

The Morgan Family (1896–1907)

Henry and Mary Morgan and their daughter Mildred lived in the house for just over a decade between 1896 and 1907.

Henry was born in Gibraltar on 23 May 1840, the son of Henry and Hannah Morgan. Henry Senior had been the Police Director for the territory,¹ but by the time of his son's birth was its Coroner.²

1962 MORGAN, Henry b 23 May 1840

AN EXTRACT
FROM THE
REGISTER OF BAPTISMS
SOLEMNIZED IN THE CITY OF GIBRALTAR IN THE YEAR 1840

When Born.	When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
			Christian.	Surname.			
May 23	June 20	Henry	Henry & Hannah	Morgan	Inhabitants	Coroner	E. J. Burrow D.D. Civil Chaplain

I Certify the above to be a true and correct Extract.

W. Newman
Canon of Gibraltar and
Acting Civil Chaplain
May 15th 1856.

②

A copy of Henry's baptism certificate

The first evidence of Henry's progress comes from the 1869 Army List and shows a move to mainland Britain. Under the Military Stores Department, he is listed as a Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Stores "with relative Military rank of Lieutenant", posted to the Tower of London.³ Even though this is his first appearance in the Army List, his Date of Commission is given as 1 April 1861. That must be because he was working for the Department from the moment of its creation in April 1861, when its civilian staff were given military commissions for the first time and their titles matched with equivalent army ranks. Indeed, it seems likely that Henry was working for the Army a while before that: later appearances in the Army List date his first commission to 21 December 1858, so he would already have been in Army employment for 2½ years when the MSD was created.⁴

Henry spent the remainder of his professional life in uniform, and his progress to the peak of his profession can be followed in the annual Army Lists.

1870 finds him in the same post as before but now located in the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich. He is among a number of officers who "have completed a practical course of instruction in the Manufacturing Departments".⁵

In 1871, the Military Stores Department and its ranks were renamed, and Henry was now an Assistant Commissary in the Control Department.⁴ He was posted to Gibraltar. The census for that year shows that his parents were either no longer alive or no longer living in the territory, and Henry was lodging with the family of John Serrurier, a Deputy Commissary who was his

senior in the Department.^{6,7} The posting lasted five years, with a further promotion in 1874 to Deputy Commissary (equivalent to Captain).⁸

That year he also came back briefly to England to marry Mary Elizabeth Sharpe in Solihull.⁹ Mary had been born in Warwick in 1840, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Sharpe, and baptised on June 10th in St Mary's Church.¹⁰ Growing up, she lived with her parents in the High Street in Warwick together with an older brother, a younger sister, and two servants.¹¹ The description of Henry's occupation in the 1851 census is unusually verbose:

Printer and Bookseller, Newspaper Proprietor and Distributor of Stamps employing 12 men, 3 apprentices, 1 errand boy.¹²

It seems likely he owned a shop and the family lived above it (it has now been replaced by a modern building, a branch of Holland & Barrett). In any case, it is clear that Mary grew up in a prosperous household. In the 1871 census she is still in the family home, age 31, though her father is now a widower.¹³

1840	10.	Mary Elizabeth Sharpe daughter of	Henry Elizabeth Sharpe	High St. Stationer	L. E. Parler
No. 483					

The 1861 census, however, shows that Mary spent some time away from Warwick, and it also offers a clue as to how she and Henry Morgan came to know each other. In that year she is found living with her uncle Josiah Sharpe at 9 Blackheath Terrace, Greenwich (somewhere near Heath House, at the North-East corner of the heath).¹⁴ Josiah is the Deputy Master of the Goldsmiths Company,¹⁵ so it is not difficult to see how his niece might move in the same circles as an Army officer stationed in Woolwich.

Once they were married, Mary presumably accompanied Henry on his return to Gibraltar, where he remained until 1876. He was then brought back to the UK and posted to Portsmouth.¹⁶ It is there on 19th December that couple's daughter, Mildred, was born.¹⁷ The 1911 Census indicates that they had another child, who, however, died, but I have been unable to identify a likely birth or death record either in Gibraltar or in England and Wales.²⁶

Henry's next posting, in 1879, was to Alderney in the Channel Islands,¹⁸ where he, Mary and Mildred lived for the next two years. As the only Ordnance officer on the island, he was presumably in charge of securing all the ordnance required for the extensive new fortifications which were being built there. He must have impressed, because in less than a year he had been promoted to Assistant Commissary General, ranked as a Lieutenant-Colonel.¹⁹

Then, after a relatively peaceful if busy couple of years on the island, in his next posting he saw active service for the one and only time. In 1882 he was posted to Egypt to play a role in the Anglo-Egyptian War, which took place between July and September of that year, and he stayed on until 1887.²⁰ On his return to the UK, a note is added to his entry in the Army List:

Lt.Colonel H. Morgan served in the Egyptian war of 1882 (mentioned in dispatches, promoted Assistant Commissary General of Ordnance with relative rank of Lt.Colonel, Medal, and Khedive's Star).²¹

In October 1897 he receives his final promotion — to Deputy Commissary General, with the honorary rank of Colonel — and his final posting, back to Woolwich Arsenal, the headquarters of the Ordnance Store Department. The 1891 census shows that the family’s accommodation was within the grounds of the Arsenal itself.²² By 1892 he had risen to second in command of the Department, effectively the head of Woolwich Arsenal.²³

Ordnance Store Department.						369
<i>Commissioned Rank.</i>	COMMISSARY GENERAL OF ORDNANCE, ranking with Major General.	FIRST COMMISSIONED RANK.	PRESENT RANK.	APP. TO RE-ORGANIZ'D O.S. DEPT.	STATION.	
Dep. Assist. Supdt. of Stores	Pridham, Frederick.....	5 June 60	1 Apr. 93	31 Jan. 80	Woolwich Arsenal.	
DEPUTY COMMISSARIES GENERAL OF ORDNANCE, with Honorary rank of Colonel.						
Dep. Assist. Supdt. of Stores	Morgan, Henry ¹	21 Dec. 58	1 Oct. 87	31 Jan. 80	Woolwich Arsenal.	
Dep. Assist. Supdt. of Stores	Mills, Herbert James, ⁹ CB.	21 Dec. 58	30 Nov. 88	31 Jan. 80	Southern District.	
Dep. Assist. Supdt. of Stores	Taylor, Henry ¹⁰	9 Apr. 53	26 Oct. 89	31 Jan. 80	Western District.	
Dep. Assist. Supdt. of Stores	Mayo, William Robert.....	29 Apr. 59	8 Oct. 90	31 Jan. 80	Ireland.	
Dep. Assist. Supdt. of Stores	Jolly, George Alfred ¹⁵	20 Aug. 60	16 June 92	31 Jan. 80	N. E. District.	

From the 1894 Army List

In 1895 he turned 55, and from then on he is listed among the retired officers.²⁴ And it is at this point that he has to find accommodation outside the Royal Arsenal, which must be what prompts the family’s move to 7 Victoria Road (as our house then was). The house was being or had recently been vacated by Lt.Col. Haughton Feilden, a senior Royal Artillery officer, who had himself just retired. Their postings had occasionally overlapped in Gibraltar and Portsmouth, and both were stationed in Woolwich from 1887, so Feilden himself may well have been the one to alert Henry to the coming availability of the house, but, if not, any of his fellow officers would have been in a position to do so.

In the 1901 census Henry and Mary are living in this house, both now in their 60s, with their 24-year-old daughter, and two live-in servants, Lucy Perfect (cook), and Elizabeth Stevens (housemaid).²⁵

The houses in the road were renumbered in around 1900, and the family remained in 123 Victoria Road (as it had now become) until 1907, when they moved to a smaller house at 29 Shooters Hill Road, still with a cook and housemaid.²⁶ Sometime between 1901 and 1911 Mildred left home. I have been unable to trace her in the 1911 census, but in St John’s Church, Blackheath on 15th March 1913 she married John Grove, a Scottish solicitor,²⁷ and the newlyweds moved back to John’s native Glasgow, setting up home at 103 Fotheringay Road, Pollokshields.²⁸

1913. Marriage solemnized at <i>S. John's Church Blackheath</i> in the <i>Parish</i> of <i>Greenwich</i> in the County of <i>Kent</i> .								
Column.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
158	<i>March 15th</i>	<i>John Grove.</i>	<i>46.</i>	<i>Bachelor.</i>	<i>Solicitor.</i>	<i>40 Widon Terrace, Glasgow.</i>	<i>John Grove.</i>	<i>Merchant.</i>
	<i>1913.</i>	<i>Mildred Morgan.</i>	<i>37.</i>	<i>Spinster.</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>29 Shooters Hill Road.</i>	<i>Henry Morgan.</i>	<i>Ret. Colonel.</i>
Married in the <i>above Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Church of England</i> by <i>James Grove</i> or after <i>hanns</i> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>John Grove</i> and <i>Mildred Morgan</i>			in the Presence of us, <i>Henry Morgan</i> and <i>James Grove</i>		Witness: <i>W. Macmillan</i> Vicar.			

The marriage certificate of John Grove and Mildred Morgan, 1913

In the next census, in 1921, Henry and Mary, both now aged 81, are still at No. 29.²⁹ With the passing of the Representation of the People Act 1918, Mary now appears in electoral registers. The couple's last Shooters Hill Road entry is dated 1925, and at this point they disappear from the London electoral registers.

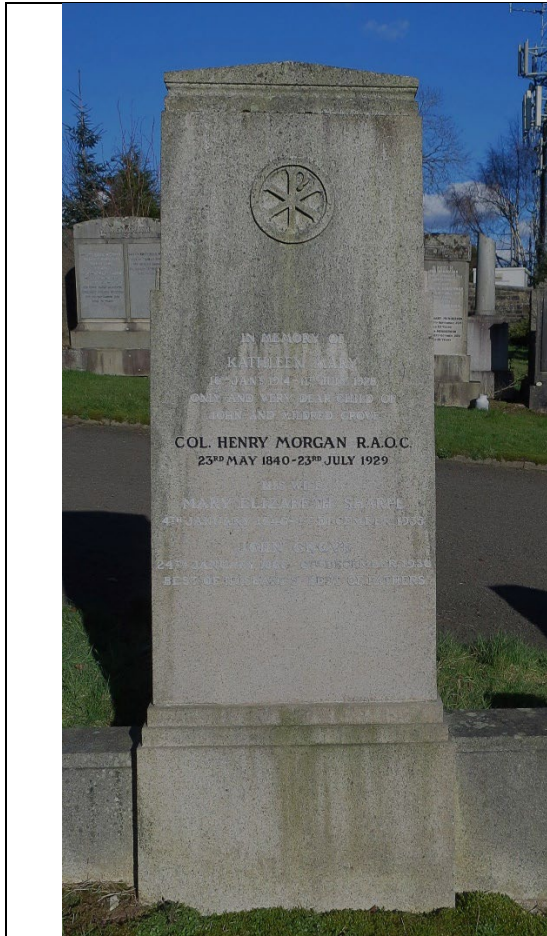
With such common names, it can be difficult to identify individuals conclusively — they were both 85, and might well have died, or could have gone to live anywhere else in the country. However, Scottish records show the deaths of an 89-year-old Henry Morgan and a 95-year-old Mary Elizabeth Morgan in 1929 and 1935, respectively, in just the part of Glasgow where John and Mildred had moved to.³⁰ The 1935 death certificate of the Mary Elizabeth Morgan who died on 1st December that year confirms her unambiguously as the "Widow of Henry Morgan, Colonel Royal Army Ordnance Corps". Henry had died on 23rd July 1929 at the age of 89.

761	<i>Mary Elizabeth Morgan.</i> <i>Widow of Henry Morgan, Colonel, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.</i>	<i>1935, December 1st 4h. Am. 210 Nithsdale Road Glasgow.</i>	<i>F. 95 years</i>	<i>Henry Sharp, (Deceased) Captain, Bagnie, (Deceased) M. Sharp.</i>	<i>Spinality. Chill, 14 days. as cert. by Thos. Forreth, R.S.P.S.B., 10th St.</i>	<i>Mildred Grove. Daughter (Deceased)</i>	<i>1935, December 2nd in Glasgow. J. Aitchison, Registrar, U.G. Regs.</i>
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Death Registration of Mary Morgan

It seems they had moved straight to Scotland: having left Blackheath in 1926, 1927 finds them already registered to vote in Glasgow and living at 210 Nithsdale Road. Their house lies about half a mile from that of their daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter Kathleen. Kathleen, however, died at the age of 14 a year later, and her father died in 1936. The widowed Mildred, now in her sixties, remained on her own in Glasgow for a few years but then moved away — she does not appear in the Glasgow records after 1940. It is possible she is the Mildred Grove who is found in Hastings when the compilation of electoral rolls resumed after the war and is recorded as living in the town from 1945 till 1960. If so, she died there, aged 84, in 1960.

In New Kilpatrick Cemetery, Bearsden, Glasgow, is a substantial memorial to Henry and Mary (under her maiden name), their son-in-law, and granddaughter.³¹



IN MEMORY OF
KATHLEEN MARY
16TH JAN 1914 – 11TH JULY 1928
ONLY AND VERY DEAR CHILD OF
JOHN AND MILDRED GROVE

COL. HENRY MORGAN R.A.O.C.
23RD MAY 1840 – 23RD JULY 1929

HIS WIFE
MARY ELIZABETH SHARPE
4TH JANUARY 1840 – 1ST DECEMBER 1935

JOHN GROVE
24TH JANUARY 1866 – 6TH DECEMBER 1936
BEST OF HUSBANDS – BEST OF FATHERS

Headstone of the Morgan family grave in New Kilpatrick Cemetery, Bearsden.

Peter, May 2024.

Notes

- ¹ Register Of Inhabitants 1834, Gibraltar National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gi/Surname_1834.aspx).
- ² Civil Service Evidence Of Age 1962 002 (www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBOR%2FCSEOA%2F00042259).
- ³ Hart's Army List, 1869, p.439 (digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/102695991).
- ⁴ Hart's Army List, 1871, p. 369 (digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/102695989).
- ⁵ Hart's Army List, 1870, p. 394 (digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/102695990).
- ⁶ Gibraltar National Archives, Register of Inhabitants, 1871 (www.nationalarchives.gi/Individual_1871.aspx, id 21807).
- ⁷ Gibraltar Census 1871-1921, Findmypast (search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/gibraltar-census-1871-1921).
- ⁸ Hart's Army List, 1874, p, 368 (digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/102695986).
- ⁹ GRO Birth Index, Q3 1874 Solihull 6d 705.
- ¹⁰ Parish Register, St Mary, Warwick (Warwickshire County Record Office, DR0447/6) in Warwickshire Baptisms (search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/warwickshire-baptisms).
- ¹¹ 1841 Census, HO 107/1155 book1, fol. 14, p. 21.
- ¹² 1851 Census, HO 107/2073 fol. 205, p. 5.
- ¹³ 1871 Census, 20 High Street, St Mary, Warwick (RG10/3199, fol. 14, p. 22). Henry Sharpe was the proprietor of *The Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser*.
- ¹⁴ 1861 Census, RG 9/402, fol. 125, p. 13.
- ¹⁵ In this role he gives evidence about a fraudulent hallmark at an Old Bailey trial in 1848 (www.oldbaileyonline.org/record/t18480821-1848).
- ¹⁶ Hart's Army List, 1876, p. 368 (digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/104543006, p. 366).
- ¹⁷ Parish Register, St Bartholomew, Southsea, baptism 4 April 1977 (www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FPORTSMOUTH%2FBAP%2F00511123).
- ¹⁸ Hart's Army List, 1880, p. 369 (digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/104552474).
- ¹⁹ Hart's Army List, 1882, p. 369 (digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/103736970).
- ²⁰ Hart's Army List, 1887, p. 369 (digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/103768098).
- ²¹ Hart's Army List, 1887, p. 370, footnote 6 (digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/103768098).
- ²² 1891 Census, RG 12/537, fol. 6, p.1.
- ²³ Hart's Army List, 1892, p. 369 (digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/102695968).
- ²⁴ Hart's Army List, 1895, p. 704 (digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/102695965).
- ²⁵ 1901 Census, RG 13/563, fol. 37, p. 66.
- ²⁶ 1911 Census, RG14PN2715 RG78PN92 RD28 SD5 ED29 SN159.
- ²⁷ St John's, Blackheath, Marriage Register, 15th March 1903.
- ²⁸ Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland, Electoral Registers, 1857-1962 (www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61020/).
- ²⁹ Census 1921, RG 15/2816/268.
- ³⁰ GRO Scotland, Statutory registers — Deaths, 1929 644/18/414 Pollokshields and 1935 644/28/764 Pollok (www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/advanced-search/statutory-records/stat-deaths).
- ³¹ New Kilpatrick Cemetery, Bearsden, East Dunbartonshire, Scotland (www.findagrave.com/memorial/250850487/).