

# Brielle's First Families

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- ❑ Mrs. Jacqueline Morgan-Stackhouse -  
*Director, Union Landing Historical Society*
- ❑ Ms. Beverly Mack



# Union Landing Historical Society

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The Union Landing Historical Society is dedicated to conservation, education and preservation of the history of the town of Brielle, NJ, (originally named, "Union Landing").



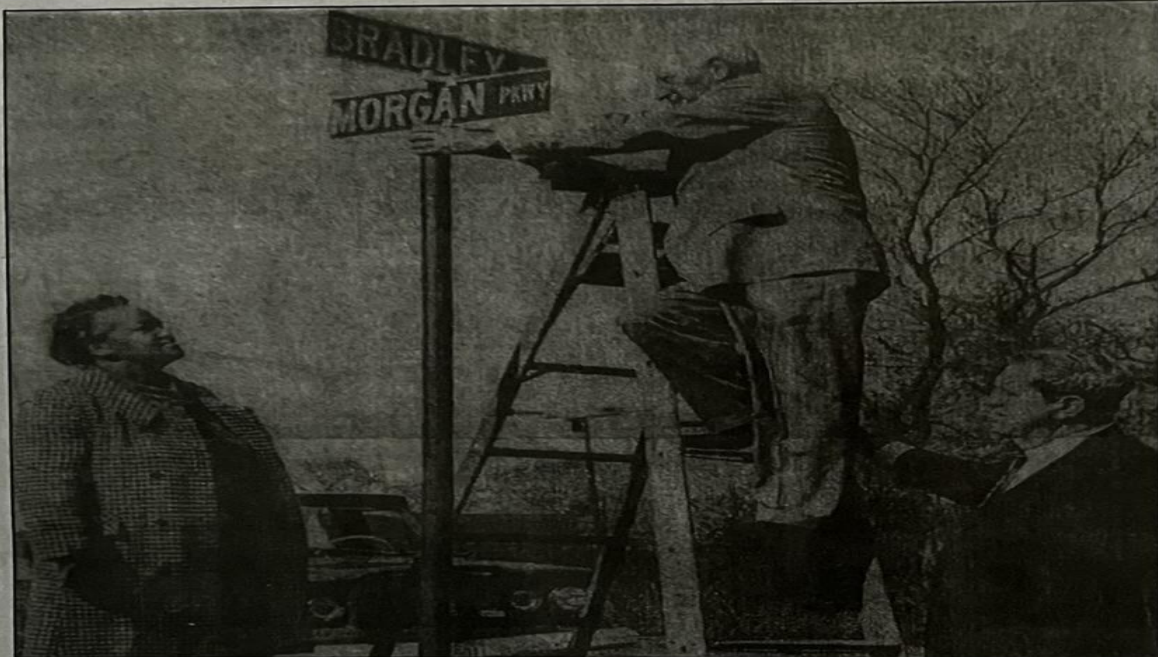
Thomas was not treated kindly by the Manasquan children who used to throw stones and eggs at him if they saw him on the street. Incensed, Captain Bailey used his influence to see that a law was passed that prohibited this ill treatment and also allowed Thomas to attend school. Thomas was allowed to be in the school, but was not allowed to participate in any of the classes. Instead, he had to work, washing the blackboards, getting water, sweeping the floors, etc. It was Ms. Bailey who taught him to write his name, and this was all the formal education that he received.

Although in his youth he was ill-treated and denied an education, in time, Thomas Laws became a respected landowner who owned property in both Brielle and Manasquan. He continued to work for the Bailey family until Captain Bailey died. By this time, he had married and had two sons, both of whom were well educated. He then became a landscape gardener who, as Ms. Moon puts it, "left a legacy of beautifully sculpted hedges that became a tradition that carries on to this day."

#### JASPER MORGAN

Jackie Morgan Stackhouse traces her family's presence in Manasquan and Brielle to her great-grandfather, Jasper Morgan, who was born in 1870 in Rice, Virginia, to Robert and Indiana Morgan. Like many other migrants who lived near the coast, Jasper made his way north by ship. He first went to Boston and later traveled to Plainfield, New Jersey, where he met his soon-to-be wife, Mattie Harvey, who was also from Rice, Virginia. It is not entirely clear how Jasper and Mattie ended up in Manasquan and Brielle.

It may have been by word of mouth that they learned about the area. As she explains, there were a lot of



Morgan Parkway is named.

COURTESY OF THE UNION LANDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BRIELLE

African Americans who would come north to work for relatively short periods of time and then go back to their homes in the south. No doubt, these migrants exchanged stories about the pros and cons of the areas where they had worked.

Jasper Morgan is known as being Brielle's first black entrepreneur. According to Ms. Moon's account, at the age of 23 Jasper came to Manasquan to work as a coachman for Mr. Van Note who owned a funeral home. He later worked with the Hardy Poland Company house movers. In 1900, he married Mattie, and they had five children — Edward, William, Mable, Jasper Jr. and Magnolia.

Jasper Sr. was a man of high energy and many skills.

In 1905, he started his own business hauling and carting sand off the local beaches. He prospered and eventually owned three teams of horses, and later had a "fleet" of horses that offered the "taxi service" of the times. He operated a large stable in what is now the military base in Sea Girt.

Before coming to New Jersey, Jasper had worked on his father's farm and he knew how to make a farm profitable. He and Mattie planted vegetables and raised hogs. Mattie canned some of the vegetables and sold the rest. As their farm grew larger, Jasper recruited helpers from his family and other young men they knew in Virginia. Because he knew a lot about masonry, carpentry and construction, and

also had a crew that could handle large jobs, Jasper's assistance was always in demand. Among other things, his workers seeded lawns, picked up garbage, built homes and other buildings and graded the first streets in Brielle. Jasper Jr. followed in his father's footsteps and became a skilled mason.

As Jackie explains, traveling in the time of the Great Migration, when many African Americans were moving north in search of better opportunities, was not easy. Often the travelers had no place to stay and little to eat. Word was passed along that one could always get something to eat at the Morgan family. Sometimes the travelers would stay and work for a while before they moved on. Others decided

to stay in the area, and the Morgan family would help them settle down and make a new life for themselves. In time, all of them owned their own homes, and they came together to help each other build those homes. As can be seen in the composition of the African American community that evolved, many of the newcomers came from Virginia.

In time, there was a substantial African American community. Jackie tells of how, little by little, the area that tended to be marshy was gradually filled in by African American workers. These workers also excavated for building streets and homes and built many of the buildings — and what a lovely town they built.

Morgan Parkway was so named to acknowledge all that Jasper and his workers did to create streets in Brielle. Many of the buildings and homes built in that still survive. There was plenty of work for the women as well — as cooks, housekeepers, seamstresses, laundresses, caregivers, caterers and more.

#### MORE LEADERS EMERGE

As African Americans in Brielle began to prosper, they earned the respect of their fellow citizens, and some of them became actively involved in the community. To cite just a few, Maude Goode Moon, born in Luray, Virginia, in 1887, worked for a doctor in Luray for many years before moving to Brielle in 1924. The mother of 16 children, she became the town's first black midwife.

Corbett Harvey, born in 1896 in Rice, Virginia, was brought to Manasquan by his brother, Frank Harvey Sr., in 1913. Corbett first worked with the Van Sickle Company where he learned masonry. He worked with the Van Sickle Company building roads, buildings, bridges and highways until

1941 when he went into business for himself as a contractor.

Leroy Mack, a skilled carpenter who went into business for himself after World War II, became the first black member of the Brielle Board of Education. He served on the board from 1950 to 1964. He also served as president of the Brielle Men's Club and on the Community Development Block Grant Committee.

Alfred Oscar Kenney was Brielle's first black police chief. He graduated from Manasquan High School in 1954 and then served in the Air Force until 1962 when he returned to Brielle and served on the police force until his retirement in 1989.

When I asked Jackie about how she remembers the school system, she spoke of having fond memories of going to school in Brielle and how the teachers encouraged students to seek further education. Certainly, Mr. Mack's involvement in the Brielle Board of Education speaks to his having an influence in encouraging black youth to continue their education after graduation. Some graduates chose the military as a way of pursuing leadership and other training — and Mr. Kenney is certainly an example of someone who made the most of the educational opportunities he had.

Jackie has many fond memories of growing up in Brielle and hearing the stories told by her elders. Like all kids, her parents loved snow days when there was no school. They used to attach their sleds to the back of a bus and ride into town. She said when her parents became seriously interested in each other, her grandparents allowed them to sit together on the front porch after church. She remembers the black community having

# Morgan Family Helped Shape Brielle History

Aug 29/89

**BRIELLE** — Brielle was a very small place indeed, compared with what it is today, when Jasper Morgan, whose many descendants held an annual reunion here, Saturday, first arrived in this area in 1890 as a young man in his early or middle twenties.

An enterprising individual, Morgan had left his native village of Rice, Virginia, between Richmond and Farmville, to better himself economically by using his talents as a skilled horseman to earn a living here in a variety of ways.

Beginning as a coachman, Morgan became a hearse driver for an undertaker named Van Note. Later, he worked for grading contractor Hardie Poland, and still later set up as a grading contractor on his own.

At one period, also, he farmed a 90-acre tract on Ramshorn Drive.

It was Morgan, operating as a grading contractor, who cut through many of the borough's present streets, including one — Morgan Parkway — that was named after him years later and still bears his name today.

At some time in the mid-1890's, Morgan journeyed to Plainfield, where he renewed an earlier acquaintance with Mattie Harvey, who had also come north from Rice. They were married in 1900, and shortly afterward returned to Virginia.

Back in the south, they became parents of a first son, Edward, then returned, within a few years, to Brielle, where four more children were born: first William, then Mabel, then Jasper, Jr., and finally Magnolia.

Edward, who married Viola

Richardson of Spring Lake, ultimately became the father of a family of six. William, who married Viola's sister Martha, had a family of 11. Mabel and her husband, Howard Hill, had three children. Jasper, Jr. and his wife Julia became the parents of nine. Magnolia, who married Leroy K. Mack, had three.

While their family was expanding, the elder Morgans participated very actively in the inception and development of Shiloh Baptist Church, Manasquan. The church traces its origins, in fact, to the time in 1905 when they, along with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith, alternated in holding prayer meetings in their homes.

Through the efforts of Morgan and Rev. P.T. Morris, an early preacher to the little congregation, land was purchased and a borrowed



Fiftieth wedding anniversary photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Mc Sr. of Brielle taken in 1950. Jasper and Mattie Morgan, both deceased, were the grandparents and great grandparents of many those attending Saturday's family reunion in Curtis Park.

Only Living Charter Member:

# Church Founder Recalls Early Struggle

MANASQUAN — Shiloh Baptist Church on Union Ave. today stands as a living memorial to a reserved, dignified, 79-year-old woman who is the only living charter member of the church she helped organize in 1905.

She is Mrs. Mattie Morgan, who with her late husband, Jasper Morgan Sr., visualized the necessity for having a place of worship in her new home town.

The two began prayer meetings in their home with the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith. The late Rev. P. J. Morris was in charge of the services, alternating with the late Rev. J. J. Davis. Projects were initiated for raising funds to purchase a lot.

'I used to give tea parties, necktie parties, apron parties, old folks' concerts and box socials,' Mrs. Morgan says. 'I wrote and directed my own plays using my brothers, the late Acie Harvey, Frank Harvey and my sons Willie and Eddie, the late Mrs. Gertrude Loan and John Jackson.'

She laughed out loud as she related one incident from one of her plays. 'I can remember one of them very well. Gertrude Loan was one of the characters and as she came onstage with a suitcase she said, 'Here I come bag and baggage' and then she fell down on the stage. The audience laughed and the play was a roaring success.'

### Almost Gave Up

Mrs. Morgan says they worked very hard. She remembers one night coming up the hill to home, feeling very tired and disgusted, she said to her husband,

'I don't feel as if I can make the grade. I'm tired struggling.' Her husband's reply was they had gone too far to turn back now.'

'I am glad I didn't quit when I see the church as it stands today,' she continued. 'We raised enough money to purchase the lot on Union Ave. in Manasquan

and the Sea Girl Camp gave us a tent so we were able to continue services. In 1909 the church was organized with the late Rev. C. J. Walker as pastor.'

They decided to name the church Shiloh after the Scripture 'The Scripture shall not part from Judah nor a law given from

between his feet until Shiloh comes.' In 1913 the church itself was erected by Zill Taylor.

Always interested in singing, she organized the church choir with the late Mr. Higgins as musical director and Miss L. Barnes as organist. For many years after that, the late Mrs.

Mamie Harvey was organist.

Next, because she was always interested in helping people, she organized the Missionary Circle with Mrs. Lydia Morgan as president. Later she served as president for many years. **Efforts Rewarded**

She also served as delegate to the Seacoast Association for many years and in 1926 was elected treasurer, automatically making her a member of the Associational Board. In 1930 she was made life member to the Seacoast Missionary Baptist Association and in 1937 life member of the Afro-American Baptist State Convention.

In trying to have a well-rounded community life she started a Paul Lawrence Dunbar Club for civic and social purposes. The club was incorporated and a lot was purchased to erect a recreational building.

Not content to rest on her laurels, she organized and served as president for many years, the Union Missionary Services consisting of six churches: Shiloh Baptist, First Baptist of Belmar; Mt. Carmel, Neptune; Ebenezer Baptist, Point Pleasant; Bay Head Tabernacle and Union Baptist, West Grove.

She joined the Evangelistic Conference Branch 5 and served as vice president. Mrs. Morgan was then elected a member of the State Board of the New Jersey Baptist State Convention.

In 1950 she and Mr. Morgan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

**See CHURCH Page Three**



**MRS. MATTIE MORGAN** takes a moment of meditation each day to read her favorite Bible verse, Psalm 27:14

"Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart. Wait I say on the Lord." (Post Photo)

# Contributions of the black community in Brielle

BY MARY JANE BARRETTA, PH.D.  
UNION LANDING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As a "transplant" to Brielle from Northwestern Pennsylvania, I had often wondered about the people who settled in this area. What was it that brought them here even before Brielle was incorporated in 1919? I was especially curious about how African Americans settled here. My own hometown was a known stop on the Underground Railroad and, over time, a sizeable number of African Americans settled there. I wondered whether the people here helped African Americans in getting work and in making Brielle their hometown.

On a lovely April afternoon in this centennial year, Jackie Morgan Stackhouse, the great-granddaughter of Jasper Morgan and Mattie Harvey Morgan, two of the first African Americans to settle here, explained the when, how and why they came to the area that became Brielle, and the how and what they contributed to its development.

Let me preface what I learned by a quick summary of how Union Landing became Brielle. From reading about Brielle in the "Images of America" series, I learned that Union Landing was the first name given to this part of Monmouth County and that it has had a maritime history that goes back to well before the American Revolution. Located about a mile from where the Manasquan River opens into the Atlantic Ocean, it was well suited as a protected harbor for goods coming from overseas markets.

Because of the brackish water at the mouth of the riv-



Jasper and Mattie Morgan celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with family members.

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er, very early on Union Landing also became a source of salt production. During the Revolution, when the British cut off our supplies of salt, Union Landing was a major source of salt that enabled the colonists to preserve food so that its army could be fed. After the Revolution, Union Landing became an early American seaport that was linked to overland trade routes and, thus, played a key role in maritime shipping.

The coming of the railroads somewhat diminished the importance of maritime shipping, but it also marked the beginning of tourism to the area. In the late 1800s, a group of investors from New York and North Jersey saw an opportunity to create a development for tourists in the Union Landing area. They bought up land from the several local farmers and began to build and sell vacation homes.

At the time, there were many windmills in the area. These windmills were used to pump fresh water from underground aquifers. Because one of the developers thought the area resembled Brielle, Holland, the new development was named "The Brielle Land Association."

Soon, visitors were drawn to the beaches and to the opportunities for recreational boating, sailing and fishing. Hotels and resorts began to spring up in the 1870s; and,

at the time of its secession from Wall Township in 1919, it was already an established tourist center. Before becoming independent boroughs in 1919 and 1887, respectively, both Brielle and Manasquan were part of Wall Township.

## THOMAS LAWS

Not long after the Civil War and at the beginning of the "Great Migration," African Americans from the south began to explore new opportunities that were

opening in the north. One of the first African Americans to settle in Brielle was Thomas Laws, who was born in Gloucester County, Virginia, in 1867. He was the youngest of 10 children, and as a child he loved to play near the docks so he could watch the boatmen unloading the ships. He started running errands for them, doing odd jobs and generally making himself useful.

Thomas was only 10 years old when his mother died, leaving his father to care for the family. It was then that he was befriended by one of the boat captains, Captain Osborn, whose friend and neighbor was Captain Bailey. Captain Osborn knew that Captain Bailey's mother needed someone to help her around the house, so he told the Bailey's about young Thomas. It was through Captain Osborn's first getting consent from Thomas' father to allow his son to go to New Jersey and then actually bringing the boy to Manasquan by an oyster boat in 1877, that Thomas Laws became one of the first African Americans to settle in Brielle.

According to Mamie Hughes Moon, who authored an article titled "The Contribution of Blacks to the Building of Brielle" as part of Brielle's 50th anniversary of its founding, young Thomas did not have an easy time of it. He was a great help to Ms. Bailey, helping her by chopping wood, making fires, bringing in water, cleaning lamps and more. But Thomas desperately wanted to go to school, and at that time, black children were not allowed to go to the school in Manasquan.

Mr. Jasper Morgan, Brielle's first African American entrepreneur



Jasper Morgan, Brielle's first black entrepreneur, with one of his teams of horses







# Shiloh Baptist Church, Manasquan, New Jersey



**Robert Morgan**  
in the 1880 United States Federal Census

Name: Robert Morgan  
 Age: 40  
 Birth Date: Abt 1840  
 Birthplace: Virginia  
 Home in 1880: Lockett, Prince Edward, Virginia, USA  
 Dwelling Number: 139  
 Race: Mulatto  
 Gender: Male  
 Relation to Head of House: Self (Head)  
 Marital Status: Married  
 Spouse's Name: Indiana Morgan  
 Father's Birthplace: Virginia  
 Mother's Name: Lucy Stokes  
 Mother's Birthplace: Virginia  
 Occupation: Farmer  
 Cannot Read: Yes  
 Cannot Write: Yes  
 Neighbors: View others on page

Household Members	Age	Relationship
<b>Robert Morgan</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Self</b>
Indiana Morgan	35	Wife
Eliza Morgan	21	Daughter
Robert Morgan	20	Son
Sallie Morgan	17	Daughter
Maggie Morgan	13	Daughter
Wiley Morgan	11	Son
Henry Thos. Morgan	10	Son
Willie Archer Morgan	9	Son
Jasper Morgan	7	Son
Cornelius Morgan	5	Son
Lucy Stokes	69	Mother
Lelia Wood	1/12	Granddaughter

[Show more](#)



# THE ATHLETIC MORGANS

**Partial Morgan family tree, listing key athletes since 1893**

**JASPER & MATTIE**  
 Arrived Manasquan 1893

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    graph TD
      Jasper[Magnolia] --- JasperJr[Jasper, Jr.]
      Jasper --- Edvard[Edvard]
      Jasper --- William[William]
      Jasper --- Leroy[Leroy]
      
      JasperJr --- Jack[Jack]
      JasperJr --- Joe[Joe]
      JasperJr --- Catherine[Catherine]
      
      Jack --- Michael[Michael]
      Joe --- Kevin[Kevin]
      Catherine --- Richard[Richard]
      Catherine --- Gary[Gary]
      
      Edvard --- George[George]
      Edvard --- Lorraine[Lorraine]
      Edvard --- Richard[Richard]
      
      George --- Jerry[Jerry]
      Lorraine --- Arnie[Arnie]
      Richard --- Reggie[Reggie]
      Richard --- Rodney[Rodney]
      
      William --- Edsel[Edsel]
      William --- Alfred[Alfred]
      William --- Meldon[Meldon]
      William --- Leonard[Leonard]
      William --- Norman[Norman]
      William --- Eugene[Eugene]
      William --- William[William]
      William --- Everett[Everett]
      William --- Mae[Mae]
      
      Edsel --- AlfredJr[Alfred, Jr.]
      Alfred --- Zarach[Zarach]
      Alfred --- Dwayne[Dwayne]
      Alfred --- Marvin[Marvin]
      
      Meldon --- MeldonJr[Meldon, Jr.]
      Meldon --- Andy[Andy]
      Meldon --- Raymond[Raymond]
      
      Leonard --- Lorenzo[Lorenzo]
      Leonard --- Schuyler[Schuyler]
      
      Norman --- Rickey[Rickey]
      Norman --- NormanJr[Norman, Jr.]
      
      Eugene --- Doug[Doug]
      Eugene --- Derrick[Derrick]
      
      William --- EverettJr[Everett, Jr.]
      William --- Elliot[Elliot]
      William --- Eric[Eric]
      William --- Kareem[Kareem]
      
      Mae --- Arthur[Arthur]
  
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## Who grew up in Brielle ( Brazille) New Jersey.. >

🔒 Private group · 670 members



**PERENNIAL CAGE CHAMPIONS**—This Brielle Elementary School basketball team won the Monmouth County Athletic League basketball championship for the fifth year in a row. The team shared the honors with Sea Girt, posting a 15-1 season record. Its five-year record is 74-6. Leading scorers were Lorenzo Morgan, Kenny Lorenzo and Bucky Beatty. Leading rebounders were Anthony Grier and Bucky Beatty. Team is: (left to right), bottom row, Frank Petrulla, Richard Esdaile, Ernest

Hayward, Bruce Durham, Tony Fleming and Glenn Arensdorph, manager. Middle row: Bucky Beatty, Chris Hauge, Kenny Lorenzo, Dwayne Morgan and Robert Matthews, manager. Top row: David Richardson, Doug Morgan, Anthony Grier, Renard Ferrari, coach, Lorenzo Morgan, Eric Lapham, manager and Kevin Birch, manager. Keith Busby and David Geiger were not present when picture was taken. (Press Photo)

# TBT - Brielle E.S. 1973



## COUNTY GRADE SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

The Brielle Elementary School basketball team won the Monmouth County Athletic League championship for the third straight year with a 5-0 record. Team then finished fourth in the Basket Bowl Tournament at Convention Hall. The team averaged 60 points a game for season to

its opponents' 30, with four players, Rick Morgan, Danny Cook, Robert Venerable and Andy Morgan all scoring more than 200 points. Standing, left to right, are managers, Jimmy Luno and Chris Norman, Tyrone Mitchell, Neil McCarthy, Andy Morgan, Michael Morgan, Robert Venera-

ble, Rick Morgan, Robert Beatty, Danny Cook, Skip Vaught, and Coach Renard Ferrari. Kneeling are Joe Kenny, Fred Lee, Wayne Busby, Michael Pinkman, James Kerr and Ray Morgan.



Shiloh  
Baptist Church



Shiloh Baptist Church  
Past and Present





# Wall

## Business Notices

Allgor Jas. L.. Store, New Bedford

Allen Wm.. Farmer

Bernard Fred.. Farmer

Brown Morris.. Farmer

Curtis & Davison.. Store, Squan Village

Clement J. B.. Resident Bailer's Corner

Higgins A. A.. Physician

Hults C M.. Carpenter and Builder, Squan Village

Ludlow Saml.. Farmer

Laird R.. Physician

Osborn J. A.. Farmer

Osborn Allen.. Farmer

Pearce Benj. D.. Justice of the Peace, Squan Village

Pearce Wm N.. Farmer

Pearce B. D.. Farmer

Remsen John.. Resident, New Bedford

Reid W. V.. Farmer

Reynolds H. P.. Carpenter, Squan Village

Rogers J. S.. Farmer

Rodgers Thos. M.. Farmer

Sexton Michael.. Commission Merchant, New Bedford

Vanleer Ed. S.. Store, New Bedford

