

THE MORROW SAGA Part 17 — Judge William T. Morrow

BY CHARLES HARTLEY
LOCAL HISTORIAN

William Thomas Morrow had never been afraid of hard work. As we've mentioned before, at age 12 he was a water boy for the L & N Railroad when it constructed its main line through Shepherdsville in 1854. Later in life he would describe how he carried two buckets of water with an old fashioned windlass from the well in town to the work site for fifty cents a day.

But he wasn't opposed to using his brain instead of his muscles to earn a living if the opportunity arose. While we have no record of his schooling, it appears that he took to it well from the work he did in later life.

When he joined the Union Army at 19, he was chosen to serve in the quartermaster corps and quickly demonstrated his ability to maintain records and deal with the procurement and distribution of supplies. By the beginning of 1865 he had reached the rank of Commissary Sergeant. Promoted to First Lieutenant, he was made acting regimental quartermaster. It seems likely that he might have made the army his career had his brother Nathan not needed him to return home to help procure their joint inheritance.

It appears from a newspaper comment made some years later, that William taught school at the small Bullitt's Lick school after returning to Shepherdsville, perhaps while he was waiting for the courts to settle his inheritance.

It had taken nearly three years, but in June 1868 William and Nathan received the court-ordered settlement of \$1,521.18 from D. L. Brooks and Susan Anderson. While the court battles over this settlement would continue for others, the Morrrows moved on with their lives.

As we described before, William tried his hand at being a merchant at Quarry Switch, and served for a time as deputy sheriff before taking the job as census taker for the 1870 census.

Setting out on June 1, 1870 to take the county census he began in the Leaches District with those whose post office was at Cane Spring. By the 14th he had reached those whose post office was at High Grove. Two days later he returned to the Cane Springs region where he finished up on June 25th, having recorded

203 households.

Moving next to the Pine Tavern District, he began the same day at Lebanon Junction where he remained through June 30th, having recorded more than 90 households thus far. In the next days he would move in and out of several small communities with post offices including Belmont, Bardstown Junction and Pitts Point where he finished the district on July 21st.

He next moved to the Mt. Washington District where he began on July 22nd in the town itself. Three days later he finished the town, having recorded 56 households. It took him until August 6th to finish the rest of this district, having recorded 179 households altogether.

Finding himself in the north-central part of the county, he began with the vast Shepherdsville District with those whose post office was called Mt. Video, better known as Brooks Station, where he worked through August 12th. He then headed into the hills and valleys of western Bullitt County, and then back toward the town of Shepherdsville where he arrived on September 9th, having recorded 460 households in the district thus far. Here he made quick work of it, and finished by 43 more households to the county census, and completing a job that had taken more than three months.

We are uncertain how William was employed after this until he was commissioned as a storekeeper by the Internal Revenue Service in January 1873, although he likely could have been employed earlier as a gauger.

In 1890, J. H. Grimes of Harrodsburg, who had considerable experience in the field, wrote a handbook for gaugers and storekeepers in which he wrote, "The office of Gauger is a most important one, for to him is entrusted the responsibility of determining the tax due the Government from distilled spirits."

He continued, "Gaugers should be men of good moral standing, well versed in the rules of arithmetic and expert in the use of decimal fractions, able to write a legible hand and should be faithful and conscientious in the discharge of their official duties with which they should be thoroughly familiar."

Later he wrote, "The position of Store-keeper is one of trust and confidence, and none but competent, vigilant,

faithful and conscientious men should be chosen to fill such offices. The joint interests of the Government and the manufacturer of spirits are under their protection. Their selection should be made rather from a consideration of their moral and business standing than as a reward for their political proclivities and influences."

His was an important post for he held the keys to the government warehouse locks, and was required to be present whenever those were unlocked. He was responsible for keeping records of all operations of the distillery.

As the government at that time received a significant portion of its income from taxes on the productions of distilleries, it was especially important that gaugers and storekeepers be honest and capable men.

Later, in writing William's obituary, the editor of the local paper wrote, "After the war he entered the services of the Government in the internal revenue department and was stationed at many distilleries at Tyrone, Lawrenceburg, Atherton-town and Louisville, as well as other places in Bullitt, Marion, and Nelson counties."

While, as a Republican, William likely profited in securing his appointments during the administrations of four Republican presidents, it is telling that he continued working in these capacities when the Democrat Grover Cleveland was elected in 1884, as changes in administrations often determined who got such jobs.

William appears to have been frugal in his investments, and to have become one who sometimes loaned money, taking mortgages on property to guarantee repayment. One example occurred in 1890 when he loaned \$3,675 to James B. Myers and took a mortgage on Myers' 445 acre farm along Salt River, which was paid off nine years later.

In November 1891, William resigned his post as gauger, reporting that "his private business needed his whole attention."

County Judge James F. Smith, who was serving his second term as Bullitt County judge, resigned in January 1894, and Leroy Daniel was appointed to fill out his term of office. When it came time to elect a new judge, there were five Democrats seeking the post, but when William Morrow entered the race as a

Republican, the Democrats met and decided that Wilhite Carpenter would be their candidate.

Came election day, and Bullitt County elected its first Republican county judge. A quarter-century later, a Courier Journal reporter did a human interest piece on Bullitt County, and among his comments he mentioned how the county was almost always led by Democrats, but how once, 25 years earlier, it had turned to William Morrow, who "was supported by Democrats and Republicans, who admired him for his business qualifications. When he went into office the county was \$11,000 in debt, and when he went out she had in the bank to her credit \$6,000."

Perhaps the most embarrassing thing to happen to him occurred midway through his term in office. He had business to attend to in Frankfort in February 1896, and took the evening train to Louisville to visit his good friend Frank Straus, a former Bullitt County State Representative, before catching the Tuesday morning train to Frankfort.

When he returned home a few days later, he discovered that the metal box he kept important valuables in was missing. Included were bearer bonds that could be cashed by anyone, stock certificates in the Louisville City Railway Company and several building and loan associations, and about \$10,000 in real-estate bonds.

Despite his inquiries around town, no one could shed any light on who might have stolen his treasure box. The story was reported in the Louisville paper the next day, but little hope was had that the stolen papers could be recovered.

Then on Sunday morning, a knock on his door brought Judge Morrow face to face with Frank Straus who was holding Morrow's metal box in his hands. It seems that the Judge had thought it wise to leave his treasure box with a friend while in Frankfort, and then had forgotten he did!

The Judge received a

goodly number of friendly ribbings for some time after that.

After his term in office, Judge Morrow spent some time working as a lawyer, given his judicial experience. Then he returned to working for the internal revenue service as a storekeeper and/or gauger.

By 1915, now in his seventies, William decided to retire from the daily grind, and he began traveling to southern Florida to spend his winters; but he continued to summer in Bullitt County.

In 1917, he was part of a committee that raised funds to erect a flag pole on the courthouse lawn. And that June he volunteered as a registrar for the selective draft.

Later he was a part of the committee formed to erect a memorial to the Bullitt County boys who died in the service of their country.

William continued to winter in the southern climes, but always came home to Shepherdsville until on May 4, 1928, his good friend and editor of the local paper, J. W. Barrall wrote that Judge Morrow was dead.

Having already given so generously to his nephew, William E. Morrow and Nell, his wife of Louisville, he

willed the remainder of his estate to the couple's children.


Barrall called Morrow "one of the best judges the county has had in the past fifty years."

He continued, "Judge Morrow was a man of strong likes and dislikes, and very pronounced ideas on all questions of the day. Considering his very advanced age, he was very liberal in his view, and was a very tolerant man. He was a well-read man, very intelligent indeed, and had traveled in this and other countries considerably and was able to tell very interestingly of his travels."

"He had outlived his generation, but read current literature and never fell into the bogs of Old Fogysism. He was true to his friends and ideals."

Thus concluded the life of a good man; and brings us to the end of this series.

For those of you who may have missed some of the earlier episodes of this saga, the entire story is available in book form at the Bullitt County History Museum, and online at Amazon with all proceeds of its sale going to support the museum.



LEGAL NOTICE

The Bullitt County Extension District Board's most recent audit and adopted budget can be viewed anytime on the Department for Local Government's Public Portal website. If you would like to view our most recent financial statement, please visit us at our home office located at 384 Halls Lane Shepherdsville KY 40165, during our normal office hours of 8:00-4:30. This \$45 ad was paid for by Bullitt County Extension District Board Tax dollars. <http://kydlgweb.ky.gov/> Per KRS 65A.080(2)

179 S. Buckman St.
Shepherdsville
955-7255



Century 21

ADVANTAGE PLUS

Lou Ann Moore, Owner/Broker

10731 Hwy 44 E
Mt. Washington
957-2121



HELP WANTED

CITY OF SHEPHERDSVILLE

PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE 1 POSITION

working for the Public Works Department.

JOB OBJECTIVE:
Performs a variety of routine tasks related to the upkeep and maintenance of City owned properties, grounds, equipment, and vehicles.

PRIMARY JOB FUNCTIONS (including but not limited to):

- Mowing and trimming of City properties, green spaces, and right of ways.
- The cleaning of storm drains and culverts.
- Any general maintenance required on City properties.
- Assist with other departments as needed.
- Ability to communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
- Ability to establish and maintain accurate records and files.
- Ability to learn the operations, policies, and procedures of the City and the assigned department or office.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

- H.S. Diploma or equivalent.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Must be able to hold a CDL.
- Must have a basic understanding of general maintenance and mechanics.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:
While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to bend, stoop, crouch, and stand for extended periods of time. Applicants must be physically capable of lifting and carrying up to 50 pounds. Work is generally NOT performed in a climate-controlled office and employees may be exposed to extreme weather conditions. This position will require working evening and weekend hours. Travel for training courses and conferences is required.

PAY
Starting pay rate for this position is \$20.00/hr. Applications can be obtained online at www.shepherdsvilleky.gov or in person at Shepherdsville City Hall located at 634 Conestoga Parkway, Monday - Thursday from 8A to 5P and Friday 8A to 12 noon. Applications must be submitted to City Hall by noon on Friday September 5, 2025.

The City of Shepherdsville is an Equal Opportunity Employer

WATER DISTRIBUTION SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE CITY OF TAYLORSVILLE

The City of Taylorsville, located in Spencer County, Kentucky, seeks a qualified applicant for the position of **WATER DISTRIBUTION SUPERINTENDENT** to help with all related aspects of maintaining and operating the City of Taylorsville Water Distribution System.

The successful applicant must be a graduate of an accredited high school, preferably supplemented by five years of experience in water distribution. The candidate should have the ability to obtain a Grade III Distribution Certification in a period of 48 months of hire date or according to KYDOW rules referring to certification testing.

Starting salary based upon qualifications. Benefits include Health Insurance and Retirement System Contributions. Must possess valid driver's license, be able to pass background check and drug test.

Application deadline: September 18, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Applications and a current job description are available at City Hall or online at www.cityoftaylorsville.com. Applications may also be mailed to City Hall, Attn: Marcia Finley, City Clerk, at P.O. Box 279, Taylorsville, KY 40071. Phone: (502) 477-3235 Ext. 106. Fax: (502) 477-1310.

Email: mfinley@taylorsvillewater.org.

The City of Taylorsville is an Equal Opportunity Employer

HAPPENINGS IN BULLITT COUNTY

KLC HOSTING CODE ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

The Kentucky League of Cities will host a free code enforcement training session for the community.

It will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m., in Hammers Hall at the Jesse Schott Memorial Gym in Hillview on Prairie Drive.

Call 957-5280 for more information. The public is invited to attend.

AUTHORS FAIR ON SEPT. 13

The annual Bullitt County Authors Fair will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

It will be held at the Bullitt Central Library on Conestoga Parkway in Shepherdsville.

You are invited to come out and meet authors from the community.

Some of the featured authors will include Melissa Goodman, Stephen Zimmer, David Creek and Teri Polen as a whole lot more.

For a full lineup of authors, go to www.bullittcountyauthorsfair.com

DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO MEET

The Bullitt County Democratic Party will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at the Central Library in SHepherdsville.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m.

Deep canvassing training in preparation for door knocking in September.

Everyone is invited to attend.

CAR SHOW AT LJ FIRST BAPTIST

Lebanon Junction First Baptist Church will host a free car show on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 2-6 p.m.

The community is invited to attend. The day will include hamburgers and hot dogs, games and a kids search with bounces and SnoCones.

Everyone is invited. The church is located

at 495 Main St. in Lebanon Junction.

STREET DANCE IN LEBANON JCT.

The LJ Ministerial Association will host a street dance on Sun day, Sept. 14, at 5 p.m. It will be held at the caboose.

There will be food and fellowship. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy praise and worship music.

Door prizes will be distributed throughout the afternoon.

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN YARD SALE

The ladies of Hebron Presbyterian Church invites the community to the next yard sale on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 5-6. Doors open at 8 a.m. and close around 2 p.m. each day.

The activities building is located next to the church on Old Preston Highway at Hebron Lane.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER WOMEN HOST BUNCO

The St. Francis Xavier Women will host their fall bunco on Thursday, Sept. 11. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. with the bunco starting at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 per person and that includes food and drinks.

Everyone is invited to the Xavier Center on Highway 44 at Stringer Lane in Mount Washington.


License No. #ORG1325

BCHS PLANS CLASS REUNION

The Bullitt Central Class of 1980 will host a 45-year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 13. It will be held at MillaNova Winery in Mount Washington.

All classmates and teachers of this graduating class are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Alice Harris at aharris@mtwky.org



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That on 9/18/2025 at 10:00 a.m. a sale will be held at 1218 Highway 44 W (Park Office) Shepherdsville, KY), for the sale of the mobile home located at: 1218 Highway 44 W, Lot 108 Shepherdsville KY 40165 to sell the following articles to enforce a lien existing under the laws of the State of KENTUCKY against such articles for labor, services, skill or material expended upon a storage furnished for such articles at the request of the following designated persons, unless such articles are redeemed within thirty days of the publication of this notice.


Name: NICOLE LEIGH LOGSDON
Name: KACI WHITE
Name:
Description:
Vin: TNFLV26A50091RL12
Year: 1998
Make: FLEETWOOD
Size: 16 x 70
Lien: \$1,076.00



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Capstone Custom Homes, LLC, 1658 Deatsville Road, Shepherdsville KY 40165 has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to for the demolition of an existing structure and build a building. The property is located 220 Second Ave, Shepherdsville, KY 40165 on the south side of Salt River. Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.



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