



2011

Morgan sites *in* Marion County



A brief self-guided tour

DESCENDANTS OF COL. MORGAN MORGAN
FAIRMONT, WEST VIRGINIA



Itinerary & Driving Directions

Mt Zion Cemetery

From Pricketts Fort drive out to Rt. 73 & turn LEFT onto Rt. 73. Drive (about 1 ½ mi) to Mt. Zion Road. Turn RIGHT onto Mt. Zion Road & continue until you arrive at Mt. Zion Cemetery. For many years the Mt. Zion Church was host to the Morgan Reunion.

The old part of the cemetery (near the church) has many older Morgan descendants, including Ezra Morgan—grandson of “Buffalo Jim” Morgan and a well-know singing teacher & director of the Mt. Zion Choir. Across the road are many more Morgans, including the graves of former Gov. Ephraim Morgan and his family.

Morgan Ridge

As you leave (do not retrace the route you came in on), continue on the Mt. Zion road. At the fork in the road (0.5 mi), bear LEFT. At this fork, you can view Morgan’s Ridge, or Morgan’s Lookout, at one time the second highest point in Marion County at 1652 feet. Continue driving, always bearing LEFT whenever there are forks in the road, including North Ridge Rd. Continue driving 1.3 mi. Bear LEFT at the fork—

Gov. Ephraim Morgan’s Home

The house which was Gov. Ephraim Morgan’s home is on your left—only a small part of the house (the 2 windows in the front of the house) were part of the original house. Across the road is the old barn, built without nails, believed to be already standing during the time Ephraim lived across the road. [Ephraim was 16th governor of WV during the “Coal Wars.”]

Retrace your route back to the intersection (1.3 mi), bear LEFT down the hill (to Pricketts Creek Road). 4.5 mi to Rt. 73, then turn LEFT. Continue past the Fort entrance on Rt. 73, up the hill (this is now called Speedway). Bear LEFT at the fork in the road. Continue to traffic signal, then turn RIGHT onto EAST PARK AVENUE.

Continue on EAST PARK AVE to intersection—on left will be the entrance for the new expressway; on the right is the high-level bridge, recently restored from its original construction in 1921. Straight ahead is the DAVID MORGAN Bridge.

David Morgan Memorial Bridge

Cross the David Morgan Bridge & then immediately turn LEFT into the parking lot of the Rescue Squad. The marker to David Morgan is there. Exit the parking-lot and turn LEFT, then RIGHT at next intersection—RIGHT on FOURTH St. At next traffic signal turn LEFT onto FAIRMONT AVE. [on this corner, on your right, you will see the site of the First U.M. Church. After you turn onto Fairmont Ave., you will see the site of the Central U.M. church on your right—which is where the first Father’s Day service was held.]

Continue on Fairmont Avenue to Ninth St. and turn RIGHT onto Ninth St.

[notice the Ross Funeral Home on your right—originally a mansion built by coal-baron James E. Watson during 1910-1913 in Tudor Revival Style; and the First Baptist Church on your left]. Just past the church you will see the sign to turn LEFT into FAIRMONT FARMS.

David Morgan Log House

Pettyjohn

Home of Francis Pierpont

Grave of Francis Pierpont

House of George Pinkney Morgan

Marker

0.4 into Fairmont Farms you will see a sign for Laurel Dr. Just past that sign (don’t turn on Laurel) you will see the David Morgan original log house, called River See. Built by David Morgan about 1779. David’s wife Sarah died in this house. Privately owned, with additions added. Not available for tours.

Retrace route back to Fairmont Ave. & turn RIGHT onto Fairmont Ave. Turn LEFT onto TWELFTH St. At Virginia Ave. turn RIGHT. At 14th St. turn LEFT and continue down the hill. This road is very rough & should not be driven without a SUV. On land owned by David Morgan, he sold two acres to the Pettyjohn brothers, and helped to establish a small community of post office, trading post, ferry and other businesses. No remains of the original settlement can be seen, but this is the beginning of Fairmont.

Returning to Fairmont Ave., drive back into downtown Fairmont. Fairmont Ave. becomes Adams St. and then Rt. 19. After a sharp LEFT turn (remain on Rt. 19) you will see the site of the home of Francis Pierpont, the “Father of West Virginia” and Governor of the Restored State of Virginia. Although nothing remains of his house, the Fairmont Police & Fire Dept. stand on this spot.

Continue on Rt. 19. At top of hill, Rt. 19 curves to the right. Turn RIGHT (Rt. 19 bears to the left & continues downhill). Drive to Woodlawn Cemetery, where the graves of Francis & Anna Pierpont are located. [Francis grandfather John was the son-in-law of Zackquill Morgan].

Return to Rt. 19 and turn RIGHT. Continue on Rt. 19 (curvy road) to Rivesville (when you see the river to the right of Rt. 19, you’ll be getting close) At the end of the main street (still Rt. 19), it turns LEFT. After you drive under the railroad overpass, turn RIGHT onto Clayton St.

Clayton St. continues through downtown Rivesville. At the fork in the road, bear to the right. From here, drive 1.3 mi (a sign will announce “Dead End”). Turn LEFT on Big Sky Lane—this is a gravel road.

Straight ahead you will see the Morgan farm, the home of George Pinkney Morgan, grandson of David Morgan. You may park in the driveway approaching this house, although the sign warns that it is Private Property. It is allowable for you to walk along the front of the house and continue walking beside the electrified fence to the Morgan Cemetery.

As you near the cemetery, you can also see the David Morgan monument, dating from 1908, which supposedly marks the spot where David Morgan had the famous fight with Indians and saved his children.

Retracing your route back toward Fairmont—at 2 miles from the Farm—you will see a marker commemorating David Morgan and his famous Indian encounter.