



Before the start of the Civil War the Peter and Morgan Families had been both friends and neighbors, but when the war started they chose different sides and all friendly connections ended. There are a great many entries in France's diary that deal with the Morgan family and their, in her view, traitorous activities. Below is a sampling of the many entries.

*Sunday Jan 19th  
1862*

*We heard this morning of the arrest of a secessionist, who had escaped capture before, for carrying the southern mail. An officer of Mundy's regiment with a squad of not more than six men went to the house of Mrs. Morgan, a secessionist and informed her that the man was in her house*

and must be given up immediately. Mrs. Morgan came out with her daughter and protested that she knew nothing about the man that he was not in her house.... Mr. Cally Morgan also came out and said he would give his word of honor. The officer intimated that the last was not to be relied on, but the neighbors said he ought to believe Mrs. Morgan as she was a lady and her word might be relied on. The officer again protested he could take no ones word, that his information was certain, dispatched a man for reinforcement in order to search the house and stationed his men so as to guard the premises as well as possible. Not having quite enough men he called a negro who was standing by and placed him to watch one part and told him to be sure and shout if he saw any one attempt to escape from the house. It was not long before the negro was heard shouting "Here him be massa here him be." The man had jumped out into the negro's very arms not having seen him perhaps and was secured, the black holding him tight in his embrace until he was secured and taken out to camp... Mrs. Morgan said the man had come there for protection and she did not think it would be kind to betray him..

Monday July  
14th

Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Curd were sent out of town as the people threatened to level their houses with the ground and Major Bracht said he could protect them no longer..

Thursday

Sept 18th

Wednesday night John Morgan and some one else (I suppose Basil Duke) came to Mrs. Morgan's; the next morning about 6 o'clock while looking at a body of rebels who were marching out the Winchester pike I overheard one of our servants say to a colored man (who I know) 'Did John Morgan come in last night sure enough' 'No' said he 'and he ain't goin to' 'Well' said the other 'I hear everyone say so' 'Well' said the man 'if he did they had mighty poor joy over it for they were crying over there for to break their hearts' 'I am certain Morgan brought some bad news, for when he entered Lexington the next day his mothers house was shut up and they didn't come to the front door all that day. Morgan's command came in about 11AM Thursday Sept 4<sup>th</sup> a nasty dirty looking set they were; wore no uniform but dressed in grey and butternut jeans or anything else they could pick up... They looked like the tag, rag, and bobtail of the earth and as if they hadn't been near water since Fort Sumter fell. The secesh had said that when John Morgan came he would have such a

welcome as had never been seen before, I confess I was disappointed. When he did come they did indeed ring the church bells in a doleful way and the secesh ladies paraded about with the stars and bars in the hands and streamers of red white and red on their dresses and bonnets. But so far from Lexington being thrown open to them, it looked like it was deserted, the stores were shut, houses closed and the only hurrahing was made by themselves and a few rowdies...

Thursday

Oct 2nd

Fuel is very scarce, at least for Union people. Coal sells for 75 ct the bushel and hardly to be got for love or money. The secesh are keeping it all for themselves. They say that for the last week 400 bushels have been delivered daily at Mrs. Morgan's.

Wednesday Oct 8<sup>th</sup>

A few days ago the ceiling of Mrs. Morgan's parlor fell down breaking the mirrors, picture frames, etc. The ladies were much alarmed and thought it a very bad omen, as there was apparently no cause for it, as the plaster was not cracking.

Tuesday

Oct 14th

*Mrs. Morgan said "the Union people had better not be putting up flags so soon. John Morgan will be in tonight with 1500 men." Mrs. Duke wanted her to go away from here with her but she refused and said (so they say) that the Union people might take every brick in the house away but she wouldn't leave.*

*Wednesday*

*Oct 15th*

*We heard that John Morgan and Bragg had quarreled. Bragg wanted to dismount Morgan's men for 60 days and let them serve as infantry. Morgan refused and withdrew his command from the army and is now acting "on his own hook" John Morgan it seems isn't fond of putting himself in the post of danger. A lady stopped a rebel and pretending to be secesh made a good many inquiries of him. Among other things she remarked that J. Morgan was a brave man, "Brave man" said the rebel "he's the greatest coward I know. When his division is on a march he doesn't lead his men like other officers do. He rides behind in an ambulance"*

*Saturday Oct 18th*

*Morgan's guerrillas attack the 4th Ohio Cavalry encamped at James Clay's. Our boys were pushed back to the*

*courthouse, and were forced to give up. The Secesh ladies are in high glee but the gentlemen don't seem to be much more delighted to see Morgan than the Union people. The rebels didn't stay long. They were all gone by 4 1/2 PM.*

*Wednesday*

*Dec 1st*

*A government agent was here today inquiring for information against Mrs. Morgan... He also said he thought James B. Clay should and would be made a public example when in our power.*

*Tuesday Feb*

*24th (1863)*

*They report rebel pickets within five miles and brought in four prisoners one of whom was Capt Charlton Morgan. He was allowed to spend two hours at his mother's, but was not paroled... So Capt. Charlton Morgan was sent off by the evening train, to Camp Chase. It is said on good authority that he cried like a child when told that he was not to be paroled, and I don't doubt the fact as he has always had the reputation for being weak-minded and childish.*

Wednesday  
July 28th

*The Secretary of War is said to have issued an order that Morgan and his commissioned officers should be confined in the Columbus Penitentiary... Mrs. Morgan went to Cincinnati to see John but was refused permission.*

Tuesday Aug 4th

*The Gazette today has in it... a piece copied from the Dayton Journal about Mrs. Morgan... the substance of which seems to have been obtained from letter of hers that have been intercepted. It says she had to run the blockade to Nashville last November aided by her sister Mrs. Cheatham who is now imprisoned at Alton, Ill. To get her wedding cloths and quoted a letter of hers written when she joined Morgan at Tullahoma after the rebels were driven from Murfreesboro about the ball in which she was "the belle" in her "beautiful green silk dress which my dear husband brought to me from Kentucky, and it is the favorite dress of my dear husband". And she had a "bewitching bonnet, which my noble husband brought me when he came back from his last raid". But she was almost out of shoes, she couldn't get more until her "noble husband went on another raid". No doubt John brought her a great*

*deal of stolen finery and expected to take her no end of pretty things in the last raid but if she don't get any shoes until John brings them to her I am afraid she will be in a bad way.*

*Friday Sept 4th*

*A few days ago Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Duke and some others with Mrs. Lancaster started on a like errand (to visit Morgan and his men in jail). They have all returned. Mrs. Morgan went to Columbus and was allowed to see John through a grating but not speak to him. She said she wished she had not tried to see him as he was so changed she hardly knew him and had his hair and beard cut close.*

*Saturday Sept 5th*

*John Morgan and his followers in the Penitentiary have hitherto been allowed to receive any little thing their friend chose to send them but now it is said this will no longer be allowed. I suppose the large boxes and baskets of luxuries sent from Ky made the Penitentiary too little like a place of punishment.*

*Friday Jan  
22nd (1864)*

*Cincinnati Gazette* contains a good deal of Southern news. John Morgan's address to his troops calling on them to rally to him once more. I suppose he intends resuming his former trade. If he lets us get hold of him again his neck will not be so safe as last time.

Wednesday Jan 27th

As for Morgan's being 'the favorite son' of Ky and our officers being delighted to see him, I never saw a more barefaced lie in a rebel paper, which is saying a great deal, for these documents stand first in that accomplishment. In the first place I have always heard that Morgan was born in Alabama, as for favorite! His character here was always that of a gambler and libertine and before this war no gentleman in Lexington would associate with him, and none would, now but those who have placed themselves on the same level with him by becoming secessionists. And what loyal Kentuckians are there that would be delighted at the escape of the traitor who pillaged their families, destroyed their homes, and persecuted them in every way. The outlaw whom they so often pursued to bring to justice, and who could never be called a brave man. It is disgusting to hear such a thing mentioned. I mention these things merely as a

*note. I should not be surprised if Morgan wrote that piece himself. It sounds like some of his vainglorious boasting.*

*Saturday*

*March 12th*

*Basil Duke (John Morgan's brother in law) it is said was feted by the Copperheads at the Continental Hotel, Philadelphia, when he and Major Hohnsen who was in charge of him stopped for the night on their way to Ft. Monroe, or wherever it was Duke was to be taken for exchange. A Kentuckian in Philadelphia to whom the proceedings at the Continental were known gives to the Press an account of Basil Dukes behavior in Ky. In the fall of 1862, how he shelled a town without giving the least notice to the inhabitants of his intention, nor allowing time for the removal of women and children, and when the citizens resisted him, sheltering in the house, he fired the houses, burning up the wounded in them, and shot down the men after they had surrendered and ordered every Union citizen in the place to be killed, which order would have been carried out but for the arrival of aid to the citizens. Then Duke took the Union officers whom he had made prisoners to Lexington and shut them up in the "negro pen" and would have shot them if Kirby Smith had not interfered. The citizens went to Duke and requested that*

*the officers and their guard might come and stay at their houses, but he refuses. This reminds me of what I have heard of Duke's grandfather Col Beauford. It was said of him, that in the Revolutionary war, he for a bribe paid him by the British allowed his men to be cut to pieces, he running off and leaving them. Col Beauford had six children, three sensible and three idiot ones. And some people thought this was judgment on him for betraying his countrymen. Truly the sins of the fathers are visited on the children into the third and fourth generation. Basil Duke is more like old Col Beauford than his own father, who I have always heard was a very clever, mild, old gentleman.*