

MORGANTOWN

In 1785 a Mary Bennett bought half of lot #110 from Zacquill Morgan, founder of Morgantown.

In 1790 the whole county of Monongalia had only 4,768 people. There were 5 houses in Morgantown. But, by 1796, when William and George R. Tingle are first recorded there, it was growing. J. M. Callahan's book, History of the Making of Morgantown, tells why.

“In 1796 Morgantown was regarded as ‘the nearest point’ of navigation at which emigrants from the east could reach western waters. It was reached by emigrant wagons from the east by a widened but rough road connecting with Braddocks Road near the PA./MD. line. At Morgantown emigrants purchased boats by which to transport their wagons and furniture and women and children to points on the Ohio and also bought cattle and additional horses which were usually taken to Ohio by the rough trail to Graves Creek or Fishing Creek.”

In 1797, the Boston Gazateer referred to Morgantown as a Post Town, one of 3 post offices in northwest Virginia. It had a courthouse, a stone jail and about 40 houses on the Monongahela River. Steep hills rise on both sides of the river and little roads zigzag down from them to the center of town on the river's edge.

The Monongahela is an important part of Morgantown's history for it runs north, as rivers seldom do, all the way to Pittsburgh where it joins the mighty Ohio. River travel on flat boats was the way to go west way back when roads were mud and rocky and Indians could lurk behind trees.

In Morgantown in 1796, George R. Tingle was 22 years old, buying the north half of a lot for \$50.00. In 1798 he and Mary Bennett bought lot #109. When Mary died, her heirs were John, George R. and Jane Dunlap (William had preceded her in death.) If Mary Bennett, remarried, was not the mother of these Tingles, she was at least a close relative.

In 1807 George made the move to Cambridge. John was in Buckhannon, Virginia (now West Virginia) but at some later date moved to Cambridge also. Now, through our “Tingle Descendants” letters, Mildren Warden has written me to identify him as John Tingle, b. 1770, brother of George Roberts Tingle, and her ancestor.

JOHN TINGLE

Eldred	Benoni S.	Albert J.	<u>William Wiatt J.</u>	Mary A.	Harriet
	Jane	Elizabeth A.	Sarah Ann	Eldrich	

Are you still with me? I'm almost to the end of my Tingle lore. But Sid Tingle of Lincoln, Nebraska put the icing on the cake when he read of my search for information on George Roberts Tingle and sent me a xerox of an 1898 letter. It was to his grandfather, A.H. Tingle, from George R. Tingle. The letterhead: NORTHERN PACIFIC AND ALASKA MINING, TRANSPORTATION AND TRADING CO. and was sent from Washington, D.C. Here it is:

Washington, D.C.

January 18th, 1898

A.H. Tingle, Esq.

Butte, Nebraska

My Dear Sir:

Yours of 8th inst recd. My absence in New York is the cause of delay in answering. My address is 929½ N.Y. Ave. this City, letters sent here will always be forwarded.

I happened to come down town this A.M. with A.K Tingle who lives with his mother. His father was Geo.E.Tingle of Indiana, he thinks you and your brother Geo.E. are Sons of a brother of his father. I wish you would write to A.K.T. 1420 F. St. Kellog Bl'dg. & tell him what your fathers name was and where your father lived & I also would like to know as My son E.W.S. Tingle who has just ret~d from Germany where he was U.S. Consul for four years and an Editor by profession is writing a family history of the Tingles so if you can aid him he will appreciate it. I will certainly look out for your brother in Alaska if I come on him will see that he writes to you. I expect to go to S.F. in a week. My address for out there will be 126 Davis Street.

My fathers name was Jos. D. My grandfathers was Geo. R. they were both born in Va. Morgantown and Martinsburg. I would be pleased to hear from you frequently. I am 61 years old. My father died at 83. A.K. must be about 50. His mother is now 83.

Yours truly
/s! Geo. R. Tingle

Not much for punctuation but George became our first Territorial Governor of Alaska. Lewis had been wondering about this George in the Cambridge Founder's Cemetery for some years. We claim him proudly. . . . and his son. Now, where is that family History?

Have I stirred up anything? As Dixie says, "Thank You" and happy hunting!
Dollie Tingle Brackett