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Jackson County A History In Review

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19th-Century Educator

The writer from ages past has joined us again for a discussion of area schools as they were during the latter part of the 19th century.

Moses James Morgan was elected to the superintendency of the Jackson public schools in September of 1873. A native of Jefferson Township, Jackson County, Mr. Morgan was born April 1, 1845.

He united with the Horeb Church in the Jefferson community when a lad of only 12 years old. Being a studious-minded youth by nature after finishing common school he attended and graduated from Ohio University in the summer of 1873. He became the superintendent of Jackson Schools the same year.

In a tribute to Morgan, after this great man's death at the age of 31 years, read at the Teacher's Institute in 1875, it was said:

"Prof. Moses J. Morgan, was industrious, honorable and efficient. After having received a common school education he devoted himself to teaching, but soon he desired to seek a more liberal education and prepared for college. Having very limited financial resources, it was an arduous undertaking which he laid out for himself, but he did not falter.

"Interrupted once or twice by the demand for means with which to continue his course, he returned to school with fresh determination. He was graduated with honor in the summer of 1873 and in September of the same year, he undertook the superintendency of the public schools of Jackson.

"After having served a year, he was re-elected to the same position, and again for the third year, it was with profound regret, both to the board and the ordinary patrons of the school, that failing health compelled him to resign just as the term began.

"His service in the cause of education will be remembered long. His mind was quick and discriminating, and was able in an unusual degree to communicate its knowledge. It seems a strange providence that he was permitted to toil in preparation for life, and then be called away just as his food had reached the threshold, but such is the will of Him who we would ever love and obey."

Mr. Morgan, died November 24, 1875.

The above tribute was prepared by three men who knew him well namely, Reverend J.K. Gibson, Davis Mackley and C.A. Atkinson.

Moses J. Morgan's brother Thomas Jay Morgan, distinguished himself also as a great teacher before he died in 1883 at 33 years of age. Thomas, during his

life-time became superintendent of Hamden Schools and was also an assistant teacher at Rio Grande.

The Morgan brothers were the oldest sons of David and Margaret J. Morgan of Jefferson Township and the grandsons of Moses Morgan, who emigrated to this area from South Wales.

(This material was taken from the Jackson Standard-Journal).