

MOREL-CALDWELL HOUSE

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The information was compiled from the following sources:

- Interview notes with T. Vance Little
- Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, National Park Service web site
- Rootsweb World Connect posting by Bob Suddath, a Morel relative

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Wilson Pike

The Morel/Caldwell House is located on the Wilson Pike in the 15th Civil District of Williamson County. It was once home to the Morel family. It was originally on the Henry Howe Cook property.

Julius “Jules” Morel was said to have been mercenary soldier, perhaps of Swiss decent, who came to the states during the Civil War and fought for the North. While stationed in Brentwood, Mr. Morel’s unit was camped on the Thompson property (now Raintree Forest). This is probably where he met and fell in love with **Mary Boyd Thompson**, daughter of John McMairy Thompson. Jewels and Mary were married after the war, on January 30, 1866, by Justice of the Peace John M. Winstead. Once married, they purchased the Morel House as it became known.

The historical record does not entirely match the tradition. According to records at the National Archives, Julius S. Morel served as a private in the 2nd Mississippi Cavalry. His widow, Mary, later applied for a Confederate pension from the State of Tennessee. It is not impossible that he served in both armies.

The 1870 census of Williamson County lists “Juleis” Morel age 34, a blacksmith born in Switzerland. At that time he owned real estate worth \$975. His wife, Mary, was 23, and their children were John (age 4) and Samuel (age 1). Eventually the family grew to include five sons and four daughters.

After the war, Jewels became a blacksmith and the couple later moved to the Johnson Community on Granny White Pike where he operated a saw mill. He died in 1909 and is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in Franklin.

Descendants of both the **Thompson family** and the **Morel family** can be found throughout the area.

The house has gone through several owners and has had numerous renovations. At the time of this writing (2008), the home is owned by **Reese Smith**.