

SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION
by Lorraine Butler (GG granddaughter); Elmira, NY

The family of Mordica and Harriet Lewis Morris



Back Row L to R: Phoebe Della, Charlotte May, Lewis Carl, Clayton Allen, Floyd Hanson. **Front Row:** Mordica, Buell, Harriet, Willard, Arizona Galileo, Nellie, Mordica Edwin. This photo was given to my Uncle Roy Jones by Carllena Morris (Arizona's daughter), who also identified the subjects. It is believed to have been taken about 1902-1906, possibly somewhere in Washington County Ohio.

Mordica and Harriet (Lewis) Morris

I am still researching Mordica and Harriet Lewis Morris. They were my Great Great Grandparents.

Mordica Morris was born into a long line of Quakers on March 22, 1845 (most likely in or near Marion, Ohio). He was the oldest of 8 children born to Ohio natives Edwin Morris and his wife, Rachael Hanson Morris. His great grandfather, Elijah Hanson, served in the Revolutionary War. Like his father, Mordica began farming at a young age.

Harriet Lewis was the first of 5 children of David Lewis and his wife Phoebe Metcalf Lewis, both Ohio natives. She was born February 25, 1853 in Ohio.

Mordica and Harriet were married March 27, 1873, in Bartlett Ohio; family records state they were married by a Rev Calahan. They were the parents of 10 children, including my Great Grandfather Arizona Galileo (1874-1963), Phoebe Della (1876-1963), Clayton Allen (1878-1978), Floyd Hanson (1881-1973), Lewis Carl (1883-1965), Charlotte May (1885-1940), Mordica Edwin (1888-1979), Harriet Nellie (1890-1982), Alexander Buell (1894-1974), and David Willard (1896-1927).

According to census and birth records, the couple moved to Ravenswood, WV, sometime after Arizona was born in April 1874. Available records list WV as birthplace of daughter Della (in 1876), and the birth of their third child, Clayton Allen, was definitely documented in the Jackson County records for November 20, 1878. Most records give WV as birthplace for their remaining children, and it would appear they lived in Jackson County at least through 1900, with Mordica & their sons farming, and Harriet keeping house with the help of their daughters.

By 1910, they had moved back across the state line into Ohio, where they appear to have lived the remainder of their lives.

Mordica died in Belpre, Ohio, on October 12, 1929 at age 84. Cause of death was listed as Mitral Regurgitation, a condition he'd had for about 15 months. After Mordica's death, Harriet spent some time in Columbus, where she lived with son Alexander Buell, his wife Effie, and their children until her own death in Belpre on April 1, 1939. Her cause of death was given as congestive heart failure, pneumonia, and hypertensive heart disease.

They are buried together in Torch, Ohio.

Sources:

Mordica Morris Death Certificate / State of Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics

Harriet Morris Death Certificate / State of Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics

Jackson County, WV, Birth Records

Headstone of Mordica & Harriet

US Census records