

MORRISSEY FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER
DESCENDANTS OF PATRICK MORRISSY AND MARY PHELAN
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Welcome to the Morrissey Family History Newsletter. This, and future issues of the Newsletter, will contain Morrissey news and updates for the family history website. I hope you find something of interest in the Newsletter. Please email me if you have news or photographs you would like included in the Newsletter or if you know someone who would like to be added to the mailing list. The list of newsletter recipients is not shared or sold. Please email me if you would prefer to not receive the newsletter and I will delete your email address from the list.

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Morrissey Chronicles

- Last September 30, 2006 my brother and sister-in-law, John and Kathy Morrissey’s daughter Heather Anne Morrissey married Stephen John Ferguson in Parry Sound, Ontario. On July 12, 2007 my step-daughter Cassidy Anne Johnson married Ali Muhtar, of Istanbul, Turkey, here in Montreal with a second reception in Vancouver about a week later. Next October 6, 2007 my son Jake Walsh Morrissey is marrying Samantha Burton in Montreal. These three couples are all lovely young people, all are exceptionally intelligent, well educated, attractive, and good people. God bless them all.

- Last fall 2006 the idea of my mother selling the family home, where she had resided since 1962, and moving to Toronto was raised by my brother and his wife. My mother also felt it was time to move to something smaller. So, in January and February 2007 I was at the house, painting and repairing things, in preparation for putting it on the market. My cousin Shirley Morrissey came for a week from her home in Oshawa, Ontario and was an enormous help, giving moral support and helping to sort through what to keep, what to give away, and what to move to Toronto. A real estate agent I know found a buyer and the sale was completed in only a few weeks. Hilda Parker Morrissey Nichols moved to Toronto at age 91 on March 22, 2007.

In retrospect, the move was a lot less of an upheaval for my mother than any of us expected; of course, everything was done for her. She now has an apartment, as she wanted, a few minutes walk from my brother's home and has settled in to her new life in Toronto. My son has visited her new home and has told me she has a modern apartment and is being looked after very well. She has a kind of modified "assisted living," often sleeping and eating at my brother's home and spending the day with her two cats at her own apartment. His door is always open to her for meals with the family, staying the night, and she thinks of his home as her second home. My brother and his wife, and their daughter and son-in-law have all made her very welcome. I haven't heard any complaints from anyone so they must be doing something right!

- Last January 2007 my wife, Carolyn Zonailo, and I drove to where for many years my family spent our summer vacations, in the Deux Montagnes section of St. Eustache, forty minutes by car from Montreal. I had been warned by other people who had visited there that everything had changed. Thomas Wolfe entitled his most famous novel **You Can't Go Home Again**; I would rephrase that title for this day trip, **You Wouldn't Want to Go Home Again**. My idyllic summer home: the summer cottages on the street; the river at the bottom of the street and railway tracks to walk on and then cross an old bridge to an island; the farmers' fields; sitting on the cottage porch with my grandmother; my grandmother, Auntie Mable, Auntie Ivy and Uncle Alex who lived across the street from us; Auntie Ivy's father Mr. Lewis and his daughter's family who lived on the next street; visits by Ivy and Alex's son Herb and his wife Shirley; swimming every day; exploring nature; eating a Mae West cake bought for ten cents from the bread delivery man; "Jeds" corner store; age ten smoking cigarettes in secret with my friend Nicky Coppens newly arrived with his family from Holland; my brother playing tennis; meeting my mother in the evening, arriving home from work in the city, at the train station next to Jed's; drinking a bottle of Coke with my aunt; card games in the evening; heat from the wood stove on cool August nights; the dreamy summer days of exploring nature and the tree lined streets... it was all gone, it seemed it could never have existed. This is now a bedroom suburb of Montreal where people spend their time shopping at the many big box stores and eating at the numerous Subway restaurants. On 11th Avenue, our old street, the quaint little summer cottages have been renovated, winterised, all the trees cut down, and I recognized almost nothing from the past.

- Sharon Callaghan presented a lecture on *Quebec Land Records Research Using New Computerized Database 1841-2006* at McGill University for the Quebec Family History Society's conference held there in June 2007. I had planned on attending but returned from two other conferences, The Writers' Union of Canada AGM in Vancouver and The League of Canadian Poets' AGM in Edmonton, just a few days before Sharon's presentation, and then spent a week at home sick with a cold. I am sure the audience benefited greatly from Sharon's first-hand knowledge and meticulous approach to researching family history.

- Last December 2006, Patty Ferrari, the granddaughter of my father's brother, Frank Morrissey who died in 1938, sent me photographs of Frank, his wife Eva Dubois, their daughter Patsy Morrissey and Patsy's now grown children (and some of their children!). Of course, I showed the photographs to everyone! What excitement, pictures of an uncle and his family we had never seen before. Patty Ferrari's mother, Patsy Morrissey (who would be my first cousin) often stayed at my grandmother's home at 2226 Girouard Avenue in Montreal. It was good to communicate with Patty as her grandfather, Frank Morrissey, died before I was born and had always been described as

intelligent and very popular with everyone that got to know him. Patsy married and then moved away from Montreal in the early 1950s, and as far as I know lost touch with the family here. My mother remembers meeting Patsy and visiting her at the hospital when Patsy's twins were born. In fact, Patsy and my father were close in age and have been described to me as being like brother and sister.

- Jean Gulas of Flushing, New York has sent me a white coffee mug with "Greenpoint" written on it. Greenpoint is the Brooklyn neighbourhood where Dr. William P. Morrissey resided just over a hundred years ago. Jean Gulas and Joan Chandler continue their work researching family history and co-editing a publication, "The Andean of St. Andrew Avellino Parish," the latest issue of which shows the advantages of a private Catholic school education. Thank you, Jean!

An Inventory Of The Record Collection Of Edgar R. Morrissey:

My first important exposure to music was my father's collection of 78 rpm records. Edgar R. Morrissey was musical by nature—he played banjo, guitar, and bass in his brother's band ("The Herb Morrissey Jazz Orchestra"). He came from a musical family. I remember a large collection of old sheet music, much of it from the 1920s, spilling out of a cabinet in my grandmother's living room at 2226 Girouard Avenue in Montreal. There was also an old upright piano that one day I asked my grandmother to play when I was staying at her house instead of going to school; after much encouragement she got as far as sitting at the piano but then declined to play. Actually, I can still remember sitting beside her at the piano and seeing her fingers on the keyboard as she played a few notes... There was also a gramophone—wind-up with a box of steel needles—as you entered the dining room from the entrance to her second floor flat. My father's record collection was given to me when my mother moved to Toronto and is almost all that remains of that part of our lives. Perhaps this inventory gives an idea of the records an avid music lover might collect sixty or seventy years ago.

Here, then, is an inventory of the remaining records. The order of the inventory was archived by me as I removed the record albums from the box in which I received them; the individual 78 rpm records are listed in the order as they appear in the albums. The musician's name, or the name of the band, is followed by the name of the record label. The title of the songs are italicized. The recordings are mostly Big Bands from the 1930s and 1940s. All the records are undated. A few of my father's records that I remember have been lost or thrown out. The missing records include a Jerome Kerns collection and Carmen Cavallaro, known as "The Poet of the Piano", playing Chopin's "Polonaise".

Album One:

"Decca presents: Dancing in the Darkness with Carmen Cavallaro" (piano solos with guitar, string bass and drums). This is an undated album of five 78 rpm records (Decca):

Cocktails for Two
The Very Thought of You

If I had You

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes

Dancing in the Dark
Lover

Body and Soul
You're Mine, You!

Alone Together
Night and Day

Album Two:

Guy Lombardo (Decca):
Waiting for the Robert E. Lee
How About You?

Madelaine
I Don't Want to Walk Without You

Concerto
I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire

Alvino Rey and his Orchestra (Bluebird):
Dearly Beloved
I'm Old Fashioned

Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye (Victor):
You're the Moment of a Lifetime
Amapola

Wayne King and his Orchestra (Victor):
Intermezzo
Because

Harry James and his Orchestra (Columbia):
Sleepy Lagoon
Trumpet Blues

You Made me Love You
A Sinner Kissed an Angel

Dinah Shore (Bluebird):
Yes, My Darling Daughter
Down Argentina Way

This is No Laughing Matter
I Got it Bad and That Ain't Good

Artie Shaw and His Orchestra (Victor):
Temptation

Star Dust

Album Three:

Carmen Cavallaro (Decca):

Stormy Weather

Time on My Hands (You in My Arms)

Liebestraum (Dream of Love)

Good Night Sweetheart

My Silent Love

I'm Getting' Sentimental Over You

Jimmy Dorsey and His Orchestra (Decca):

In The Hush of the Night

My Sister and I

High on a Windy Hill

I Understand

Green Eyes

Maria Elena

If I Forget You

All This and Heven Too

Tangerine

Everything I love

The Breeze and I

Little Curly Hair in a High Chair

Six Black Diamonds (Apex):

Hard Hearted Hannah

Where the Dreamy Wabash Flows

Andrews Sisters (Decca)

The Woodpeckers Song

Down By The Ohio

I'll be With You In Apple Blossom Time

I, Yi, Yi, Yi, Yi (I Like You Very Much)

Album Four:

Benny Goodman and his Orchestra (Columbia)

A String of Pearls

Jersey Bounce

Eddy Duchin and his Orchestra (Columbia):

The Old Jalop
It All Comes Back to me Now

So You're the One
I Give You My Word

Glenn Miller and his Orchestra (Bluebird):

Tuxedo Junction
Danny Boy

Ring Telephone, Ring
You Stepped Out of A Dream

Blueberry Hill
A Million Dreams

I'm Stepping Out With a Memory Tonight
Devil May Care

The White Cliffs of Dover
We're the Couple in the Castle

A Handful of Stars
Yesterthoughts

I'd Know You Anywhere
You've Got Me This Way

Frenesi
My Blue Heaven

Bob Crosby and His Orchestra (Decca):

The Little Red Fox
Pinch me

Album Five:

Phil Harris (RCA Victor):

The Thing
The Mountaineer and the Jabberwock

Tommy Dorsey and His Orchestra (RCA Victor):

This Love of Mine
Neiani

Don Wright with Septette (G.M.D. Limited):

Rollin 'Cross the Country (one side only)

Howard DuLany with Orchestra (Bluebird):

Mexicali Rose
Until the End

Horace Heidt and His Orchestra (RCA Victor):

I'm Ka-razy For You

The Wedding of the Painted Doll

Charlie Spivak and His Orchestra (Columbia):

Yesterday's Gardenias

White Christmas

Charlie Spivak and His Orchestra (Okeh):

This Is No Laughing Matter

When I See An Elephant Fly

Bing Crosby (Decca):

Can't Get Indiana Off My Mind

I Found A Million Dollar Baby

I Have Eyes

The Funny Old Hills

Only Forever

When The Moon Comes Over Madison Square

Bing Crosby and The Andrews Sisters (Decca):

Yodelin' Jive

Ciribiribin

Album Six:

Nat Shilkret and the Victor Orchestra (Victor):

You Were Meant For me

Broadway Melody

Victor Young And His Concert Orchestra (Decca):

Selections From "The Fortune Teller"

Italian Street Song

Glenn Miller and His Orchestra (Bluebird):

Falling Leaves

Beat me Daddy, Eight To A Bar

Paul Whiteman and His Orchestra (Victor):

Mississippi Mud

From Monday On

Waring's Pennsylvanians (Victor):

Softlights And Sweet Music

Let's Have Another Cup O' Coffee

Harry James and His Orchestra (The Hit Record):

Flight Of The Bumble Bee

My Greatest Mistake

Glenn Miller and His Orchestra (Bluebird):

I Know Why

Chattanooga Choo Choo

Louis Armstrong and His Orchestra (Columbia):

All of Me

Home

Kickin' The Gong Around

Between The Devil And The Deep Blue Sea

Cab Calloway and His Orchestra (Sterling):

Mood Indigo

Farewell Blues

Clyde McCoy and His Orchestra (Columbia):

Readin', Ritin', Rhythm

Sugar Blues

Andrews Sisters (Decca):

South American Way

Oh Johnny, Oh Johnny, Oh

Loose Records in Sleeves:

Victor Military Band (Victor):

Cecile—Waltz Hesitation

Millicent—Waltz Hesitation

Ray Miller and His Orchestra (Columbia)

Stumbling

Who Tied the Can on the Old Dog's Tail

Lanin and His Orchestra (Apex):

(side one) *The Wedding of the Painted Doll*

The Rounders:

(other side, same record) *Building a Nest for Mary*

Lanin and His Orchestra (Apex):

(side one) *If You Want The Rainbow*

Rose Room Orchestra

(other side, same record) *Glad Rag Doll*

Benny Goodman and His Orchestra (RCA Victor):

Basin Street Blues

When Buddha Smiles

Nat Shilkret and the Victor Orchestra (Victor):

(side one) *What Do We Do On a Dew-Dew-Dewy Day*

Johnny Hamp's Kentucky Serenaders

(other side, same record) *Is It Possible?*

Notes on the “Morrissey-De Marisco connection, from aristocracy to tenant farmers...”

There seem to be two main geographical regions in Ireland where the Morrissey name originated. The Morrisseys in the north-west part of Ireland—from Sligo and Galway—derive their name from “O Muirgheasa,” which is Irish for “sea choice.” The Morrisseys from the south-east part of Ireland—which includes Waterford, Limerick, Cork, and Tipperary—is derived from the Norman surname “de Marisco.” Usually, as well, in books explaining the meaning of surnames, there is the comment that the “de Mariscos were once a powerful family in the south-east of Ireland.” If this is so, then who were the de Mariscos and is there any genealogical validity to a Morrissey-de Marisco connection? This is what interested me when I learned about the de Mariscos.

I don't know that we have any evidence in the way of documents to support the claim that a specific Morrissey family is descended from the de Mariscos. Perhaps most Morrisseys originating in the south-east region of Ireland are descended from the de Mariscos. Nevertheless we don't have a family tree tracing our pedigree back to the de Mariscos.

There has always been a history of people migrating from one place to another, from one country to another, not only because they are nomadic, but for economic gain, because of military service, to occupy a conquered land, to find religious freedom, or freedom of speech, and so on. An example that is pertinent for us is the Norman invasion of Ireland in 1170 AD and then the presence of a growing Norman population in Ireland, many of whom were eventually assimilated into the Irish population. If you are a Morrissey from the south-east part of the country, the earliest date that you can say your family was in Ireland is probably sometime just after 1170 AD.

The Morrissey name has gone through different permutations of spelling and pronunciation over the years. A simple example: When my ancestors arrived in New Brunswick from Ireland around 1837, they spelled their surname “Morrissy” with no final “e”. When my great great grandfather, Laurence Morrissy moved to Montreal in the early 1840s, he eventually changed the spelling of his name to the more common “Morrissey.” We all know that names change over time, and we are told that somehow “de Marisco” seems to have evolved into “Morrissey.”

When I began this inquiry, I assumed (like others) that the Morrissey name was somehow a corruption of the name “de Marisco,” since that was the association found in books on the origin of surnames. Other names associated with the de Marisco name are Marsh and Montmorency. However, the Morrissey name may not be a corruption of “de Marisco,” but of “Morres de Marisco;” for instance, there is Sir James Morres de Marisco, born in 1395, who died in 1469; Sir John Morres de Marisco of Knockagh, born around 1460; Sir Oliver Morres de Marisco of Knockagh (who married Lady Ellice, daughter of the Duke of Ormand and Ossory, Viceroy of Ireland), and who died in 1522. I suspect “de Marisco” was eventually dropped in favour of the simpler “Morres”; for instance, de Marisco descendants include Sir Anthony Morres who died in 1535; and

John Morres who lived from 1490 to 1562. There is also Sir John Morres, who became a colonel in the French army and who died in 1621. Perhaps someone could make the pedigree connection for the evolution of de Marisco, Morres de Marisco, Morres, and Morrissey.

I can see the following scenario happening: The de Mariscos were a wealthy and powerful family in 12th century Norman-occupied Ireland, and this wealth lasted for some members of the family for several hundred years. As the descendants of the original de Mariscos multiplied, some intermarried with the indigenous Irish. Over time, the Morres de Marisco surname was dropped and “Morres” expanded into Morrissey and several other surnames.

A history of the de Mariscos would be a fascinating project. Some of the first de Mariscos are found in Kent in England, where they owned land that was granted to them by Duke William of Normandy for their participation in the Battle of Hastings in 1066 AD. Later, there is Geoffrey de Marisco who was born in Somerset, in England, and may have died in 1166 AD. He had several children: Richard (the sheriff of Dorset and Somerset who died in 1226); Jordan; Juliane, who married Henry le Botelier and whose son John was their heir; and another son Geoffrey de Marisco.

Geoffrey de Marisco lived from 1171 to around 1220 AD and was the Justiciar or Governor of Ireland from around 1215 to around 1220. Geoffrey may have visited Palestine as a soldier and is a founder of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, who are the Knights of Malta today. He helped subdue the King of Connaught, who had taken up arms against the king of England, and he built a famous castle in Killaloe in 1216. Geoffrey is buried beside his wife in an abbey at Hospital, Ireland. He was married two times, first to Eva de Birmingham who already had several children and then to a sister of Hugh de Lacey. He and his wife had, among their sons and daughters, Joan de Marisco who married Theobald de Botelier and another son, William de Marisco who married Mathilda, the daughter of the Archbishop of Dublin. However, the father and son, Geoffrey and William, both ended up as more or less outlaws from the Norman establishment. Geoffrey fled Ireland after having been accused of murdering someone, but he was later rehabilitated. William was outlawed in 1238 when he made an attempt on the life of King Henry III; he was hung, drawn, and quartered in 1242.

Over the last 840 years the de Mariscos multiplied, and their descendants are today’s Morrisseys who originated from that part of Ireland. No doubt some of their descendants moved from aristocracy to tenant farmer status. I offer the above in the spirit of curiosity and know that speculation does not make for good family history research, and that the historical “facts” contained above are no doubt flawed. However, this is a beginning and may get someone to think more about the de Marisco-Morrissey connection and research the subject.

Web Stats:

There have been over 16,500 visitors to www.MorrisseyFamilyHistory.com since the site went online in 2003.

I hope you have all had terrific summer vacations and a pleasant fall. Please email me any news you would like included in the next newsletter, or family history that you'd like on www.Morrisseyfamilyhistory.com and eventually it will make its way online.

Stephen Morrissey
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