

Nathaniel Morris: Mulatto of Sussex County, Delaware

By Michele Pierce

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Nathaniel Morris, "Mulatto", was a taxable in the home of **James Longo**, another mixed blood family, (*Heinegg, Paul, Free African Americans of Maryland and Delaware, 233*) from Wicomoco Hundred, Somerset County, Maryland, in the years 1737, 1738, 1739 and 1740 (*Russo, Elliott J., Tax Lists of Somerset County 1730-1740, 140; 163; 186; 213*). **James Longo's** will was probated in Worcester County, Maryland, in September of 1743 (*Maryland Calendar of Wills Vol. 8, 235*). His will names his wife **Hannah** and his godson **Shederick Chance**. **Nathaniel Morris** was not mentioned. The connection between the **Morris** and **Longo** surname is unknown. However, the **Longo** surname is familiar to Sussex County, Delaware.

Is this **Nathaniel Morris, "Mulatto"** of Maryland the same **Nathaniel Morris "Mulatto"** of Delaware? I think it highly probable. The connection between the **Morris** family of Wicomoco County, Maryland and the **Morris** family of Sussex County, Delaware may show the migration patterns of these indigenous people.

Nathaniel Morris is first listed in Sussex County, Delaware, when he registered the birth of his son **Levi** in 1747/48 at St. George's Church in Indian River Hundred (*Wright, F. Edward, Vital Records of Kent and Sussex Counties Delaware 1686-1800, 93*). He was called **Nathan'I Morris, "Mulatto"**. He is listed on the Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, Tax Assessment List, from 1770 to 1774 (*Heinegg, Paul, Free African Americans of Maryland and Delaware, 252*). **Nathaniel** must have been born around 1727 and died shortly after the 1774 tax list. He is probably the ancestor of the **"Mulatto" Morris** families of Sussex and Kent County, Delaware. His children readily intermarried with the Nanticoke families of Sussex County. He was the father of:

- **Levi** son of **Nathan'I Morris "Mulatto"** 17 Jan 1747/48 at St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church, Indian River Hundred (*Wright, F. Edward, Vital Records of Kent and Sussex Counties Delaware 1686-1800, 93*).
- **Zadock** son of **Nathan'I Morris** and **Elizabeth Morris** born 5 Dec 1751: baptized 16 Aug 1752 at St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church, Indian River Hundred (*Wright, F. Edward, Vital Records of Kent and Sussex Counties Delaware 1686-1800, 95*).
- **Elizt'h Morris** born around 1753 married **Thomas Clark** on 1 Jul 1773 (free mulatto's) at Lewes and Coolspring Presbyterian Church, Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware (*Wright, F. Edward, Vital Records of Kent and Sussex Counties Delaware 1686-1800, 127*). It is possible that **Elizabeth** was named after her mother and is the daughter of **Nathaniel** and **Elizabeth Morris**.

Levi Morris, the son of **Nathaniel** and **Elizabeth Morris** was born 1747/48, probably in Sussex County, Delaware. He married **Sarah Hanzer** in September 1768 at Lewes and Coolsprings Presbyterian Church, Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware (Wright, F. Edward, Vital Records of Kent and Sussex Counties Delaware 1686-1800, 124). **Sarah's** parents are unknown. However, she may be the daughter of **Jonathan Handson/Handsor**, who lists her birth on the 13 July 1746 at St. George's Chapel, Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware (*St. Georges Chapel 1708-1899, Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 93*).

Levi Morris is listed as a delinquent taxable in Lewes and Rehoboth Hundreds, Sussex County, Delaware 1767, 1784, and 1787 (*Heinegg, Paul, Free African Americans of Maryland and Delaware, 251*). He was head of an Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware family in 1800 with 4 "Other Free" persons (1800 Indian River, Sussex County, Delaware census, 6) , and again in 1810 with 5 "Other Free" persons (*1810 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 32*). He must have died sometime after 1810. The children of **Levi** and **Sarah** were probably:

- **Nathaniel Morris** born about 1767, probably in Sussex County, Delaware. He married **Alice Handzor** (*free Mulattos*) on 24 Dec 1799 in Sussex County, Delaware (*United Presbyterian Church of Lewes and Coolsprings, Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 318*). Alice may have died and he married **Sarah Cornish** (*free Mulatto's*) on 5 Dec 1802 in Sussex County, Delaware. (*United Presbyterian Church of Lewes and Coolsprings, Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 318*).
- **Simon Morris** born about 1769, probably in Sussex County, Delaware. He is listed in the 1800 Indian River Hundred Census, with 3 "Other Free" persons (*1800 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 6*).
- **Nancy Morris** born about 1771, probably in Sussex County, Delaware. She married **Abel Jacobs**, (*free mulattos*) on the 18 Apr 1802 in Sussex County, Delaware (*United Presbyterian Church of Lewes and Coolsprings, Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 318*). **Abel** was probably the son of **Abraham Jacobs**, listed in the 1800 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census with 5 "Other Free" persons (*1800 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 6*).
- **Dan'l Morris** born about 1775, probably in Sussex County, Delaware. He is listed in the 1810 Baltimore, Dagsboro, Indian River, Lewes, Rehoboth and Broadkill Hundred census, with 6 "Other Free" persons (*1810 Baltimore, Dagsboro, Indian River, Lewes, Rehoboth and Broadkill Hundreds, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 32*).
- **Levy/Levi Morris** born about 1778, probably in Sussex County, Delaware. He is listed in the 1810 Baltimore, Dagsboro, Indian River, Lewes, Rehoboth and Broadkill Hundred census, with 3 "Other Free" Persons (*1810 Baltimore, Dagsboro, Indian River, Lewes, Rehoboth and Broadkill Hundreds, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 9*).
- **Cyrus Morris** born about 1880, probably in Sussex County, Delaware. He is listed in the 1810 Baltimore, Dagsboro, Indian River, Lewes, Rehoboth and Broadkill Hundred

census, with 4 "Other Free" persons (1810 Baltimore, Dagsboro, Indian River, Lewes, Rehoboth and Broadkill Hundreds, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 32).

Zadock Morris son of **Nathan'I Morris** and **Elizabeth Morris** born 5 Dec 1751: baptized 16 Aug 1752 at St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church, Indian River Hundred (Wright, F. Edward, *Vital Records of Kent and Sussex Counties Delaware 1686-1800*, 95). He may have married **Annie Pearl Harmon** (Delaware Marriage Records 1774-1912, Ancestry.com). I wonder if this is the **Zadock Morris** of Delaware that is listed as serving in the Revolutionary War. If so, he was awarded a Bounty Land Grant of 100 acres as compensation for his military service in West Virginia.

Elizabeth Morris, probably the daughter of **Nathaniel** and **Elizabeth**, was born around 1753, in Sussex County, Delaware. She married **Thomas Clark** on 1 July 1773 (*free mulatto's*) at Lewes and Coolspring Presbyterian Church, Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware (Wright, F. Edward, *Vital Records of Kent and Sussex Counties Delaware 1686-1800*, 127). There is a **Thomas Clark** of Sussex County, Delaware listed as serving in the Revolutionary War, under the command of **Col. David Hall**. He received a Bounty Land Grant of 100 acres as compensation for his military service. **Thomas** and **Elizabeth** died before 1834. Their children were listed in **Thomas Clark's** Bounty Land Grant. The children of **Thomas** and **Elizabeth** were probably:

- **Comfort Clark** was born about 1774 probably in Sussex County, Delaware. There is a **Comfort Clark** listed in the 1830 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 1 "Free Colored Female" aged 55-100 (1830 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 4). However, **Thomas's** Revolutionary War Records lists her as **Comfort Miller**.
- **Nancy Clark** born about 1776 probably in Sussex County, Delaware. She married **Whittington Johnson Jr.** He is listed in the 1800 Nanticoke Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census (1800 Nanticoke Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census, 3).
- **Whittington Clark** was born about 1778 probably in Sussex County, Delaware. He is listed in the 1820 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 9 "Free Colored" persons. He is also listed in the 1830 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 7 "Free Colored", two males 10-24, one male 36-55, one female under 10, two females 10-24 and one female 36-55 (1830 Indian River Hundred, Sussex county, Delaware census, 7).
- **Mary Clark** born about 1780 probably in Sussex County, Delaware. **Mary Clarke** married a **Mills** on the 1 Jan 1800 (Delaware Marriage Records 1774-1912, Ancestry.com). There is a listing in for a **Essex Mills** in the 1810 Nanticoke Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 8 "Other Free" Persons (1810 Nanticoke Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census, 8)
- **John Clark** born about 1782 probably in Sussex County, Delaware

- **Levina Clark** born about 1785 probably in Sussex County, Delaware. She married a **Harmon** from Sussex County, Delaware.
- **Zepporah Clark** born about 1787 probably in Sussex County, Delaware. She married a **Miller** from Sussex County, Delaware.
- **Morris Clark** was born about 1789 probably in Sussex County, Delaware. He is listed in the 1820 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 6 “Free Colored” persons (1820 Indian River Hundred, Sussex county, Delaware census, 9). He married **Nancy Rigware** on the 13 Apr 1832 (*Delaware Marriage Records 1774-1912, 29*). The marriage certificate is witnessed by **Sheppard Hanzer**. This may have been his second wife.
- **Elizabeth Clark** born about 1791 probably in Sussex County, Delaware. She may have married **John Rigware**. He is listed in the 1820 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 4 “Free Colored” persons (1820 Indian River Hundred, Sussex county, Delaware census, 1).
- **Nathaniel Clark** was born about 1794 probably in Sussex County, Delaware. He is listed in the 1820 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 3 “Free Colored” persons (1820 Indian River Hundred, Sussex county, Delaware census, 1). He is also listed in the 1830 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 6 “Free Colored” persons. Two males under 10, one male 24-36, two females 10-24, and one female 36-55 (*1830 Indian River Sussex County, Delaware census, 45*). He is listed in the 1840 Indian River Hundred, Sussex county, Delaware census with 10 “Free Colored”. Three males under 10, two males 10-24, one male 36-55, two females under 10, one female 10-14, and one female 36-55 (*1840 Indian River Sussex County, Delaware census, 45*).

Nathaniel is also listed in the 1850 census for Lewes and Rehobeth Hundreds (1850 Lewes and Rehobeth Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census, 6). He is listed as **Nathaniel Clark** “Mulatto”, age 56, wife **Unicy**, age 50, son **John**, age 20, daughter **Bridget**, age 18, daughter **Hetty**, age 15, son **George**, age 11, daughter **Unicy**, age 7. All are listed as born in Sussex County, Delaware. However, there is a **John Ridgeway**, age 75, born in 1777 Sussex County, Delaware. I wonder if **Unicy** maiden name was **Ridgeway** .

Nathaniel Morris son of **Levi** and **Sarah Morris** was born about 1769, probably in Sussex County, Delaware. He may have married **Alice Handzor** (*free Mulattos*) on 24 Dec 1799 in Sussex County, Delaware (*United Presbyterian Church of Lewes and Coolsprings, Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 318*). Alice may have been his second wife, she died and he remarried **Sarah Cornish** (*free Mulatto's*) on 5 Dec 1802 in Sussex County, Delaware (*United Presbyterian Church of Lewes and Coolsprings, Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 315*).

He is listed in the 1800 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 4 “Free Colored” persons (1800 Indian River, Sussex County, Delaware census, 6), and again in the 1820 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 8 “Free Colored” persons (1820 Indian River Hundred, Sussex county, Delaware census, 9).

By the 1830 Sussex County, Delaware census he had moved to Broadkill Hundred and is listed as **Nathan'I Morris "Mulatto"** (1830 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 15). In the 1840 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census he is listed as a "**mulatto**" with 4 "Free Colored" persons, 1 female (10-24), 1 female (55-100), 1 male (10-24), and 1 male (55-100) (1840 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 31).

In the 1850 Lewes and Rehoboth Hundreds, Sussex County, Delaware census there is a listing for **Nathaniel Morris "Mulatto"** age 85 living with the **Israel Jack** family (1850 Lewes and Rehoboth Hundreds, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 3). I wonder if this **Israel Jack** is **Nathaniel's** grandson. He may have been the father of:

- **Isaac Morris** born about 1800 in Sussex County, Delaware, He may have married **Sarah**. He is listed in the 1820 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census with 4 "Free Colored" persons (1820 Indian River Hundred, Sussex county, Delaware census, 9). By 1830 he had moved his family to Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware and is listed as **Isaac Morris "Mulatto"** (1830 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 15). **Isaac** must have died sometime after 1830 or relocated his family. There are no further listings for him in the Delaware census.
- **Abraham Morris "Negro"** born about 1802 in Sussex County, Delaware. He is listed in the 1830 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census (1830 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 1). He is also listed in the 1840 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with one male under 10, one male 36-55, two females 24-35, and one female 55-100 (1840 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 9). **Abraham** must have died or relocated his family. There are no further listings for him in the Delaware census.
- **Levi Morris "Mulatto"** born about 1804 in Sussex County, Delaware. He is listed in the 1830 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census (1830 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 1). There is a listing for a **Levi Morris "Mulatto"** in the 1840 Wilmington, New Castel County, Delaware census with two males 10-24, one male 36-55, one female 10-24 and one female 36-55 (1840 Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware, 91).
- **Nathaniel Morris "Mulatto"** born about 1806 in Sussex County, Delaware. He is listed in the 1830 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 4 "Free Colored", 2 males under 10, 1 male 24-36, 1 female 10-24 (1830 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 23).. There is a **Nathan'I Morris "Mulatto"**, listed in the 1840 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with four "Free Colored" persons, two males under 10, one male 24-36, and one female 24-36 (1840 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 31).
- **Thomas Morris "Mulatto"** born about 1808, probably in Sussex County, Delaware. He is listed in the 1830 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 7 "Free Colored", 2 females (10-24), 1 female (36-55), 2 males (under 10), 1 male (10-24) and 1 male (36-55) (1830 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 1). In the 1840 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census lists one **Thomas Morris "Mulatto"**, with two males 10-24, one male 38-55, two females under 10, one female 10-24 and one female 24-36 (1840 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 31).

Thomas is also listed as “**Mulatto**” in the 1850 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census (*1850 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 48*). This census lists his wife **Lelitia**, born about 1804; his son **Thomas**, born about 1832; his son **Robert**, born about 1835; his daughter **Frances**, born about 1837; his son **James**, born about 1841; his daughter **Rebecca**, born about 1843; and his son **Joseph**, born about 1849. All persons are listed as being born in Sussex County, Delaware

Nancy Morris was the daughter of **Levi** and **Sarah Hanzer Morris**. She was born about 1780 probably in Sussex County, Delaware. She married **Abel Jacobs**, (free mulattos) on the 18 Apr 1802 in Sussex County, Delaware (*United Presbyterian Church of Lewes and Coolsprings, Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 318*). **Abel** was probably the son of **Abraham Jacobs**, listed in the 1800 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census with 5 “Other Free” persons (*1800 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 6*). After their marriage in 1802 there are no further listings for **Abel** and **Nancy Jacobs**. He may have died and she remarried or he may have relocated his family to another state. He is not found in any of the Delaware census.

Levy/Levi Morris was the son of **Levi** and **Sarah Hanzer Morris**. He was born about 1788 probably in Sussex County, Delaware. **Levi** may have married an **Okey** in May of 1805, in Sussex County, Delaware (*United Presbyterian Church of Lewes and Coolsprings, Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 322*). His second marriage may have been to **Eunice Johnson** (Malottoes) on 19 Dec 1810 in Sussex County, Delaware (*United Presbyterian Church of Lewes and Coolsprings, Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, 322*). **Levi** can be found listed in the 1810 Indian River Hundred census with 3 “Other Free” persons (*1810 Baltimore, Dagsboro, Indian River, Lewes, Rehoboth and Broadkill Hundreds, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 32*).

In 1830 he can be found in the Broadkill Hundred census, listed as **Levi Morris “Mulatto”** (*1830 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 1*). He is listed in the 1840 Broadkill Hundred census as **Levi Morris “Mulatto”** with 10 “Free Colored” persons, three males under 10, three males 10-24, one male 36-55, 2 females under 10, and 1 female 24-36 (*1840 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware Census, 35*).

The 1850 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census lists one **Levi** and **Hetty Morris** (*1850 Broadkill Hundred, Sussex county, Delaware Census, 63*). **Levi** is listed as being 62 years of age and **Hetty** as 30. She was probably his third wife. Their children were:

- **Henry** born 1838 in Sussex County, Delaware
- **Thomas** born 1850 in Sussex County Delaware

Other possible family members in the 1850 Delaware census are:

- **Robert Morris “Mulatto”** born about 1838 in Delaware.

- **Stephen Morris “Mulatto”** born about 1839 in Delaware.

Robert age 12 and **Stephen** age 11 are listed in the 1850 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census. They are living with **Robert** and **Mary Johnson “Mulattos”**, both aged 62, and also listed as being born in Delaware. I believe that this **Robert Morris** is the **Robert Morris** that married **Julia Clark**. The connection being his brother **Stephen**, in whom he named one of his sons (*1850 Indian River, Sussex County, Delaware census, 38*).

- **William Morris “Mulatto”** born about 1840 in Delaware

William age 10 is listed in the 1850 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census. He is listed as living with **William** and **Eunice Johnson “Mulattos”** (*1850 Indian River Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census, 6*).

- **Mary E. Morris “Mulatto”** born about 1846 in Delaware.

Mary age 6 is listed in the 1850 Subdivision 11, Sussex County, Delaware census. She is living with **John** and **Lavinia Games “Mulattos”** (*1850 Subdivision 11, Sussex County, Delaware census, 84*).

- **Edward Morris “Mulatto”** born about 1844 in Sussex County, Delaware.

Edward age 4 is listed in the 1850 Lewis and Rehobeth Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census. He is living with **Nathaniel** and **Unicey Clark “Mulattos”** (*1850 Lewis and Rehobeth Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware census, 6*). This **Nathaniel Clark** is the son of **Thomas** and **Elizabeth Morris Clark**.

Other possible family members living in the 1850 Pennsylvania census are:

- **Margaret Morris “Mulatto”** born about 1767 in Delaware

Margaret age 83 is living alone in the 1850 Philadelphia, Spruce Ward, Pennsylvania census. (*1850 Philadelphia, Spruce Ward, Pennsylvania, 96*)

- **John Morris “Mulatto”** born about 1805 in Delaware.

John age 45 is listed in the 1850 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania census. He was living in Southwark, Ward 4, along with his wife **Jane** age 32, born about 1818, in Delaware; daughter **Eliza** born about 1841, in Pennsylvania; daughter **Sarah** born about 1843, in Pennsylvania, son **Edward** born about 1845, in Pennsylvania; son **John** born about 1847, in Pennsylvania; and daughter **Emma** born about 1849, also in Pennsylvania (*1850 Southwark Ward 4, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania census, 24*).

- **Isaac Morris “Mulatto”** born about 1812 in Delaware.

Isaac age 38 is listed in the 1850 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania census. He was living in Moyamensing, Ward 1, along with his wife **Mary** age 38, born about 1812 in Delaware; son **William** age 13, born about 1837 in Pennsylvania; daughter **Susan** age 10, born about 1840 in Pennsylvania; son **Joseph** age 6, born about 1844 in Pennsylvania; son **James** age 3, born about 1847 in Pennsylvania; and daughter **Emma** age 0, born about 1850 in Pennsylvania (*Moyamensing, Ward 1, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 74*).