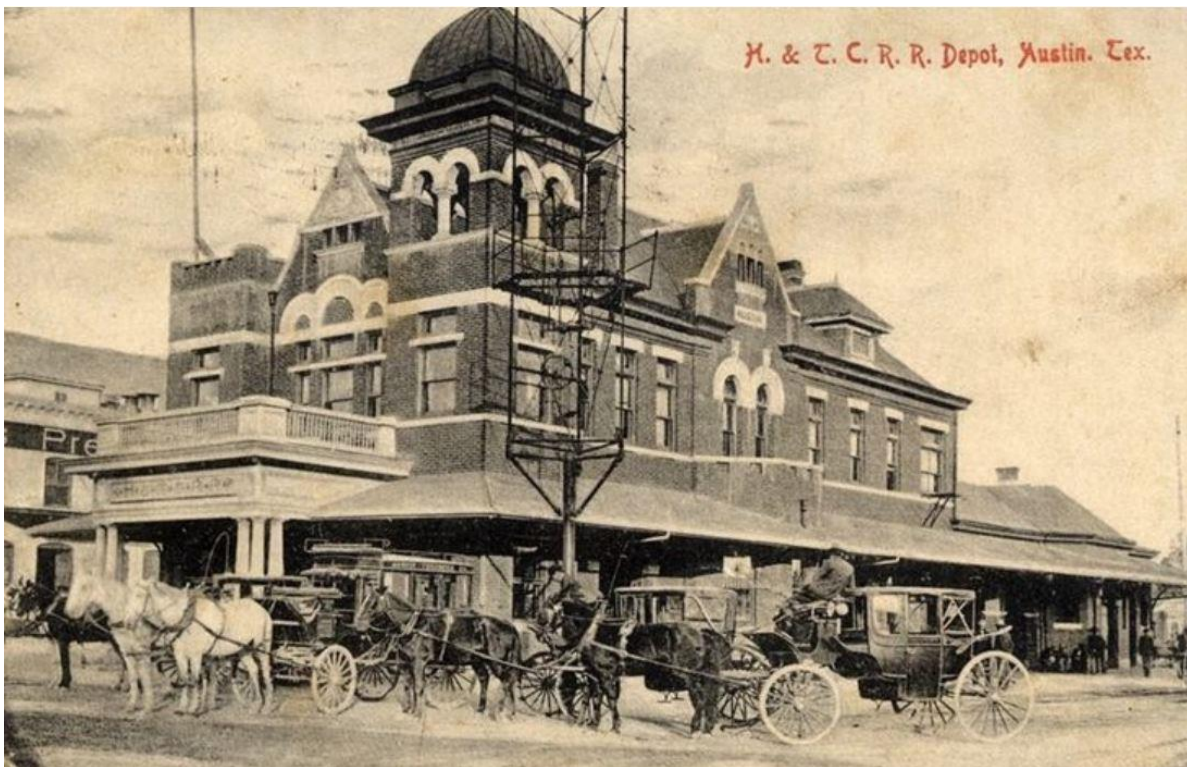


Figure 15: Houston and Texas Central Railway Depot in Austin (probably late 19th century)⁸²

He supported his wife's social endeavors (as vice-president of a local ladies aid organization)⁸³ and his son, Benjamin Thomas, Jr. (b. August 1889), and two daughters, Maude (b. December 1886) and Kathleen (b. January 1897).⁸⁴

In 1906, Ben suffered a hard fall at work at the railroad depot attempting to catch a moving electric car whose handle broke when he grabbed it, landing headfirst on the pavement, resulting in a gash on his forehead.⁸⁵ While this job had some danger, by 1910 Ben and Della and family had moved to a house (bought and owned, free of mortgage) on East 1st Street. Oldest daughter, Maude (23), lived at home while Kathleen (13) attended school. The daughters thrived; attending college,^{86, 87} getting married,^{88, 89} having families,^{90, 91} and living full lives.^{92, 93} Ben, Jr., also married,⁹⁴ registered

⁸² Texas State Historical Association. Houston and Texas Central Railway. Texas State Historical Association, fair use permission. <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/houston-and-texas-central-railway> : accessed 24 July 2021.

⁸³ Portal To Texas History. Morrison & Fourmy's General Directory of the City of Austin for 1900-1901. Galveston: Morrison & Fourmy. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph61100/m1/42/?q=Morrall> : accessed July 23, 2021. p. 28.

⁸⁴ Census Records. USA. Travis County, Texas. 1 June 1900. MORRALL, Ben. ED 0102. FHL Film 1241673. p. 1. Collection: 1900 United States Federal Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁸⁵ News Announcements. (1906) The Daily Express, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. 23 September 1906. MORRALL, Benjamin. Vol. 41. No. 266. Ed. 1. p. 9b. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph440884/m1/9/?q=Morrall> : accessed 23 July 2021.

⁸⁶ Directories. USA. Austin, [Travis County] Texas. *University of Texas Register*. 1917. MORRALL, Maude. Collection: U.S., College Student Lists, 1763-1924. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.

⁸⁷ Directories. USA. Austin, [Travis County] Texas. *University of Texas [graduation]*. 1920. MORRALL, Ruth Kathleen. Collection: U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-1999. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.

⁸⁸ Marriages (CR) USA. Travis County, Texas. 31 July 1910. MORRALL, Maude Stokes and BLENDERMANN, Louis H. p. 130. Collection: Texas, U.S., Select County Marriage Records, 1837-1965. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.

for the WWI military draft,⁹⁵ had a family,⁹⁶ and worked as a ranchman,⁹⁷ deputy sheriff,⁹⁸ caseworker,⁹⁹ an accountant, and a pastor, but died of heart disease at 51.^{100, 101}

Unfortunately, Della (Adele) suffered kidney disease and died (age 61) 27 April 1921. She was buried at Oakwood Cemetery^{102, 103} Ben, feeling an urge to travel, applied for a passport. He planned to travel 14 June 1924 for three months on the Cedric steamship, visiting England, France, and Italy¹⁰⁴ however he returned early to New York 12 August from Southampton, possibly cutting his trip short.¹⁰⁵ The passport application provided a wealth of information; great tools for genealogists whose U.S. families may have travelled.

-
- ⁸⁹ Marriages (CR) USA. Travis County, Texas. 7 June 1926. MORRALL, Ruth Kathleen and GLAZE, Wiley Eugene. CN 824. Collection: Texas, U.S., Select County Marriage Records, 1837-1965. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ⁹⁰ Census Records. USA. Austin, Travis, Texas. 1 April 1930. BLENDERMANN, Maud. ED 0027. FHL Film: 2342136. p. 19A. Collection: 1930 United States Federal Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ⁹¹ Census Records. USA. Austin, Travis, Texas. 1 April 1940. GLAZE, Kathleen. ED 227-31. Roll: m-t0627-04149. p. 12A. Collection: 1940 United States Federal Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ⁹² Deaths (CR) USA. Port Arthur, Jefferson, Texas. 29 November 1962. BLENDERMANN, Maude. (Birth: 13 December 1886). Collection: Texas, U.S., Death Certificates, 1903-1982. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ⁹³ Deaths (CR) USA. Austin, Travis, Texas. 23 July 1966. GLAZE MORRALL, Kathleen. (Birth: 13 January 1897). Collection: Texas, U.S., Death Certificates, 1903-1982. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ⁹⁴ Marriages Index. USA. Travis County, Texas. 1909. MORRALL, MORRALL, Ben T. and MOORE, Maude. FHL Film: 978170. Collection: Texas, U.S., Select County Marriage Index, 1837-1965. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ⁹⁵ Military Registration Cards, World War I (United States). 5 June 1917. MORRALL, Ben Thomas. SN 29. Collection: U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ⁹⁶ Census Records. USA. Austin, Travis, Texas. 1 April 1930. MORRALL, Ben T. ED 0027. FHL Film: 2342136. p. 23B. Collection: 1930 United States Federal Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ⁹⁷ Directories. USA. Austin, [Travis County] Texas. *Austin, Texas, City Directory, 1930*. 1930. MORRALL, Benjamin T., Jr. Collection: U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ⁹⁸ Directories. USA. Austin, [Travis County] Texas. *Austin, Texas, City Directory, 1932*. 1932. MORRALL, Benjamin T., Jr. Collection: U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ⁹⁹ Directories. USA. Austin, [Travis County] Texas. *Austin, Texas, City Directory, 1935*. 1935. MORRALL, Benjamin T., Jr. Collection: U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ¹⁰⁰ Deaths (CR) USA. Austin, Travis, Texas. 14 March 1941. MORRALL, Ben Thomas, Jr. (Birth: 24 August 1889). Collection: Texas, U.S., Death Certificates, 1903-1982. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ¹⁰¹ Monumental Inscriptions. USA. Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, Travis County, Texas. 1941. MORRALL, Rev. Ben T. Memorial ID: 68808047. <https://www.findagrave.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ¹⁰² Deaths (CR) USA. Austin, Travis, Texas. 27 April 1921. MORRALL, Della. (Birth: 5 February 1860). Collection: Texas, U.S., Death Certificates, 1903-1982. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ¹⁰³ Monumental Inscriptions. USA. Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Austin, Travis County, Texas. 28 April 1921. MORRALL, Della F. Memorial ID: 26216919. <https://www.findagrave.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.
- ¹⁰⁴ U.S. Passport Application. MERRALL, Benjamin. (Birth: 12 September 1861). Application Date: 29 March 1924. RN: 385376. Volume: Roll 2456 - Certificates: 385350-385849, 29 Mar 1924-31 Mar 1924. Collection: U.S., Passport Applications, 1795-1925. <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1174/> : accessed 19 July 2021.
- ¹⁰⁵ Passenger list for Majestic, arriving New York, New York, USA. MORRALL, Benjamin. 12 August 1924. No: 385376. Collection: New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.

385376

The original and each copy of an application for a passport must have attached to it a copy of the applicant's photograph. A loose signed photograph of the applicant must accompany the application. The photographs must be on thin paper, should have a light background, and be not over three inches in size.

This blank must be completely filled out. The legal fee of one dollar, in currency or postal money order, and the applicant's certificate of naturalization must accompany the application. The rules should be carefully read before mailing the application to the Department of State, Division of Passport Control, Washington, D. C.

[REVISION OF JANUARY, 1918.]

[FORM FOR NATURALIZED CITIZEN.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
PASS PORT
MAR 29 1924
ISSUED
WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
STATE OF Texas ss:
COUNTY OF Travis

I, Benjamin Morrall, a NATURALIZED AND LOYAL CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, hereby apply to the Department of State, at Washington, for a passport.

I solemnly swear that I was born at Princes End Staffordshire England on Tuesday Day of September, 1861; that my father, Thomas Morrall, was born in England and is now residing at _____; that I emigrated to the United States, sailing from Liverpool England about Jan'y 4th 1879; that I resided 4 1/2 years, uninterruptedly, in the United States, from 1879 to 1924 at Austin Texas; that I was naturalized as a citizen of the United States at Austin Texas District of Travis County at Sept 7 1891 as shown by the Certificate of Naturalization presented herewith; that I am the IDENTICAL PERSON described in said Certificate; that I have resided outside the United States since my naturalization at the following places for the following periods:

from _____ to _____
I that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at Austin, the State of Texas, where I follow the occupation of Cashier. My last passport was obtained from _____ on _____ and was _____ I am about _____ months with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein; and I desire support for use in visiting the countries hereinafter named for the following purpose:

England (Name of country.)
France (Name of country.)
Italy (Name of country.)
Pleasure and Recreation (Object of visit.)
Pleasure and Recreation (Object of visit.)
Pleasure and Recreation (Object of visit.)
I intend to leave the United States from the port of New York NY on board the Cedric on June 14th, 1924.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.
Further, I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion: So help me God.
Benjamin Morrall (Signature of applicant.)

Sworn to before me this 25th day of March 1924
By Bob Hart Clerk of the U. S. Court at Austin, Texas
By A. B. Coffey, Deputy

FEE REC'D MAR 29 1924 9398

Figure 16: U.S. Passport Application for Ben MORRALL, p. 1 of 2¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁶ U.S. Passport Application. MERRALL, Benjamin. (Birth: 12 September 1861). Application Date: 29 March 1924. RN: 385376. Volume: Roll 2456 - Certificates: 385350-385849, 29 Mar 1924-31 Mar 1924. Collection: U.S., Passport Applications, 1795-1925. <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1174/> : accessed 19 July 2021.

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT.

Age: 62 years. Mouth: medium
 Stature: 5 feet, 4 1/2 inches, Eng. Chin: Round
 Forehead: high Hair: Dark Brown mixed with grey
 Eyes: Blue Complexion: Fair
 Nose: Broad Face: Round
 Distinguishing marks: Short Stout

IDENTIFICATION.

Austin Tex March 29 1924
 I, H.H. Henderson, solemnly swear that I am a [native] citizen
 of the United States; that I reside at Austin Texas; that I have known
 the above-named Benjamin Merrall personally for 8 years and
 know [him] to be the identical person referred to in the within-described certificate of natural-
 ization; and that the facts stated in [his] affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

H.H. Henderson
Chief Operator W. U. Tel. Co.
506 Mueces St
(Occupation.)
(Address of witness.)

Sworn to before me this 25th day
 of March, 1924

[SEAL.]

H.H. Hart
 Clerk of the U.S. District Court at Austin, Texas
 Deputy
 Applicant desires passport to be sent to the following address:
Benjamin Merrall
1410 East First Street
Austin, Texas

A signed duplicate of the photograph to be attached hereto must be sent to the Department with the application, to be affixed to the passport with an impression of the Department's seal.



Figure 17: U.S. Passport Application for Ben MORRALL, p. 2 of 2¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁷ U.S. Passport Application. MERRALL, Benjamin. (Birth: 12 September 1861). Application Date: 29 March 1924. RN: 385376. Volume: Roll 2456 - Certificates: 385350-385849, 29 Mar 1924-31 Mar 1924. Collection: U.S., Passport Applications, 1795-1925. <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1174/>; accessed 19 July 2021.

Ben continued working until retirement then moved into the Brown Rest Home¹⁰⁸ where he later died, 30 April 1940, age 78, outliving his wife 19 years.¹⁰⁹

Final Thoughts

Thomas MORRALL and his sons, Benjamin, and Ebenezer took the risk to leave their homeland and emigrate to America and Texas, for a better life. The land was full of promise and with their determination and hard work, they appeared to find success; not part of the 25% who returned to England. While not many of their English counterparts lived in Central Texas, the MORRALL family embraced their new home and carved out a new heritage. They did live the “American Dream”.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁸ Census Records. USA. Austin, Travis, Texas. 1 April 1940. MORRALL, Ben. ED 227-67. Roll: m-t0627-04150. p. 25B. Collection: 1940 United States Federal Census. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.

¹⁰⁹ Deaths (CR) USA. Austin, Travis, Texas. 30 April 1940. MORRALL, Ben. (Birth: 12 September 1861). Collection: Texas, U.S., Death Certificates, 1903-1982. <https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 24 July 2021.

¹¹⁰ Library of Congress. The American Dream. <https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/american-dream/#students> : accessed 24 July 2021.

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<https://www.newspapers.com/image/366651549/> : accessed July 2021.

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