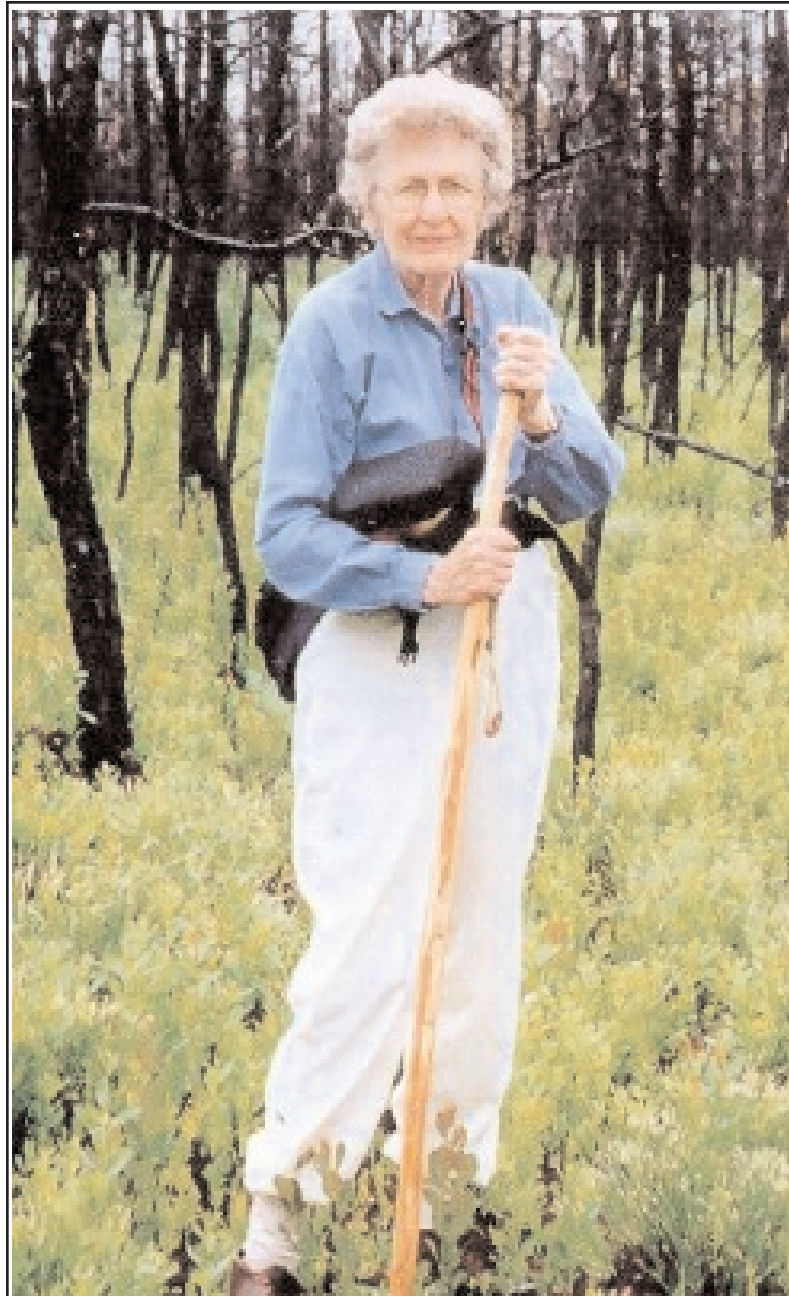


# *Forked River Mountain Views*

*Newsletter of the Forked River Mountain Coalition*

*www.frmc.org*

*Vol. 11 No. 3*



Elizabeth Waln Meirs Morgan  
1913 - 2004

FORKED RIVER MOUNTAIN COALITION  
Memorial Tribute Dedicated  
to  
ELIZABETH WALN MEIRS MORGAN  
1913 - 2004

Elizabeth Waln Meirs Morgan, a highly regarded naturalist and local historian, passed away on February 6th of this year. She was an especially beloved member of the Forked River Mountain Coalition. Her association with the Coalition began early on and she became a founding board member in our formative years. Elizabeth served as our Vice President and a Trustee from 1994 and subsequently became an honorary member in 2002 for her outstanding service to the Coalition. She shared her vast knowledge of local lore about the people and places in the Forked River Mountain area. She was influential in major land purchases by state and non-profit conservation groups in and around the Forked River Mountains. As a distinguished speaker, she presented an informative slide program of the flora and fauna of the Forked River Mountain area. Elizabeth enthusiastically attended our fund raising events where she generously passed along her invaluable knowledge of her beloved Pinelands and the history of its people.

Elizabeth's wit and wisdom touched all who knew her. She was at her personal best when she related to people. As most of us know, she was devoted to learning something new from each person she talked with. She immediately made a connection regardless of the topic of conversation. Most people left her company knowing much more than they had before and feeling much better than they did before their experience with Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was a person for all seasons. She

earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in history. She taught school and did social work before getting married in 1941 to Rev. Luman J. Morgan, pastor of the Toms River Christ Episcopal Church for many years. She was the mother of two fine sons, James and Nicholas. She was the author of church-related publications and correspondent on history and nature for Ocean County newspapers. She served as president and board member of the Ocean County Historical Society and was active in several other local historical societies. She was, of course, active in the Forked River Mountain Coalition. She was devoted to the creation of an environmental learning center, the Lighthouse Center, on the grounds of the old Blind Camp. She worked tirelessly with many other volunteer groups. She was an enthusiastic bird watcher and botanist. She was an avid collector of local folklore and maps. She serves as an inspiration to us all.

Kerry Jennings, President of The Forked River Mountain Coalition, with approval of the Board of Trustees, appointed a Memorial Committee to create an enduring memorial intended to preserve the memory of Elizabeth Morgan for her outstanding service to the Coalition. The Elizabeth Morgan Memorial Fund was created to cover the costs in establishing such a memorial. If you would like to contribute to the memorial fund, please complete and return the form on the back of this newsletter along with your tax-deductible contribution.

Cover photo by Peggy Vargas  
provided courtesy of  
Herpetological Associates

*The following article was originally written in October, 1986 by Elizabeth Morgan for the Ocean County Historical Society. It is reprinted here as part of our tribute to Elizabeth because the Pierce Place was one of her favorite places in the Forked River Mountains.*

## **Pierce Place in Lacey's "Back of Beyond"**

For several years, Clifford Frazee of Forked River has told me intriguing stories concerning the Pierce farm about four miles west of the town. It is no longer accessible on the old road from our settlement because of the Garden State Parkway. The thirty five acre farm was an exception in the Russell Tract and Cliff once owned it. He rebuilt the bridge over the North Branch of the Forked River; he says the Collins Causeway was on an old route from town to the Forked River Mountains and was there before the Revolution. I can find it on the Cook-Hopkins Map of 1868. While replacing the bridge, Cliff found horse blinders used to keep the horses from spooking while crossing the narrow bridge with a load of charcoal.

I don't see how Cliff hauled a bulldozer over the awful roads to the Pierce property, but Cliff is a tree farmer and a jack of all trades. While he straightened the road, about 1965, he ploughed through an Indian site and found that one arrowhead was carried away for one hundred and fifty feet. Cliff firmly believes the Indians had a farm here. The foot path down to the water and cedar swamp was worn deep. In 1803, a Pierce acquired the land and built a sturdy barn and a house.

Botanists call most of the large area here xeric (dry), but this part is not like that. When Cliff took me and my eleven year old neighbor, Brian Pfluger, on a rare June day this year, Brian ran ahead and dashed back with a large leaf from an American chestnut. I had never seen a chestnut tree in this whole area before! I was

also flabbergasted at the big white oaks as well as the sizable young chestnuts which will probably be killed by the blight. Lush grapevines climbed over trees and shrubs. This was a far cry from the pitch pine and scrub oak forest around it. How did the Indians find this pocket of fertility? This site runs counter to the untrue theory that the Indians came to shore points only, for more and more such sites are rediscovered in the Pine Barrens.

Cliff showed us where a four foot in diameter chestnut tree died about 1930 and fell forty years later. It was near the barn and house site. There were tall sprouts where it rotted.

Cliff said Sam Pierce went west with Thomas Craven of Forked River about 1850. His barn really lasted, as Cliff's grandfather and uncle stayed in it when they burned charcoal.

About a century ago, Myron Hultz farmed here. He had a sudden death, for he tripped on the reins of his horse when he climbed down to open a gate at the mill on Deerhead Lake. He was found standing up in the sluice. A foreman on the Tuckerton Railroad, Jim Estlow of Wells Mills, used to take his cart off the tracks to go buy strawberries from Hultz.

Marcus Brown and his father lived at the farm, probably as squatters. They cut "binge" wood or fire wood for the locomotives and stacked it near the tracks.

Then there was Sam Webb, a trapper, who lived there with his wife and daughter in a dug-out cave. The daughter's suitor named Taylor from Forked River wanted to stay over, so he rushed back to the cave and said he saw a one-eyed monster. Of course, he knew it was Barnegat Light, but he did spend the night. Enough!

Read the Annotated Bibliography written by Elizabeth Morgan on resource materials pertinent to the Forked River Mountains by visiting our website at [www.frnc.org](http://www.frnc.org).

Thank you!

*All contributions are tax deductible.*

Forked River Mountain Coalition  
P.O. Box 219, Forked River, NJ 08731

Please make check payable to:  
and mail to:

I/we wish to make a contribution to the Elizabeth Morgan Memorial Fund in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

FORKED RIVER MOUNTAIN COALITION  
ELIZABETH MORGAN MEMORIAL FUND



*Forked River Mountain Coalition*  
*P.O. Box 219*  
*Forked River, NJ 08731*

# BASIC ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE FORKED RIVER MOUNTAINS

By Elizabeth M. Morgan

We have received requests for resource materials pertinent to Forked River located in Ocean County, New Jersey. There are no publications on the mountains of September 1998. However, we are gathering a collection of stories and variety of subjects.

Meanwhile, we offer here a basic bibliography which should interest bibliographers and specialists alike; suggestions for the expanding the list are welcome.

Vertical files in the Ocean County Library system contain numerous articles on the Forked River Mountains. The Ocean County Historical Society, 26 Hadley Avenue, Toms River, New Jersey, lists a number of suggested publications for sale. Besides vertical files, books in the Research Library are available for study. Call (732) 341-1880 at the Society Museum.

Beck, Henry Charlton. 1936. Jersey Genesis. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ. 304 pp. [Read especially the chapter on Aserdaten which is still much of a mystery and is in part of the Forked River Mountains. Father Beck was a popular writer of folklore. He provided historians with a challenge to research for the facts and in doing so made history popular.]

Beck, Henry Charlton. 1937. More Forgotten Towns of Southern New Jersey. E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York, NY. 388 pp. [Read the last chapter on the mysterious Forked River Mountains. While it contains many clues to the roads to get to them, it is better to find a map and a guide who has been there.]

Berger, Jonathan and Sinton, John. 1985. Water, Earth, and Fire: Land Use and Environmental Planning in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD. 221 pp. [While water, earth, and fire provide the theme, the stories on pinelands culture are worth reading despite the fact the Forked River Mountains are not mentioned by name in the index.]

Boyd, H. P. 1991. A Field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. Plexus Publications, Medford, NJ. 423 pp. [Anyone interested in the Pine Barrens should own this book for reference because it contains information on a great variety of subjects from history, to flora and fauna including a fine section on insects. Well worth the price.]

Brinckman, John H., Jr. 1973. The Tuckerton Railroad: A Chronicle of Transportation to the New Jersey Seashore. First Edition, Privately Printed. 209 pp. [Fortunately, a reprint is available. The railroad had a four mile right of way through the huge Lacey Tract in the Forked River Mountains

area alone! It opened for business on November 1, 1871, and chugged from Tuckerton to Whiting and back for sixty-four years and three months.]

Harshberger, J. W. 1916. The Vegetation of the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Christopher Sower Co., Philadelphia, PA. 329 pp. [Harshberger's book is confusing to the average reader as he most frequently prefers to use botanical names for plants. A good way to learn botany is to look up the common names, while not forgetting that the taxonomists change the botanical names from time to time. Borrow a modern Gray's Manual of Botany for this labor of love!]

Kobbe, Gustav. 1970 Reprint. The New Jersey Coast and Pines. Gateway Press, Baltimore, MD. 102 pp. [The first edition in 1889 had smaller print making the book hard to read. The Ocean County Historical Society 1970 reprint is excellent for finding the old sand roads as well as the route of the Tuckerton Railroad. Charming accounts delight the reader.]

Lloyd, John Bailey. 1990. Six Miles at Sea: A Pictorial History of Long Beach Island, N.J. Down the Shore Publishing, Harvey Cedars, NJ. 172 pp. [Chapter Nine contains a story of seashore hotel guests who went to the Forked River Mountains (c. 1910) for a "dig" in the old Native American graveyard (c. 1750). Don't even think about doing this today. In the first place, it is against the law and there is live ammo around from a World War II project. Lloyd is an excellent writer as well as historian.]

McCloy, James S. and Miller, Ray, Jr. 1976. The Jersey Devil. The Middle Atlantic Press, Wilmington, DE. 121 pp. [One of many editions about our popular Jersey beast which haunts the Forked River Mountains as well as many other New Jersey sites. There used to be night hikes in the Forked River Mountains conducted by the Ocean County Parks Department. Hikers had a scary time hunting for the Jersey Devil.]

McPhee, John. 1967. The Pine Barrens. Random House, New York, NY. 172 pp. [McPhee's book is still a best seller after over thirty years because he brought clear positive thinking to bear on the area and its inhabitants. This changed attitudes nationwide towards the Pine Barrens and its people which has far reaching effects to this day. Excellent reading and reliable facts. The Forked River Mountain area was slated for the bulldozer so a city could be built there.]

Robichaud, Beryl and Buell, Murray F. 1973. Vegetation of New Jersey. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ. 340 pp. [See also Collins, Beryl R. and Anderson, Karl H., 1994. Plant Communities of New Jersey. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ. 280 pp. Both books will please a wide readership of those interested in plants.]

Rutherford, William Kenneth and Anna Clay (Zimmerman). 1986, Second Revision. Genealogical History of the Rutherford Family. Vol. I, 791 pp. Vol. II, 1703 pp. [Whether the name is spelled Rutherford or Rutherfurd, the authors published their family history privately. Our interest lies in the offspring of Walter Rutherford, brother-in-law of Lord Stirling of Revolutionary War fame. This well-researched book of an affluent colonial family is an aid to explain the complex ownership of the Lacey Tract in the Forked River Mountains before the family sold it in 1954.]