

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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## Germantown

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## GERMANTOWN

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From The Maysville Bulletin, Maysville, Kentucky, January 26, 1876,

historical collection of the Mason County Museum

"To the Mason County Historical Society"

Maj. John D. Morford, fifty years ago, was the moneyed man of Germantown, living in the Bracken end of the town and keeping the only tavern with a large farm and some twenty or thirty slaves, loaning money, trading horses and farming. He had settled there in the woods, without anything, except a small horse, sleeping on four fork "bed tick" filled with leaves. The first year they felt greatly the need of a cow, but had no means to buy; but in a few swaps, he had a cow, and the "same poney", and from that day he was an accomplished horse jockey. And when in after years he became wealthy, he bred and dealt in fine stock. I never heard of his making a bad bargain. Although, he was illiterate he had fine business sense, and Aunt Rachel having a keen eye, quck perceptlon always when necessary came the the Major's assistance. She would attend to the Tavern, sell the "grog" to the early settlers, and the Major traded horses, and invested in other property at low figures. In after years she told my father she had gone in to her breakfast, after a nights revel with her pocket full of "cut quarters". Their rich harvest was during the war of 1812 to 1815. Aunt Rachel never had but one child, John, every where known as Jack Morford, a very handsome man, six feet high, full of fun and frolic, a great favorite with the old and young of that day; but as was and still very common he became a free drinker, and spent but little of his time at home. He was the only person who could make the Major and aunt Rachel "shell out". He died shortly after his marriage to Miss Coleman, of Harrison, when I suppose about 30 or 35 years old. I recollect when I was quite young that Jack was very sick in Baltimore and his father went in a "gig" all the distance from Germantown and brought him home. He held some Military position and I think he was the finest looking officer I ever saw in full regimentals. When Jack was at home, the Hotel table was well supplied and no complaint. Never were two old people fonder of a son than these. They both lived over three score and ten, the last years with but few associates except their blacks, and before their death most of them escaped to Canada. Aunt Rachel died first and after a few months the Major became very unhappy and wanted a wife to leave heir his estate. And the friends of Mrs. Polly Lewis then living in Pendleton

county persuaded her to marry him which she did, he having willed nearly all his estate, then reduced to some \$30,000. She was some 50 years old, an excellent woman with a married daughter. She lived with him some twelve months before he died giving him her entire time, he requiring constant nursing. After his death she lived many years in Carrollton, Ky.

This closes the short account of a prominent man of the early settlement of this village. In a few years he will have faded from the memory of that neighborhood, and the white Marble Tombstone if preserved will be the only thing to remind us that such a "Pioneers" lived.